



# Leyton Wildlife Refuge



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Department of Planning & Environment  
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Sirs,

I would like to record an objection to the Karuah South Quarry Development. This development will destroy some 21ha of native bushland. Koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus*, surely is becoming a threatened species in this region, caused by the destruction of its habitat so I feel that we should preserve as much of its habitat as possible.

Stephen's Banded Snake, *Hoplocephalus stephensii*, is recorded from nearby to this property. In an area of natural bushland as large as this I find it hard to believe that no snakes have been recorded. The Red Bellied Black Snake, *Pseudechis porphyriacus*, is a common snake found in bushland all along the east coast, the Eastern Brown Snake, *Pseudonaja textilis*, is also a very common inhabitant. We live on a property about ten kilometres north of the proposed quarry site where both of these snakes are found. Comparing the species list provided in the proposal with ours, I find that the habitats are very similar and we have recorded seven snake species. I also find it hard to believe that the Jacky Lizard, *Amphibolurus muricatus* is the only small lizard occurring on this property.

The absence of epiphytic orchids from the checklist also intrigues me. It lists only one species, *Cymbidium suave*. I find it hard to believe that there are no *Dendrobium* species. *Eucalyptus crebra* is recorded, so there should be Ironbark orchids, *Dendrobium aemulum* in the area. We have four species of *Dendrobium* on our property as well as a very widespread little epiphyte *Papillibabium beckleri*. However, in reading the report you realise that the flora is diverse, containing some very interesting species. Therefore, I feel that it should be preserved.

The report mentions the presence of Lantana, *Lantana camara*. This is a very invasive species and I feel that by stressing the widespread occurrence of this species Wedgerock Pty Ltd are hoping to down-play the importance of the vegetation on this site.

I strongly recommend that this quarry does not go ahead and the property remains as natural bushland.

Rex Filson MSc DSc