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

Submission on Hornsby Quarry Road Construction Spoil Management

I am alarmed at 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. I am also 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.

In October 2012 consultants Cardno Pty Ltd prepared a study for Hornsby Council [LJ2888 Filling of Hornsby Quarry : Access Options Assessment] which concluded that by far the best access option for filling the Hornsby Quarry was via the existing access roads via Quarry Road / Fredrick Street / William Street / Pacific. This Cardno study considered the impacts of the number of dwellings on the route, the length of route, the ease of getting the VENM from the quarry rim to the quarry base, the technical challenges, and the road network operation. The study did not consider costs. We now know that the unnecessary costs of overcoming

the identified technical difficulties of building an extension road (through the Blue Gum High forest) is \$23 million.

. 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 EIS contains a large amount of technical jargon that people from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB) would have difficulty understanding. Despite the suburb of Hornsby having 8.1% (1 in 12) of residents speaking another language and English not that well, there is no written translation for the EIS in other languages (Census 2011). 8.8% of residents were born in China and 5.1% in India. Yet this complex 440 page EIS document was not translated into other languages. These 2011 Census percentages would be higher in 2015 due to the increase in immigration from these countries. It is ridiculous to expect a person to be on the phone to an interpreter to orally translate this EIS document. The non-English speaking background residents have been ignored in this consultation. Many of thee NESB residents live in the units along Peats Ferry Road (formerly known as Pacific Highway) and will be directly affected by noise, traffic, dust and other inconveniences.

. 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,



References

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