**To: Independent Planning Commission**

**RE: Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project SSD5899**

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

The Department’s Assessment Report is a reasonable marriage between the proposed Hanson’s Brandy Hill Quarry expansion proposal and the concerns of locals.

However there are issues of concern to myself and the community of Seaham and surrounding areas regarding the transportation of Quarry product to the Pacific Highway. These are:

1. The proposed concrete pathway/cycleway along Brandy Hill Drive should be built before approval is given for any increase in the number of trucks happens on this road for the safety of local residents. Extra trucks going up and down this road is dangerous for walkers and cyclists who do so along the edge of the bitumen. The road drains make it impossible to walk or cycle on the verge/road reserve.
2. Off-road school bus bays and shelters are needed. School children should not stand on the edge of the road when many trucks may be passing-by. Again these should be in-place before approval is given to increase the number of trucks leaving or returning to the Quarry.
3. The proposed school bus bays do not include the unmarked school bus stop opposite Sophia Jane Drive. This school bus stop is 100m from where trucks going to the Quarry turn left into Brandy Hill Drive. Only last week I witnessed a Hanson’s truck coming from Raymond Terrace put its left blinker on and slow down to turn left into Brandy Hill Drive and a reckless car driver drove into the school bus bay to get past and in front of the truck somehow fortunately missing children waiting for the 8am school bus to Seaham Primary School.

Residents of Sophia Jane Drive and Seaham Road, Nelson Plains have advised me that this has happened quite a few times this year and children were not at school during the COVID-19 restrictions.

The school bus stop opposite Sophia Jane Drive needs to be include in the proposed bus bays and shelters – see item 2.

1. The initiative of Brandy Hill Quarry to have the speed limit on Clarence Town reduced from 100kph to 80kph is welcome. This has not stopped reckless behaviour of car drivers trying to “beat” the trucks through the intersection.

Of additional concern is the fact that vision from Clarence Road north of the intersection is obscured by a significant rise in the road.

More thought needs to be put in to making this intersection safer for all including trucks, service vehicles and local residents who will be unfairly blamed for any accident. Clarence Town Road is the main road linking Dungog, Clarence Town and Seaham to Maitland and East Maitland.

1. The operational hours of 5am – 6pm Monday to Saturday are reasonable.

Pretoria McGee

Member

Brandy Hill Quarry Community Consultative Committee