

13 January 2011



Kane Winwood  
Senior Planner  
Mining & Industry Projects  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001



RE: OBERON WHITE GRANITE QUARRY

Dear Mr Winwood

We are located at 648 Duckmaloi Road; we are in the boundaries of the affected area of this proposal. We have a number of concerns with the Environmental Assessment issued by Mudgee Stone Company.

**1. 4.6.3 Existing Traffic Volumes and Conditions**

The Environmental Assessment states *"The school bus then returns via Hampton Road collecting school children with the closest pick up / drop off point located approximately 4km east of Ferndale Road. The bus passes Ferndale Road at approximately 8.15am...."*. This is incorrect; the school bus picks up our 6 year old daughter at our drive way which is located approximately 1km west of the Ferndale Road intersection. Pick up time is 8.10am of a morning. Of an afternoon the school bus drops off at 3.50pm, the bus has to enter our drive way to drop off then pull back out onto Duckmaloi Road to continue. This is not an ideal situation, due to the volume of heavy vehicle traffic already using this road, but it is considered the safest option.

The fatal accident recorded immediately to the west of Ferndale Road intersection in 2009, involved a west-bound light vehicle veering into eastbound traffic, it is not noted that the eastbound traffic was a trip truck entering Ferndale Road on its way to The Mudgee Stone Company Quarry. This highlights how dangerous this Ferndale Road / Duckmaloi Road intersection is.

It should also be noted that in the past two years 2 semi-trailer tip trucks carry bulk goods have rolled over on the 1 km stretch of road between our gate way and the Ferndale Road intersection. There has also been another 2 similar trucks tip over to the east of the Ferndale Road intersection.

**2. 4.7 Noise and Vibration**

We have grave concerns with the noise levels from trucks and rock-hammer.

**3. Table 5.1 Draft Statement of Commitments**

**3 Operating Hour:**

We strongly object to processing and transportation activities taking place on the weekend, the noise and dust will highly impact the quiet rural setting in which we live. There is ample time during the week to crush the product required to fulfil their orders, maintenance activities would be better suited for the weekends.

**4 Surface Water:**

Are the bunded areas and sedimentation retention dams capable of holding a 1:100 year event?

## **5 Ground Water:**

We rely solely on our bore for our water supply, we are gravely concerned with the impact blasting and drilling will have on this underground water supply. What guarantees do we have that this project is not going to have a detrimental effect on our ground water supply?

### **4. 6.1 Analysis Of Environmental Risk**

No mention of the effects of fly rock due to blasting, the delineation of quarry boundary i.e./ signage of blast area no entry, causes and effects of people wondering onto quarry property during blasting events, forms of hard barrier fencing to stop the unwanted event of people wondering into quarry accidentally. Also not mentioned the effects of overcharging and uncontained blasts i.e./ the ability to throw fly rock outside of the designated boundaries. Designated blasting times are not adhered to at present, notices for blasting are issued, on an irregular basis, and times stated in blasting notices are often not adhered to.

### **Traffic and Transportation:**

The risk ratings are categorised as E for rare, when four major truck accidents have occurred in the past 24 months with a mitigated risk rating of high, this is not acceptable for this proposal.

### **5. 6.2.2.6 Conclusion**

Conclusion states that the planning of the project has had involved consultation with the potentially affected residents, on the contrary the consultation process has been minimal with local residents, as one minor meeting has been held to address the new proposal with minimal input and discussion.

### **6. 6.3.3 Socio Economic Considerations**

Economic benefits to date have been minimal to the community, as no full time people have operated permanently at the quarry since its inception. As per original submission it was stated that a number of people were to be permanently employed directly and indirectly.

### **7. 6.3.4 Consequence of Not Proceeding With The Project**

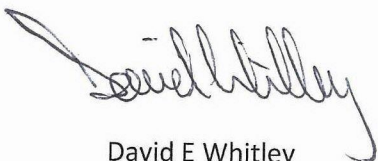
5000000 million tonnes of alaskite if to be of state significance why then is the proponent proposing to sell or supply road base, quarry rubble and decorative granite?

### **8. 6.4 In Conclusion**

The area has two major quarries which now supply high quality aggregates to the market, now with another player this will diminish the ability of all operators to compete on a competitive level.

Mudgee Stone Company has shown in the past that they are not willing to follow directives issued by overseeing authorities, eg/ use of rock-hammer when it was stated in original DA that it was not to be used, stock piling material outside of quarry footprint, non compliance of child proof fence around quarry, and the list goes on! What assurances do we have that what is stated in the Environmental Statement will actually be adhered to, and who is going to be responsible for monitoring and policing their activities?

Yours Sincerely



David E Whitley



Carolyn J Armstrong