

DUNMORE LAKES SAND PROJECT – STAGE 5 MODIFICATIONS – DUNMORE - NSW

Woronora Plateau Gundangara Elders Council (WPGEC) do not support the proposed modifications to DLS Boral AFT 1 & DLS Boral AFT 2. The proposed modifications & extraction will see the mine's life extended for a further three to four years, causing irreparable and complete destruction of a rare and valuable natural and cultural landscape. Dunmore Lakes is one of very few undisturbed estuarine environments remaining in the Illawarra region and wider surrounds. It holds an intact and rich archaeological site, and encompasses land of cultural and modern historical importance. The identified high significance of harm to the impacted area must be considered to be of more worth than the profits to be made from the proposed destructive activities by Boral. Mitigation, in this case of direct and total loss of value of this site, would be an inadequate solution and it is preferred that the afore mentioned modifications and further mining activities cease completely.

WPGEC along with other key stakeholder groups and the local Aboriginal community are of the strong belief that this site is significant for several reasons:

1. Its value as a rare undisturbed estuary environment in the Illawarra region.
2. The intactness of its archaeological deposits and its cultural importance as a site of continuous occupation with evidence of a lengthy and maintained connection to this land. This has been established through previous archaeological investigations, the most recent and relevant to this specific study area being the test excavations of 5A and 5B completed by Kelleher Nightingale Consulting and registered stakeholder groups between the 19th and 23rd November 2018. A total of 461 artefacts found at site DLS Boral AFT 1 and 828 artefacts found at site DLS Boral AFT 2. These artefacts included coarse silcrete flaked fragments with cortex, crystalline quartz backed artefacts, retouched jasper and silcrete, a petrified wood backed blade, an agate geometric microlith, a charcoal feature, and a hammerstone which was recorded *in situ* at around 65cm depth. The number and distribution of artefacts clearly show that occupation and activities at this site occurred during a prolonged period of time, and on a repeated basis. Furthermore, analysis and interpretation of the material recovered from these test excavations may suffice for the purposes of understanding and managing sites in similar estuarine environments, thus not requiring the data from the proposed salvage and allowing this site to remain otherwise intact.
3. Its proximity to the site of a massacre which occurred just to the south of the study area.
“In October 1818 Lieutenant Weston, land owner at Dapto and Cornelius O'Brien, formerly a stockman at Sandon Point and now the overseer of a property at Yallah, organised a group of seven labourers and convicts. Unusually armed with muskets, cutlasses and pikes, they headed to Kiama supposedly to fetch two muskets lent to a group of people living on the Minnamurra River. According to Young Bundle, who was long trusted by the British, the posse killed all the people at the camp. The attackers admitted only to wounding a boy in self-defence. After a sharp letter of protest from Charles Throsby to Governor Macquarie, the murders were investigated by D'Arcy Wentworth, the Principal Superintendent of Police, along with other magistrates. They took no action against the killers despite a letter from Governor Macquarie to D'Arcy Wentworth expressing his “surprise, regret and displeasure” at their findings”.

(Donaldson et al 2017:13).

This atrocity has now been formally acknowledged by Kiama Council, an action which should prompt appropriate respect for the site and its surrounds.

4. Its high potential of containing burials due to the traditional practices in the Illawarra region of digging graves in the soft soil along waterways, including the Minnamurra River, or into sand banks. Additionally, the proximity to the massacre noted in (3) may provide further weight to the possibility of burials. Observations by early European settlers of similar mass deaths in the region detail how the dead would be buried nearby and close to water. Lynch (1820), for example, recounts how around seventy men, killed in the battle of Fairy Meadow, were buried in the scrub between the battle ground and the sea, between the two arms of Fairy Creek. There is therefore reason to suspect, due to the natural landscape of the Dunmore Lakes area, its recent history, and comparable information, that there may be burials from both the distant and more recent past.

The Aboriginal people of Australia possess one of the oldest continuous living cultures in the world. The protection of cultural and spiritual landscapes and materials, including sacred sites and artefacts, both past and present, is vital to maintaining this culture. We believe any type of mining of the land is unacceptable, especially for the financial gain of a highly profitable company that has already destroyed other parts of the land and impacted the local communities and environment to date. The Australian Government has legislation in place such as the Heritage Act, 1977 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, which acts to protect heritage listed items as they represent Australian and European culture and history, and this is seen being enforced around Australia on a daily basis. Aboriginal culture and history demands the same respect and value, through the regular and repeated preservation and protection of significant sites such as Dunmore Lakes.

WE OPPOSE ANY APPROVAL FOR THE MINING OF SAND FOR THIS PROJECT.



Kind Regards
Kayla Williamson
Woronora Plateau Gundangara Elders Council

7.4.2019

REFERENCES

Donaldson, M., L. Bursill, & M. Jacobs, 2017. A History of Aboriginal Illawarra, Volume 2: Colonisation, Dharawal Publications: Yowie Bay, NSW.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/cultureheritage/illawarraAboriginalHistory.pdf>

Kelleher Nightingale Consulting Pty Ltd (KNC) 2019. Dunmore Lakes Sand Project – Stage 5 Modifications, DUNMORE: CHAR.

We have supporting signatures below of stakeholder groups and community members that also have the same view as listed above.

NAME	GROUP/COMMUNITY	SIGNATURE
L. Brown	Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corp	Lorraine Brown
N THOMAS	COOMADITCHIE ABORIGINAL	Neville Thomas
J brown	Dunghutti	Jbrown
A Day	Coomaditchie Dunghutti	A Day
W. Archibald	Coomaditchie	W Archibald
R. Dutton	Goobah	R. Dutton
KIM DAVIS	WODI-WODI	K Davis
BROOKE DAVIS	WODI-WODI	B Davis
Julie Luland	Noogaleek	Julie Luland
Bronwyn	Noogaleek - Yuin	Bronwyn
Tanya Moran	Noogaleek - Yuin	Tanya Moran
Teresa Day	Noogaleek	Teresa Day
Manda Schembi	Noogaleek	Manda Schembi
Cheryl Price	Noogaleek	Cheryl Price
Macketh Larrene	NOOGALEEK	M S Larrene
Roslynne Webb	Yuin	Roslynne Webb

NAME	GROUP/COMMUNITY	SIGNATURE
Mark Pietruszewski	ELDORA ELDER	M. Pietruszewski

NAME	GROUP/COMMUNITY	SIGNATURE
Leanne Tungai	Leanne Tungai (Nagarni)	Leanne Tungai
Steve Henry	community member	Steve Henry
Kevin Booth	Community Member	Kevin Booth
James DAVIS	Wodi, Wodi	J. Davis
Clint Davis	Wodi: wodi	Clint Davis
Bryan Tebbutt	Wodi, wodi	Bryan Tebbutt
Megan Dalmaro	wodi wodi	Megan Dalmaro
Paul Cummins	Elouira Tribal Elder	Paul Cummins
TROY TUNSOI	TUNSOI / TONSKI	Troy Tunsoi
KRISTY THOMAS	COOMADITCHIE	Kristy Thomas
Sandra Campbell	THOOGA NURA	Sandra Campbell
PAUL KNIGHT	COMMUNITY MEMBER	Paul Knight
Renai Smith	(IAC) Wiradyri	Renai Smith
Irene Moor	(IAC) Yunin	Irene Moor
Dave Thelt	(IAC) Yun	Dave Thelt
E. Hennoc	KANGAROO-DC	E. Hennoc
William Henry	CEO IAC	William Henry
RICHARD DAVIS	CHAIRPERSON IAC	Richard Davis