

Dear Sir / Madam,

As President of the Bobs Farm Public School P&C Committee, I write this submission on behalf of the Committee which objects to the proposed sand mine in Bobs Farm.

Bobs Farm Public School is a small country two class room school which had an enrolment in 2018 of 38 students from K-6. This school services the learning needs of families within the local Bobs Farm area as well as families from the greater community who have children with special needs, or require an alternative educational opportunity where children are provided with a safe, nurturing and caring environment to learn.

We strongly feel that if this proposed mine is approved it will have a devastating impact on our children, school and local community.

Our **main concern is the health safety and well-being of our children, staff, volunteers, and parents** who will be impacted daily should this mine adjoining the school be approved.

Like all properties in Bobs Farm, our school is not connected to any town water supply and is wholly dependent on rain/tank water for all its needs including drinking. As this proposed mine **will cause a significant amount of airborne dust**, which will subsequently settle on the school building rooves, there is a real likelihood of water contamination when rain washes dust into the school water tanks. **This dust also includes Silica dust which is a known group 1 human carcinogen.**

It is proposed at least 180 trucks per day (equivalent to one truck every 2 – 3 minutes) will exit the mine site next to the school into a 40km/hr School Zone on Marsh Rd, then travel just sixty metres before reaching Marsh Road/Nelson Bay Road intersection with compulsory Stop sign, which is located at the base of a sweeping bend, where it will be extremely difficult for heavy loaded trucks to safely pull out into a busy 80km/hr zone. As a result, **this will cause a queue of trucks at intersection leaving parents, school buses and local residents unable to exit Marsh Road in a safe or timely manner.**

The acceleration power required for fully laden trucks to exit the mine **will create untenable disruption to education due to the unbearable vibration noise in the two demountable class rooms**, making it an extremely challenging task to keep students engaged, a highly unfavourable schooling environment. Marsh Road is not suitable for the size or volume of trucks proposed. Marsh Rd and this intersection with Nelson Bay Road has a dreadful track record of **vehicle accidents and passenger fatalities.**

We are not wanting to inhibit progress, but feel that the approval of this proposal will only enable a short-term gain for a private company, with immediate maximum negative impact on the community, versus what would instead be a long-term gain for both the current and future public citizens by voting to retain and sustain the environment, education, health and safety of this beautiful community.

We, the parents of Bobs Farm Public School, want the safest possible environment for our children.

If this mine is allowed to proceed, it is most probable that Bobs Farm Public School, which only recently celebrated its Centenary, would be forced to close within the first few years of mine operation. Student numbers would decrease significantly as parents will be forced to seek alternate schooling to ensure the health and safety of their children. As a result, the employment of the teachers and school staff would also be impacted. The closure of Bobs Farm Public School, OUR SCHOOL, would have devastating consequences for the Bobs Farm community as a whole.

Your sincerely

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P&C President, Bobs Farm Public School

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