

Dear Commission

Re Dunmore Lakes Project Modification 2

We live locally in Minnamurra and object to the granting of this application and outline our reasons below.

1. Needs a full Environment assessment:

This proposed project is a significant extension of the original approval dating back some decades. The applicant is attempting to gain an extension without going through an EPA assessment. Clearly environmental science has evolved at a rapid pace over the intervening decades.

The geology here is simple.

The ground that surround the Minnamurra River to some 10's of meters depth is sand. Formed over millions of years it acts a fantastic filter of rainwater falling on and running off the surrounding rock based hills. This sand filter protects the water quality flowing into the river.

Boral's own photo on Google maps clearly show the hard rock quarry with the Minnamurra River in the background. It is clear to see the dirty water that results from heavy rain falling on this quarry must make its way to sea via the river.

No amount of corporate public relations spin can alter this basic rule of environmental science and geology. Water flows to the sea.

Boral proposes to dig up this filter and replace it with non filtering 'fill' from Sydney or turn it into non filtering lakes. Either should be ringing alarm bells with so much residential and recreational use at risk.

At the absolute minimum a full environmental assessment and approval should be required before further consideration of this application.

2. Use of adjoining river and estuary system by the public:

The proposed site adjoins and drains to the significant environmental and recreational area of the Minnamurra River. On a summer weekend it is not unusual to see thousands of people using this small estuary system. Fishing, boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and swimming are all very popular.

With the estuaries extensive sand banks and safe swimming, it is very popular with families with young children. Also used regularly by people training for elite sports, as well as locals simply wanting to exercise in a clean & picturesque environment.

Since COVID-19, we have seen a dramatic increase in recreational use. Including significant day trippers from Sydney.

Minnamurra River already has 3 major hard rock queries within a few kms. Despite dust suppression promises by the operators, dust continues to be a problem at times leaving a dust coating on the river.

It does not seem fair to the local community and visitors to foist another major quarry onto such a popular and limited recreational resource.

3. NSW South Coast bike path.

At different points in time NSW Government and Local Councils have funded the creation of the NSW South Coast Bike path. This major project has been created to improve recreation for bike riders, thereby improving health outcomes for the people of the Illawarra and visiting NSW residents.

The bike path runs directly across the road from the proposed extension. It is very popular, seeing 100's of cyclists a day during the week and more on weekends. Again since COVID-19 there has been a significant increase in use of this fantastic resource.

It is not logical, that on one hand we plan for and build a major recreational infrastructure project; to then locate a quarry directly opposite. Thereby negatively impacting the amenity of the very thing we created.

4. Quality of life versus quantity of company profits:

Large companies such as Boral seem to have forgotten about the quality and amenity of life for residents. Morality and balance of profit with community is mostly missing.

Instead, decisions are focused on the almighty dollar. They are driven by commercial organisations with very significant profits to be made by the one time extraction and sale of a resource that took millions of years to form.

Instead perhaps Boral should quarry sandstone and crush it themselves rather than relying on the Minnamurra River to do the work over past millennia. It is simple logic that at some point in time we cannot rely on the exploration of a finite resource, we will need to find alternatives for construction sand.

That time is NOW. It is the year 2020 and with Australia's fantastic intellectual capital this problem can be solved.

It is time to create smart jobs, just not a job which has a finite end point. After all, we found alternatives for whale oil and Illawarra rainforest timber once both were exhausted. Let's not wait for this resource to be exhausted.

Short term greed should not convince the commission that this quarry is the only option.

5. Road safety.

The applicant would have us all believe there is no road danger from this expansion. This is patently not correct.

I have personally experienced several dangerous road situations as a direct result of the significant volume of trucks accessing the existing works.

These include over \$2,000 damage to my 4x4 when I hit a section of cement truck chute on the freeway just past the entry ramp from Tabbita Road.

Additionally at 2 various times trucks have been queueing across the bike path waiting for the quarry to open early in the morning. This necessitates weaving between stationary large trucks to get back on the bike path.

The volume of trucks will continue and increase as areas are backfilled.

Summary

This proposal represents a major conflict in planning.

Over time, NSW Government and Dept of Planning, have planned and funded major projects to encourage residents to move to the Illawarra. The plan is working, resulting in rapid local population growth. At the micro level, in our street alone, 10 homes have been replaced with dual occupancy. The broader community growth is dramatic.

Mining and quarrying is simply incompatible with this residential growth. The existing mining activities are tolerated ... but future multi decade extensions are not acceptable.

Hence our objection to this proposal.

Sincerely

Ralph & Denise Stadius