

Association
for
Berowra Creek
Inc.



Formerly: Berowra Creek Interim Catchment Committee Inc.

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<http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>

Submission on Hornsby Quarry Road Construction Spoil Management

The Association for Berowra Creek is very concerned about the loss of 1.65 hectares of native vegetation in the Hornsby Quarry Road Construction Spoil Management project, especially the loss of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest (BGHF) community. Less than 5% of the original BGHF community is intact. BGHF is protected under both Commonwealth and State Legislation and damaging the remaining communities carries penalties. The Association for Berowra Creek is alarmed that the offsets for this project result in management of existing plant communities and are not being used to purchase more land to replace the communities lost¹. Hornsby Council should already be managing these existing communities. Other projects, such as the Epping Third Track project, involve the destruction of critically endangered BGHF communities in Hornsby Shire, and also involve no purchase of land to replace the communities lost.

This project involves unnecessary duplication of facilities, as Quarry Road was the haulage road used during the mining of Hornsby Quarry. The loss of vegetation in this project, especially the loss of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest community, could be avoided by using Quarry Road instead of Bridge Road. It is possible to regenerate the BGHF community and, over time, recover the understorey typical of the Blue Gum High Forest community.

The loss of Smooth-barked Apple – Red Bloodwood – Sydney Peppermint heathy open forest in sandstone gullies of western Sydney, Sydney Basin (PCT 1181) is of concern as removal

of woody weeds could result in its condition improving.

This EIS states that the endangered Gang-Gang cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*, was assumed present in the project footprint and that it is not a species that can withstand further loss (p.60 EIS Vol 1). Its habitat should not be removed. By using Quarry Road for filling Hornsby Quarry, the threat to Gang-Gang cockatoos would be minimized.

The lack of bush regeneration performed on these lands should not be used as a reason to remove these plant communities. Using and upgrading the existing facilities, such as Quarry Road, would minimize the effects on endangered plant communities and animal populations.

Yours faithfully,

Lee Kemp

Chairperson

References

1. http://businesspapers.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/Open/2013/12/GM_18122013_AGN_WEB.HTM