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Illawarra Branch

illawarra@npansw.org.au

tel 0416 325266

New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

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Dear Sir/ Madam

DUNMORE LAKES PROJECT: MODIFICATION 2

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) was established more than 60 years ago with the mandate of advocating for the expansion and protection of national parks, other reserves and natural places while connecting people to nature. NPA continues to lobby for better protection status for terrestrial, intertidal and marine environments including for important locations such as the Minnamurra River, its connected waterways, mangroves and adjacent lands, particularly those which drain runoffs directly to the river.

We object to this Project

NPA is concerned Boral's plans for stage 5 sand mining at Dunmore have great potential to compromise the integrity of the ecosystems in and around the Minnamurra River. The direct impact on the Bangalay Sand Forest of Stage 5B is of great concern to us and the likely impact on the adjoining forest west and south of the site should not be understated. The excavation of a large pit so close to the presently undisturbed forest simply should not be allowed to proceed.

The proximity of proposed Stage 5A to the river itself is concerning. With not much more than 100m separating the excavation site from the river there is a high risk of impact on the intertidal zones at least, if not a more direct effect on the waterway due to disturbed seepage flows within the mostly sand terrain.

NPA is also concerned that this project is another with potential to compromise the integrity of remnant ecosystems on the plains of the Illawarra coast. The lack of presence of environmental corridors linking the Illawarra escarpment to the coastal zones is concerning. At present the Jamberoo/Dunmore/ Minnamurra area only provides disconnected forest patches between the escarpment and the coast. We advocate that maintaining or improving these linkages is a must to consider with all development proposals on the coastal plains.

This attempt by Boral to maximise profits in the final years of life of the Dunmore site is not justified. Profit for them will leave an environmental legacy for generations to come. We ask that you not approve this project.



Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Graham Burgess
President, Illawarra Branch
National Parks Association of NSW