**HANSON QUARRY EXPANSION PROJECT, BRANDY HILL NSW**

**SUBMISSION TO THE INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISION (IPC)**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed expansion of the Hanson Quarry, Brandy Hill, SSD 5899.

At our first inspection of the house and property in Brandy Hill Drive, the real estate agent informed us of that we were under a flight path of the RAAF Airbase, the Newcastle Airport and that Brandy Hill Drive was the main route for loaded and unloaded gravel trucks, with dog trailers, along Brandy Hill Drive to and from the Hanson Quarry. The property and house suited us and in February 2017 we made Brandy Hill our home. We have no association with any political party or the Hanson Quarry.

We have no objection to Hanson’s proposal to expand their quarry and provide the following to support of our decision;

* We made our decision to move into the property on Brandy Hill Drive having been fully informed of the aircraft and truck and trailer movements and accepted that there would be noise from both. Our home is well back from the road and the trees at the front of the property provide a barrier that reduces any noise from the trucks and general traffic. Aircraft and truck/traffic noise are now part of our everyday life.
* Our understanding is that Hanson’s Quarry was here before Brandy Hill became more residential and that Brandy Hill Drive was purpose built to enable trucks to reach their destinations and return without going through more populated areas. In view of this, it would seem appropriate for trucks to continue using Brandy Hill Drive.
* The speed limit on Brandy Hill Drive is 80 kilometres per hour. Our observation of the gravel truck drivers, Hanson’s and contractors, is that they are very responsible and adhere to the speed limit, and compression braking. (We often travel behind the trucks on Brandy Hill Drive and can confidently say that they keep well within the speed limit.)
* The general public also use Brandy Hill Drive and we have observed many of these vehicles, especially trades, travelling well above the 80 kilometre speed limit posing an increased danger to residents and other local traffic.
* A media statement dated 05 March 2020, advised that Hanson’s would be contributing $120,000 towards the delivery of six (6) new bus bays along Brandy Hill Drive and Seaham Road and $1.5 million towards the design and construction of a shared pathway along Brandy Hill Drive. We believe that Hanson’s are endeavouring to ensure the safety of the community who use these roads.
* In the time that we have lived in Brandy Hill, we believe that the Hanson Company has proved to be a good neighbour by its willingness to contribute to the proposed infrastructure in Brandy Hill, listening to community complaints and informing residents when blasting will occur. We have heard any of the blasting.
* Given the number of truck movements that have continued in these different and changing times, it would appear that Hanson’s have maintained their stability as a company, employer and service deliverer to their clients thus contributing to the local and greater economy.

In summary, we support the expansion of the Hanson Quarry in Brandy Hill as we believe that their investments in the future will to bring jobs and employment to our local government area, assist with the growth of business, the economy and provide substantial amounts of material for infrastructure and the building industry. In addition, we trust that any increases in output will continue to be managed by Hanson’s in an environmentally sensitive manner.

We trust that the Hanson Quarry Expansion Project, Brandy Hill, SSD5899, will be given favourable consideration by the Independent Planning Commission.

Yours sincerely

Chris and Helen Priestley