



BRANDY HILL QUARRY EXPANSION PROPOSAL [SSD 5899]

Why it should NOT happen

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The location of the Hanson- Brandy Hill Quarry is a rural/ residential and environmental area and has been recognized as this for many years.

Its roots come from the times when quarry mining was originally a "hole in the ground," like so many small local quarries of this area and of course, many other locations around the country. Remnants of these can still be seen everywhere.

In fact, Hornsby council just paid millions to fill one in.

These historical quarries were developed from NEED, at a time when the transport of heavy bulk materials was difficult, and so the quarry would service the locality.

Now Hanson is not seeking to service the locality, but also a huge chunk of the state and especially Sydney, by expanding their productions to more than double the present rate.

It is now **NOT** a matter of NEED, but GREED.

The quarry is capitalising on the fact that this location, originally born from necessity, is now a transport bonus for them, being so close to major cities and sprawling suburbs.

As the transport of this material in these days is not so difficult, there are plenty of more remote areas that Hanson could exploit further afield, with little or no real impact to residents, plus rural land use or environmental consequences, such as the devastation of known koala habitat as it will have here.

WHAT HANSON IS ASKING RESIDENTS TO ACCEPT IN ITS EXPANSION APPLICATION is just WAY TOO MUCH.

It is seeking permission to transform what we have now, into a **MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SITE** - a totally foreign body unrelated and completely incompatible with anything else in this rural area. This is not a mining, or industrial area. It is a **ZONE RU2 – Rural landscape for little Brandy Hill.**

We purchased our 77 acres of basically rock, and forests and large old native trees 22 years ago, with our eyes wide open, and a vision to create a property and homestead that would, "maintain the rural landscape character of the land." (**ZONE RU2 RURAL LANDSCAPE FOR LITTLE BRANDY HILL**).

We purchased knowing the Quarry existed. We purchased with no power, no access and no domestic water. There were 2 dams.

We obtained an Owner/Builders licence and spent the next 20 years building and creating a sustainable lifestyle completely off the grid and without Town Water Supply.

Everything here comes from solar power.

Choosing this LIFESTYLE made us understand the need to conserve water, to live with nature that was both beautiful and dangerous, and to appreciate what it means to protect the ENVIRONMENT and WILDLIFE.

The QUARRY was a constant presence. We decided that learning to live with it was the best way to eliminate stress and related health issue.

Our home was built on solid rock and on steel pylons. It faced the North and was predominately glass in 4 Yurts joined by breezeways. This means shade in summer and warmth in winter. All the rooms have verandas. When the westerlies blow there is no sound from the Quarry. When southerlies blow noise from the Quarry is very loud. With no air conditioning, because of the high-power usage, we open our windows in summer. Being an open plan residence, we have made use of breezeways and being up high.

We are most often outside, especially in winter, when we carry out fire hazard reduction, general maintenance and tend to our fruit trees and vegetable gardens.

We have had no choice, but to tolerate the existing conditions from the Quarry, but outside we wear protective gear and when operating machinery, ear protection. This also helps block out Quarry noise.

All of this has become second nature and there were always **SUNDAYS!**

Our home, at the highest point of Little Brandy Hill, has sweeping 360° views as far as the Stockton Sand Dunes and Newcastle. We can see Sugar Loaf Mountain and The Watagan Ranges. The Paterson Valley and Tocal Homestead are popular landmarks. We are protected by a magnificent circle of healthy, thickly wooded native trees as a buffer zone from traffic and Quarry noise to a better level than our neighbours and the residents of Brandy Hill Drive.

Over the past 20 years we trained ourselves to adjust to the noise of the crusher, blasting and truck movements by actively “not listening.” To ignoring it. This only works with determined practise and helps a little. It does not make it go away and it does not do anything to prevent uncontained dust from polluting our crops and water supply.

Four years ago, we opened our guesthouse as a BnB, which has been hugely successful. Guests rave about the location with its magnificent views and many International guests marvel at the wallabies and kangaroos and the variety of native parrots. During the latest drought and fires, our place became a sanctuary for wildlife that shared water dishes and food.

Our guests can explore a unique piece of Australia safely. They all just revel in the rural location. Of course, this is because they come here from cities. 98% of our guests come for weddings, as there are many venues between here and the Vineyards. They spend money in the area, tell other people to visit here and help small businesses at Morpeth, Paterson etc to thrive. Our place is an asset for the economy and tourism.

HOWEVER, THIS EXPANSION
APPLICATION CHANGES
EVERYTHING.

IT IS JUST WAY TOO MUCH.

HANSON WANTS TO TAKE THEIR PRODUCTION ON THIS SITE TO A WHOLE NEW AND TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL. THEY SEEK TO TURN WHAT IS CHALLENGING ENOUGH TO LIVE WITH NOW, INTO A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SITE THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE WITH.

What the quarry is asking for is way beyond what this, or any community should have to endure.

You could liken it to having a suburban home next to a corner store with a few customers a day, no real traffic, safety or environmental hassles. The store had been there for many years, it may cause some minor hassles, but residents tolerate the inconveniences.

Then someone wants to develop it into a major Woolies or Coles, suddenly the traffic is multiplied many times over, but the streets remain the same, so safety is compromised, noise, waste and fallout become a problem. The original shop was there to service the locality, now the supermarket is servicing the entire area. But that is OK, as the people that allowed this to happen have no real stake in the area, only seeing that growth has to happen, and money is to be made.

People that live in suburbs towns or cities do so because that is the norm. They grew up in that type of environment, moved there for work, or maybe to be close to family or amenities.

However, we all live here in Little Brandy Hill and Seaham for lifestyle, peace and quiet, clean air, living sustainably and putting as small a footprint on the environment as possible. We come from all walks of life, nationalities and professions, but we all share one common belief. Rural is rural and industrial is industrial, and the two do not mix.

AREAS ARE ZONED FOR A REASON.

Running an industrial site in a rural designated area is not within reason.

Environmental and rural living is the total opposite of Hanson's core business. They pay only lip service to environmental concerns of residents, even ignoring EPA concerns and avoiding BEST PRACTICE in their production whenever they can. This has gone on from Day One!

Hanson would try to change the very essence of everything we value IF WE LET THEM.

An expansion of this size and nature will ruin yet another area and opens the gate for free rein!

They are not satisfied with production of gravel, but now also want to bring in waste product. This is a new process NOT needed in this area.

Approval for this catastrophic Development Application would more than double its present production and it will also allow Hanson to introduce the development of a concrete batching operation on site. Putting together this will mean: -

- the **environmental destruction of a known koala Habitat of 45 hectares**
- **inflicting potential health risks both mental and physical** on residents whose well-being is already compromised by the present truck movements on Brandy Hill Drive
- **drastically increasing toxic dust fallout, crushing and blasting noise**
- **turning this fertile and beautiful place into an industrial blight on the rural landscape** of our area reducing the value of everything we have worked for
- **Expansion BY Hanson here in Little Brandy Hill and Seaham FOR PROFIT versus the conservation and protection of wildlife and lifestyle by the people who live here. Expansion is untenable -**

❖ It is a known fact that companies the size of Hanson are more prepared to **PAY fines**, than abide by regulations, so we have no real way of controlling the "rules of engagement." **Some companies such as Hanson, have a reputation for flaunting the rules, sometimes repeatedly**

❖ **We have seen this ourselves.** Following residents' complaints about working outside their prescribed hours they have told us they never work outside production hours, only to back pedal, when confronted with proof from residents that they have worked outside their hours, giving broad reasons why those "one offs" had occurred. So, they DO choose to break the rules any time they deem it necessary. They do this because they can. They have muscle and money. They cannot be trusted.

HANSON'S PROPOSED EXPANSION IS INCOMPATIBLE TO OUR AREA:

It allows for:

- **600+ trucks movements 24/7**
- these truck movements to cross a main road into Brandy Hill Drive with crests in both directions meaning accidents waiting to happen

- **CHANGING THEIR OPERATION HOURS TO 24 hours a day, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**
- **THE OPTION OF NIGHT TRUCKING 24/7 20 TIMES PER ANNUM**
- **UNCONTAINED CLOUDS OF DUST CONTAMINATING THE AREA** and entering water tanks on all properties and
- **A CONCRETE BATCHING OPERATION** with its associated unloading/loading of cement, fly ash, etc [known TOXIC materials] creating a never- ending nightmare for residents, way over and above anything a rural residential area should ever have to endure. **It is insane.**
- **Handling and processing [crushing] of waste concrete materials.**

HANSON IS CAPITALISING ON THE FACT THAT THIS RURAL AREA IS NOW A TRANSPORT BONUS FOR THEM, CLOSE TO CITIES AND SUBURBS.

As transport of this material is less difficult these days there are plenty of more remote areas that Hanson could exploit with little or no impact to residents or, even better – they could clean up their current operations and work on the present contract.

Where does it end?

Residents have a right to sleep in peace, enjoy a quality of life in the area they have chosen to live – an area zoned RURAL, not industrial, to feel safe from contamination and to run our biodiversity projects for the good of everyone.

TO APPROVE THIS EXPANSION WOULD BE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

Those of us opposed to this expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry and its operations will just become collateral damage!

We have spoken out in the video conference and are now submitting a more expanded version detailing the impact to our future and those of the next generation.

We expect to be heard.

We are passionate about our lifestyle and our beautiful rural area and its wildlife.

We have **invested many years maintaining the rural aspect of the land**. We care what happens to our area if this Expansion goes ahead.

Just once again for the record.

ZONE RU2 – Rural landscape for Little Brandy Hill.

- “To **maintain the rural landscape character of the land**”
- “To **enable** other forms of development that are associated **with rural activity** and **require an isolated location**, or **support tourism and recreation**”

In black and white plain English, the Hanson Expansion Proposal in NO shape, or form, meets the criteria of ZONE RU2.

There is only one way and that is to NOT APPROVE this travesty of a proposed expansion.