"Enough is enough" is a statement often heard when people have pushed the boundaries too far.

Boral have certainly made a mark on the landscape in this Region. I was less than impressed when my husband told me that Boral's Planning and Development Manager had stated that the proposed extra two mines would have no effect on tourism. I find this to be an outrageous statement.

Even though we live at Gerroa, some 20 minutes drive from the Minnamurra River, we “act” and behave just like tourists. In fact because we are not “Locals” I guess you’d have to call us tourists.

The Minnamurra river is an absolute gem and definitely worth the drive. It’s usable at any tide, and once you round the bend at Gainsbough, Kiama Downs, you immediately feel like you are in wilderness.

A toxic sandmine with those ugly bunds encircling it will immediately ruin my pleasure of this great area. It will definitely effect businesses as we mostly have a meal at Minnamurra Cafe after our paddle. If we don’t go to the restaurant then we head for fish and chips at the small shopping centre at Kiama Downs and also call in on the IGA while there.

While Adnan may not see us as being tourists, I’m quite certain the shop keepers and restaurant owners near by in times of Covid value us at least as much as other tourists from Sydney.

I’m also very pleased that you, Commissioners, actually came on-site, unlike any of the DoP staff. How can you get a feel for a place when you don’t actually visit it. People often talk about places and you build up a mental image of what it’s like. However it’s not until you actually go there and experience it that you are able to reconfigure what the place looks like.

If either mine were to be approved there is no doubt my perception of the lovely village of Minnamurra and other nearby places will change. Can you imagine how the people who live in Riverside Drive Kiama Downs and others who live on the nearby hills with a view of the 5B site would be affected? These people chose to live there with the view of this beautiful river and the gorgeous hinterland. If approved they will view this mine then the remnant mine with its ugly bunds forever.

Clearly the redevelopment of the proposed Eco-tourist Development 71 Fig Hill Lane, Dunmore

which now complies will see a massive increase in tourism. My family and friends and I have already planned to visit this facility once it's built. Clearly a much improved building would have been seen proud on the hill alone must surely be a better sight than the run down dump that is sighted there. If the proposed mine is approved I wonder if the developer of the Eco-tourist development will go ahead. Clearly looking down on an ugly industrial site, add to that the significant noise from the dredge may well delay or even stop this exciting development going ahead.

I therefore respectively ask that both proposed Sandmines be rejected.

Karen Holder

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