

Port Stephens Greens



19 August 2015

NSW Department of Planning & Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Executive Director Resource Assessments and Compliance

Re: Modification Request: Application No MP 08_0142 Mod 2 - OBJECTION

Port Stephens Greens object to the proposed modification of conditions requested by Mackas Sand in relation to traffic movements in and out of the sand mine at Lot 218 DP1044608 at Salt Ash.

We object to the proposed increase in maximum allowable hourly truck movements. Despite approving the alternative access road in 2013, the PAC imposed strict limits on the permissible number of truck movements, presumably at least partly in recognition of traffic volume and safety issues (we acknowledge that local residents also have legitimate noise, air quality and amenity concerns).

For detailed arguments, we defer to and endorse the objection lodged by Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (TRRA), but request that this letter is lodged and recorded as a separate objection – our membership overlaps with that of TRRA but contains many residents of other parts of Port Stephens who are even more directly affected by the proposal.

We submit that the application should be refused on the grounds that:

- It is unnecessary given the applicant's existing approval to use Lavis Lane as well as the new access road.
- There are alternative ways of managing truck loading and movements, such as introduction of a booking system.
- Any increase in truck movements, either in absolute numbers or numbers per hour, will pose an unacceptable increased safety risk, and will have much more than the '*minimal negative impacts*' asserted in the EA (4.3).

If, despite objections, the decision maker is minded to approve an increase in the maximum number of truck movements per hour for any period of the day, they should maintain an overall cap on the number of movements per day, which would not be inconsistent with the applicant's public statements of intent.

We request that this matter be referred to the Planning Assessment Commission for determination, and that the PAC holds a public meeting (not a public hearing) to hear from objectors as well as the proponent and supporters.

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