Monday, 2 November 2020

**Re: Boral Sand Mining proposal on the Minnamurra River**

Commissioner, we write to object to the proposal by Boral to commence a new sand mining operation within the Minnamurra River catchment.

We have been recreational users of the river for more than 25 years, and consider the river to be the only pristine waterway in the Illawarra Region. This catchment system and the proposed mine site is habitat of several Ecological Endangered Communities. Bangalay forest will be significantly disturbed and/or destroyed over a large portion of the proposed mining site. This species is a listed endangered ecological community and is abutting a significant stand of Littoral Rainforest rare to the Illawarra region.

In addition to the ecological threat this proposal if approved will impact and destroy culturally significant sites within and adjoining the proposed mining site. Aboriginal artefacts have been identified here, and this coastal zone of the Minnamurra River has been occupation for thousands of years by Aboriginal people. Of even more relevance and where respectful consideration must be given is the site being in close proximity or possibly located on the site of the 1818 massacre of Aboriginal people by European settlers.

Furthermore the intersections of Riverside Drive and the adjoining Swamp Road is confusing and dangerous. The proposal if approved will significantly increase the presence of heavy vehicles and result in safety issues, increased noise and dust pollution to the area.

We respectfully seek your rejection of Boral’s Sand Mining Proposal.

Peter & Freda Kennedy

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