

Liam Farmer

█ Cabbage Tree Road

Williamtown NSW 2318

Letter of Objection to the Proposed Williamtown Sand Mine

Application No. SSD6125

My name is Liam Farmer of █ Cabbage tree Road, Williamtown. The proposed sand mine lies across from where I live, it will affect the health and wellbeing of both residents and the local ecosystem. I am studying Biology, Environmental Science in my teaching degree at Newcastle University. As a student at Lambton High both my brother and I used the area of the proposed sand mine for Biology and Earth and Environmental assignments and from these experiences I have personally witnessed the biodiversity of the flora and fauna that inhabit the proposed sand mine. I have observed a small group of Koalas, goannas, various types of snakes, frogs and birds over these years. However, after the 2013 Bushfires the majority of wildlife either fled the area or perished. Ever since that event the ecosystem has been in a fragile state of regrowth, with the majority of species returning only significantly in late 2015.

The recent bushfire again has upset the ecosystem (a fact which would be considered favourable to the mining company).

The potential threat of increased dust and noise pollution together with the loss of huge amounts of vegetation presents the possible collapse of the surrounding ecosystem as well as damages to the health and wellbeing of local residents, especially those with asthma such as my sister.

Suffering already from noise pollution from the RAAF base that is set to increase with the introduction of two squadrons comprising 24 F-35A Lightning II fighter jets in 2018, which will triple the noise of the F-18's already present at the RAAF base, more noise pollution from the proposed Sand mine will only further the risk of hearing problems for local residents and increase their exposure to dust and other airborne pollutants.

The sand mine which will undoubtedly include deforestation will add to the already high water levels of the local area, this will increase salinity and bring bore water already contaminated with fire retardant foam that has seeped into the water table over the past twelve years from the RAAF base to the surface. This will further devalue the properties along Cabbage Tree Road as well as its surrounds. They say they will revegetate the area after they have mined. Too little, too late and it is almost impossible to recreate the natural bushland habitat.

Please decline this Sand mine proposal for the benefit and longevity of both the health and wellbeing of the environment and local residents. Its development poses a serious threat to all that inhabit the area no more so than my family and me.

Yours Sincerely,
Liam Nicholas Farmer