

Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project SSD 5899

Objection and concerns regarding the application.

I have listened to the livestream of this project on the 12/06/2020.

My concerns will address my direct concerns and I accept that other areas may have objections other than mine.

The communities of Nelsons Plains and Raymond Terrace appear to have not been considered in the impacts of this project.

My residence, approximately 25 metres from the pavement, is directly impacted by truck noises which currently start at earlier than 6am and continue all day.

Using an app I have recorded noise greater than 65db inside the house.

Since living at this location I have observed near misses and assisted in a number of accidents at the junction of Seaham Road and Hinton Road. I am concerned the next accident will involve a school bus and a fully loaded truck and dog combination.

I am concerned that my children and grand children are at risk when they visit as exiting the driveway is difficult due to traffic density and speed.

The proposed high number of truck movements and the proximity of residences also raise concerns regarding dust and diesel particulate health risks particularly in the PM2.5 range. The additional heavy vehicle movements with exacerbate this issue.

The pavement has been breaking up on a regular basis and even more so when it is wet. Heavy vehicles accelerate this type of deterioration. The council undertook some pavement repair to rectify some of this with limited success.

On occasion there is vibration through the house, depending what pothole the traffic hits and possibly causing some of the cracking that is occurring in the brickwork.

We have asked both the Port Stephens Council and local member Kate Washington, to reduce the speed limit on this road. I understand that the speed limit is well above that recommended by RTA design standards. The standard relates to pavement width and type as well as urban density and driveways accessing Seaham Road.

Some local roads were assessed but Seaham Road was not done.

The increase in truck movements related to this project is very significant and I have no doubt that many locals along this road have little idea that this expansion submission is in place and the degree of impact it will have on them.

The consultation process appears to be limited in scale with Brandy Hill Drive and Giles Road and the immediate community around the quarry the only contact points.

Communities further from the quarry have not be involved or consulted to any degree and potential impacts of these areas have not been considered.

This quarry expansion appears to want to get it done as cheaply as possible, only this quarry and Martins Creek Quarry appear to require access on village and rural road to access the main highway. All the other significant quarries are located adjacent to main arterial routes.

I am not directly impacted by the operations of the quarry and cannot comment on noise, dust and visual impacts (other than the direct impacts at my location).

Environmental impacts that concern me are the removal of 50 hectares of koala habitat and the solution to this being the purchase of off sets.

I have not heard of an environmental off set being successful and consider them to be an attempt to be seen to be doing the right thing,

Habitat removal is effectively permanent and the continued fragmentation and destruction of habitat is detrimental and permanent to all species in that habitat.

Geoff Winnett

Nelsons Plains NSW 2324

12/06/2020