We oppose the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion.

We moved to the Brandy Hill area some 18 years ago in an attempt to gain a more relaxed rural lifestyle. Unfortunately we underestimated the impact of truck movements from both Martins Creek and Brandy Hill Quarries. It is part of our daily life to contend with and be affected by the large number of truck movements already present. We regularly compete on the roads with large trucks with dog trailers thundering past while entering or traveling along Brandy Hill Drive; a huge safety concern for us. The roads are inadequate, narrow and potholed, never designed for the amount of truck traffic that is already present (cracked windscreens here are all too frequent). Local traffic has been increasing rapidly due to nearby urban development putting further pressure on Brandy Hill Drive. Nearby historic bridges, Dunmore and Hinton, are single lane only and obviously not designed for vehicles of this size and volume.

Walking along the local roads cannot be done safely; it is often frightening and in sections impossible unless actually walking on the road with no escape route. School children and buses using ill-defined bus stops along both Brandy Hill Drive and Seaham Rd, in our opinion is also an accident waiting to happen.

Although we don't live directly on Brandy Hill Drive, we wake early each morning to the sound of quarry trucks. This would be totally unacceptable 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. We believe a proposal of this nature shows total contempt for the local residents. We have also noticed high levels of dust in Brandy Hill, much more than in our previous homes which we believe can be attributed to the quarry, including particulate emissions from the quarry trucks.

If a quarry expansion was to be approved local residents would be confronted with more noise, dust and vibration due to both the increased blasting/extraction volumes and addition of the proposed concrete batch, recycling and ancillary plants reportedly producing approximately 15,000m3 of concrete a year. Also with this obviously comes the addition of many concrete trucks on Brandy Hill Drive helping to compound the existing road problems.

If the quarry is allowed to expand, to our knowledge 49 hectares of landscape will be destroyed and an enormous hole in the ground many metres below sea level will result. What will be left when the quarry finished… a gaping hole that could potentially be repurposed as a refuse dump? Brandy Hill residents could potentially have this to look forward to. Also, with a proposed expansion of this magnitude, loss of wildlife habitats, especially for our koalas would be likely. Sightings of wildlife, especially wallaby’s and koalas have already greatly reduced due to deaths caused by increased vehicle movements along Brandy Hill Drive in recent years.

In conclusion, if this proposal or indeed any expansion was to be approved, existing traffic and road problems would be exacerbated to unacceptable levels. Also, the ludicrous proposal for expansion and 24/7 operation in a residential area would undeniably impact local resident’s health, safety and wellbeing and would further compromise local wildlife habitats.

Consequently, all of our concerns mentioned here compel us to adamantly oppose this unreasonable and excessive quarry expansion proposal.