

7 December 2019

NSW Government
Major Project Approvals

Dear NSW government

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project. My objection is based on the following issues

1. The unacceptably high level of CO2 emissions over the project lifecycle
 - a. to what extent does this proposal require the purchase of certified carbon offsets to mitigate high-level carbon emissions?
2. The loss of native forest vegetation, adversely impacts unique local biodiversity
3. The lack of adequate "equivalence" in the proposed offset area
 - a. a 2:1 offset ratio is not observed
 - b. of the vegetation associations identified in the project area, two are not included in the proposed offset area and a third is inadequately represent – tallowwood/small-fruited grey gum/dry grassy open forest
 - c. no hollow-bearing trees are recorded in the proposed offset area, but are present in the development area
4. The development will likely remove medium to high activity/core koala habitat
5. There will be destruction of an identified critical link needed to maintain vegetation connectivity for animal movement
6. The development will divert a native flora and fauna watercourse to industrial use
7. Identified Aboriginal heritage sites will be adversely impacted, including a Scar Tree and ceremonial site of "high cultural significance"
8. Potential significant local noise pollution from proposed 24/7 operations.

I have not spelt out these issues in forensic detail with supporting references, as I am aware that other submissions similarly objecting to this development have done so.

In closing I wish to make two further points, very important for your consideration.

First, I believe that in considering this application the government should be cognizant of

- what is actually being produced – not only the industrial output, but the associated environmental impacts/costs
- the purpose to which the plant output will be used for (road base?)
- the extent to which lower impact eco-friendly alternatives may be utilised for such uses, such as recycled wastes etc that have a potentially lower carbon footprint.

This really is a good opportunity for the government to demonstrate environmental sensitivity with due seriousness in approving such developmental applications.

Finally, I understand that Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd were fined \$15,000 in 2016 for breaching the conditions of its Environment Protection Licence at the Sancrox Quarry. While the fine at worst is simply a "business" cost (were the "gains" from this breach ever monetized?) it highlights

- a flagrant disregard for environmental considerations by this business
- an inherent/proven "untrustworthiness" of this business being given approval for further development in this sensitive area.

I trust that you will give these objections due consideration, resulting in acceptable environmental outcomes.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Fitch
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