

IPC New South Wales  
Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project (SSD 5899)

19 June 2020

To Whom it May Concern

**RE: Written Submission to the IPC regarding the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project (SSD 5899)**

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the IPC on the 12 June 2020. Please find attached my written submission outlining my objection to the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project.

Attached are several documents, including my speech to the IPC, my submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry on Koalas, my Response to Submissions document, and my original 2017 Submission. Attached also are tank water quality results taken on my property on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The IPC requested further information about tank water quality and I would appreciate your review of these results.

I am a resident of Giles Rd, and live within 1km of the Brandy Hill Quarry in Seaham. I am strongly opposed to the expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry.

My objection to the extension of current quarry resources follow some key points of contention which include:

- Biodiversity and Environmental impacts (50 hectares of koala habitat destruction)
- Socio-Economic impacts
- Daily Noise Disturbance and Excessive Hours of Operation
- Air quality and Health Impacts
- Tank, surface and ground water quality
- Safety concerns and Number of Trucks

*Biodiversity and Environmental impacts*

The proposed expansion will destroy nearly 50 hectares of foraging and breeding koala habitat.

Seaham and Brandy Hill's Koalas are a core breeding colony within Australia's Eastern population of Koalas. Proposed mitigation measures to minimize the impact on the koalas and four other threatened native species present on the site are insufficient. Main mitigation methods propose the purchasing of 'koala credits'. The existence and effectiveness of biodiversity credits is under parliamentary review.

No disturbance of this core koala habitat or its wildlife corridors at the Brandy Hill Quarry site should be allowed whilst a current Government enquiry is underway. We must be proactive in protecting our local koalas in their natural breeding habitat, and not allowing the loss of important habitat linkages by allowing industry and land use in areas that will lead to koala population destruction.

### *Noise Disturbance and Excessive Hours of Operation*

I am strongly opposed to increased operational hours, including crushing and blasting, and for quarry operations and transport to be increased to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I am extremely alarmed that the Quarry as per their letter to DPIE on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, are still proposing to crush from 5am to 1am Monday to Saturday and to undertake Secondary and Tertiary Plant activities 24/7 from Monday to Sunday.

This will make my family's life unbearable.

I note that the DPIE, in their Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project, Section 7 Evaluation, point 7.1.5 states that crushing activities are a "key source of potential amenity impacts on the local community, and that processing on the secondary/tertiary circuit should be restricted from 6am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Despite this being far more palatable to Hanson's desire to crush 24/7, it is still an excessive noise disturbance on the local community, and should only be allowed to operate during daylight and/or business hours. Hours that any other noise related activity within a community must abide by.

Moreover, most recently, at the meeting of the CCC on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, I sought clarification on timing aspects of when the enclosed machinery would be installed. Hanson Management said they were not enclosing the machinery if they did not get 24/7 operations. I'm very alarmed at this recent statement. My family and I are subjected daily to crushing and machinery noise from the quarry. On multiple days and occasions, the noise has been so excessive that is audible within my house, affects my ability to sleep, concentrate or go about daily activities. It has caused a great deal of stress.

### *Noise, Dust, Air and Water Quality*

I request further comprehensive investigation into noise and dust emissions and local water quality.

There has been a lack of elemental analysis by Hanson on dust pollutants. The Company has not cooperated when approached about this. Earlier in the process, Hanson undertook staged dust collection on my property. The dust monitor was later found to be faulty. Despite my request, the company has not done further dust monitoring on my property with a functioning machine.

Hanson must undertake a full dust and particulates emission analysis and also establish full noise and dust enclosure and suppression measures prior to startup.

Despite my repeated requests for a proper investigation into dust particulates and local water quality (ie. Tank water, swimming pools, gardens etc), Hanson has only tested my tank water and one other. My results did show some areas of concern (Please see attached results). Various elements that were found do not naturally occur in tank water.

I am alarmed over the potential health implications of a proposed concrete batching plant. Fly ash and the silica content of these materials are injurious to your health and an active pollutant once airborne.

*Community Representative*

As a resident of Giles Rd, and as a member of the Brandy Hill Action Group, VOWW Community Group and as a CCC representative for the Brandy Hill Quarry, I have been involved in consultations with Hanson Representatives, the Department of Planning and Environment, Port Stephens Council, the EPA, and community members for a significant portion of the approval process.

I remain frustrated, concerned and disappointed over the lack of adequate attention given to legitimate Community concerns across many areas.

I strongly feel that the concerns outlined in my original submission of April 2017, and additional concerns that have arisen throughout the consultation process, such as excessive koala habitat destruction, have not been alleviated nor addressed adequately.

193 Submissions were received in relation to the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project.

169 of these were Objections.

I reinstate my objection to the Proposal.

I would encourage you to review these documents. They reflect my genuine concerns for the health, lifestyle, environment and amenity of this area.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Kind Regards



Chantal Parslow Redman

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IPC Speech, Friday 12 June 2020

**CPR Speech: Key Points for Discussion**

**IPC Public Hearing, Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project (SSD 5899)**

**Friday 12 June 2020**

In April 2017, 193 Submissions were received in relation to the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project. 169 of these were Objections.

I am one of these objectors.

Good afternoon, my name is Chantal Parslow Redman.

Today I will speak to you about the key impacts that the quarry currently has on my family and how the proposed expansion will profoundly affect our future.

First, I will give you a quick background of myself, my family and why we choose to live where we live.

Secondly, I will go over some of the main points of contention regarding the Brandy Hill Quarry extension project. These include:

- a) Biodiversity and Environmental impacts (that includes koala habitat destruction)
- b) Daily Noise Disturbance and Excessive Hours of Operation
- c) Air quality and Health Impacts
- d) Safety concerns and Number of Trucks

Thirdly, I will give a brief overview of the process and my participation in consultations with Brandy Hill Quarry leading to this point.

Lastly, I will conclude with my appeal to you to read the community submissions and note what is at stake if this extension is granted approval.

Today I wish to tell you how the quarry's current operations and expansion proposal profoundly affects the quality of life for my family and my community.

It's our community, our future, our lifestyle, our health and the health of our environment that is at stake.

**1) Firstly. Who I Am**

I am a business professional and mother to 3 young children. I live at [REDACTED], a beautiful, off the main drag, rural residential road. We live on a hill and our house is in line of sight to the quarry which is approximately 1km away. The topography of our area is such that noise bounces off surrounding hills and travels along the valley. My family is subjected to daily noise, dust and other impacts of the quarry's operations.

My family moved to Seaham five years ago as part of our “tree-change”. We looked forward to the lifestyle and quality of rural living – great communities, great schools, clean air, safer roads and a healthier environment. We chose to move to Seaham as we wanted our children to grow up in a home, not a house. Where, for the first time, we mark the heights of our three beautiful children on the frame of a door. This is something we have never done before when living in Melbourne, overseas or more recently on the coast in Stockton.

Before buying our property in 2015, I did a high level of due diligence in regard to current and future industry and housing developments in the area. I rang Port Stephens Council and spoke directly to a Town Planner to specifically ask about Brandy Hill Quarry. I was told that under no circumstances was the quarry going to be granted any additional licences, was in fact running out of rock, and would be ceasing operations soon. It was under this reassurance that I purchased our property. If I had known the quarry was going to most likely continue operations for an additional 30 years, I would not have moved my young family here.

I am Executive Director (and owner) of STOK Marine, a work-boat business based in the Port of Newcastle and mother of three young children, aged three, five and seven years old. We have a home-based office and enjoy living on a 9-acre rural property. I am 41 years old, and have a Masters in Business Administration (with Distinction), Masters in International Business (with Distinction) and Dean Scholar Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in Politics. My professional background includes work as a Sessional Academic, Business Development Manager and as a Strategic Policy Adviser for several Victorian Government Departments, including the former Department of Primary Industries, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. My Honours thesis was in the field of Ecological Sustainable Development and have published work in this topic area.

I am an active member of the local community. I am a member of the CCC (Community Consultative Committee) for the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Proposal, am on the Committee of VOWW (the Voice of Wallalong and Woodville Community Group) and am a member of the Brandy Hill and Seaham Action Group. I also helped establish a facebook group for our road several years ago as a communication tool for Giles Rd Neighbours. This site is regularly used as a conversation platform by residents concerned about the level of noise of quarry operations, blast disturbances, dust events and the well-being of local koalas and other wildlife.

## **2) Key Concerns**

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment notes in their letter and relevant documents to the IPC that “the project has the potential to adversely impact the surrounding environment...and the amenity of the local community.” It impacts my family on a daily basis. Noise, crushing, dust, safety, trucking, environmental concerns etc. Its current operations and projected expansion has affected the quality of our life so dramatically, that we have seriously discussed selling and moving our family away.

### **a) Biodiversity and Environmental Impacts, Koalas**

The proposed expansion will destroy nearly 50 hectares of foraging and breeding koala habitat. This habitat is critical to the survival of the species, as noted in a recent Consultancy report.

Biosis Pty Ltd found five species to be directly under threat by the Brandy Hill Quarry proposed extension. These were the:

- Koala
- Grey-headed Flying Fox
- Spotted-tailed Quoll
- Regent Honeyeater
- Swift Parrot

Biosis Pty Ltd found that: ***“Within the locality, the clearing of 45.8 hectares of Koala habitat will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species.”***

The Report found that the Brandy Hill Quarry development and the clearing of Koala wilderness to be so significant, that it will impact koalas at a **“a national level”**.

Proposed mitigation measures to minimize the impact on the koalas and four other threatened native species present on the site are insufficient. Main mitigation methods propose the purchasing of ‘koala credits’.

In the wake of our recent catastrophic bushfire season, the utility of existing credits has been greatly reduced or eliminated. It is an absolute travesty if this proposed development is allowed to obtain credits to overcome the issue of clearing this vital pocket of local koala habitat.

Seaham and Brandy Hill’s Koalas are a core breeding colony within Australia’s Eastern population of Koalas. Numerous small koala populations occur along the coast, but are increasingly threatened and separated as a result of bushfire, urban and rural development, roads and other forms of development. These increasingly disjunct and threatened koala populations are under extreme pressure, particularly in the wake of our recent catastrophic bushfire season.

The existence and effectiveness of biodiversity credits is under parliamentary review. They may even cease to exist in the future. Steps must be taken now to revoke or suspend the application of ‘credits’ given our recent environmental tragedy.

I urge you to review DPIE’s published draft document of March 2020 titled “NSW Government Koala Habitat Protection Guideline, Implementing State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019”. The overarching aim of these guidelines are to: “... encourage the conservation and management of areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for koalas to support a permanent free-living population over their present range and reverse the current trend of koala population decline.”

No disturbance of this core koala habitat or its wildlife corridors at the Brandy Hill Quarry site should be allowed whilst a current Government enquiry is underway. We must be proactive in protecting our local koalas in their natural breeding habitat, and not allowing the loss of important habitat linkages by allowing industry and land use in areas that will lead to koala population destruction.

#### *b) Noise and Hours of Operation*

My family and I are subjected daily to crushing and machinery noise from the quarry. On multiple days and occasions, the noise has been so excessive that is audible within my house, affects my ability to sleep, concentrate or go about daily activities. It has caused me a great deal of stress.

My husband is a Tug Master in Newcastle Harbour and works shifts. The crushing noise affects his ability to sleep and on particularly bad days, has gone to sleep at a relative's property to get away from the noise. We have even discussed moving to get relief from the 'doof' 'doof' doof'.

The quarry has done little to alleviate this noise and has even tried to deny its existence or impact on my life.

In a CCC meeting in 2019, a Quarry Manager even stated that the proposed enclosed machinery may not alleviate these sound issues.

Moreover, most recently, at the meeting of the CCC on Tuesday, I sought clarification on timing aspects of when the enclosed machinery would be installed. Hanson Management said they were not enclosing the machinery if they didn't get 24/7 operations. I'm very alarmed at this recent statement.

I live on a hill on Giles Road, and the noise travels very differently throughout and around the different residential properties. The quarry did blast noise tests on my property at my request, but have not undertaken daily noise monitoring for general activities, despite my request and approval to put a sound monitor on my property. Blast noises are sometimes so loud that my windows rattle and vibrations can be felt.

It is important to note that the proposed sound monitoring locations on Giles Road are in areas that do not necessary capture the real experiences of residents.

Noise monitoring must take place in key affected residential areas.

I am extremely alarmed that the Quarry as per their letter to DPIE on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020, are still proposing to crush from 5am to 1am Monday to Saturday and to undertake Secondary and Tertiary Plant activities 24/7 from Monday to Sunday.

This will make my family's life unbearable.

I note that the DPIE, in their Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project, Section 7 Evaluation, point 7.1.5 states that crushing activities are a "key source of potential amenity impacts on the local community, and that processing on the secondary/tertiary circuit should be restricted from 6am to 8pm Monday to Friday. Despite this being far more palatable to Hanson's desire to crush 24/7, it is still an excessive noise disturbance on the local community, and should only be allowed to operate during daylight and/or business hours. Hours that any other noise related activity within a community must abide by.

Hanson must establish full noise and dust enclosure and suppression measures prior to startup. Not at later stages of the proposed expansion.

### *c) Air Quality and Health Impacts*

I request further comprehensive investigation into noise and dust emissions.

Despite my repeated requests for a proper investigation into dust particulates and local water quality (ie. Tank water, swimming pools, gardens etc), Hanson has only tested my tank water and one other. My results did show some areas of concern.

I am alarmed over the potential health implications of a proposed concrete batching plant. Fly ash and the silica content of these materials are injurious to your health and an active pollutant once airborne.

There has been a lack of elemental analysis by Hanson on dust pollutants. The Company has not cooperated when approached about this. Earlier in the process, Hanson undertook staged dust collection on my property. The dust monitor was later found to be faulty. Despite my request, the company has not done further dust monitoring on my property with a functioning machine.

Hanson must undertake a full dust and particulates emission analysis and also establish full noise and dust enclosure and suppression measures prior to startup.

#### *d) Safety and Number of Trucks*

There has been inadequate attention given to the increased safety concerns along Brandy Hill Drive and Clarence town road.

The projected number of 600 trucks per day is terrifying.

Noise exceedance has already been noted on Clarence town Road in terms of traffic, even without the dramatic increase in estimated truck movements from the Quarry. If noise is already being exceeded beyond the allowable limits with a current daily estimated usage of around 130 Hanson trucks, how can an increase be possibly allowed?

This is a rural residential road, frequently used by the residents, school buses and locals. It should not be an industry corridor.

Documentation provided by DPIE has only counted a half of the Brandy Hill Drive residential properties that occur along the road, therefore all impact statistics and road usage projections are incorrect and do not give an accurate account of how increased trucking activity will affect the local environ.

I also note that the establishment of bus bays and footpaths must go hand-in-hand. There are massive safety issues and concerns if bus bays are erected without any foot paths. Potential for vehicle and road fatality will be greatly increased as children get off school buses with no safe way to walk home.

### **3) Thirdly, A brief overview of the process**

In the several years that I have been involved in consultations with the Brandy Hill Quarry, my concern and level of objection to the project has increased, rather than decreased.

Information supplied by the Quarry has been subject to discrepancies, inaccuracies and inconsistencies, such as operating hours, number of trucks, tonnages etc.

I note that in any lengthy application process such as this one, participants can become frustrated and dogmatic. As this affects our lifestyle and livelihoods, people become emotionally involved. That said, Hanson's lack of cooperation, inconsistencies in information supplied, lack of transparency and inability to answer genuine questions of concern such as dust regulation, water quality and noise disturbances has become the norm.

As such, I believe it is important to highlight aspects of the community engagement process.

I would also like to make a disclaimer here that by speaking to you today, I am concerned that I may be subject to further personal harassment and intimidation.

CCC meetings have become increasingly volatile.

In meetings, I have witnessed and been subjected to bullying and harassment tactics by Hanson Management Staff.

Hanson Management Staff have made statements in meetings such as:

- "There's nothing you can do. We are not going to change anything"
- "You chose to move here. The quarry was here first so live with it"
- "We're happy to cop the fine" in response to operating out of hours.
- "Hanson has a legal team a mile long. Bring it on" in response to whether PSC could undertake legal action regarding Hanson's operating out of hours.
- "What's your problem, are you drinking the water? Well then be quiet" When asked whether additional water tank analysis could be undertaken.
- "As individuals you don't count" in response to community members.

Despite my apprehension at speaking out for fear of retaliation, I have been in a number of newspaper articles and have spoken on many occasions to community members and at community events etc.

Two days after being quoted in the Newcastle Herald regarding my concern about the Quarry Development and its potential to destroy significant koala habitat, I was a victim of retaliation. My electronic steel property gate was rammed repeatedly by a vehicle until it buckled and the mechanisms were broken. Police were called. I do not know who carried out this retaliation, however, it continues to be a great source of worry and concern. Numerous community individuals have voiced to me that they are too worried to speak out, for fear of retaliation.

Hanson has not displayed good community engagement or good corporate citizenship. There has been inadequate communication and a lack of willingness to work with the local community.

I have been told by Hanson Management, "There's nothing you can do, so why do you keep fighting this".

Under its current operations, I am not confident that the company is abiding to its areas of consent or self-regulating. The company does not work at best practice.

This alarms me greatly and affects my ability to believe that they will act as better operators in the future.

## **Concluding Comments**

Today I have spoken to you about background, why my family loves where we live and why we choose to live here.

In response to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's recommendations, I continue to have key issues of concern.

I have highlighted the unfathomable impact that the destruction of 50 hectares of koala habitat and breeding territory will have on Port Stephens koalas. Koala credits are not a viable mitigation method and must not be used.

I have talked to you about Noise Disturbance and Hours of Operation and how the relentless crushing noise has dramatically affected my family's quality of life. I have spoken of the concern I have about inadequate dust and particulates measuring and monitoring and their potential affect on the health and water quality of local residents.

I briefly spoke of the safety concern surrounding a massive increase in trucking movements along a rural residential road, where at peak times, a truck will pass every minute! How can this be allowable in a high-density family residential and school zone?

I gave you a brief overview of the arduous consultation process and my participation in the consultations with Brandy Hill Quarry that have led to this point. It has been an extremely taxing and stressful time where I have questioned many aspects of the process.

Whilst I would greatly prefer the Quarry to cease operations, all indications from authorities show that they will most likely continue. If this the case, it must not be to the detriment of the health and well being of the local community, or the death knell to 50 hectares of koala habitat. No additional licences should be granted until the quarry demonstrates an ability to meet best practice. Operations must only be during daylight hours and during week days and must satisfactorily address all community concerns.

Please remember what is at stake here. This impacts my children, my community, my lifestyle, my health and the health of our environment.

Please remember that out of 193 submissions in relation to the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Project, 169 were Objections.

I leave you some food for thought, a recent statement I heard from a community member "This is the Ruby Princess of Extraction".

## NSW Parliamentary Inquiry – Koalas, Public Submission

Chantal Parslow Redman

1 August 2019

**Re: Impact to Threatened species, specifically the Koala, as a result of the Brandy Hill Quarry Extension Project**

A Recent UN-backed report has found Australia to have one of the world's worst records for the extinction and lack of protection for threatened fauna. Our Koalas are in crisis.

Climatic changes, drought, and increased temperatures are pushing increasingly threatened Koala populations further East in the search for cooler temperatures and habitat. Port Stephens Koalas are already facing a fragmented and urbanised environment. Plagued with over development, wilderness destruction and a lack of legal protection, our Australian icon is under threat.

The proposed clearing of 45.8 hectares of koala habitat and breeding territory at Brandy Hill Quarry in Seaham, along with the proposed Kings Hill Housing Development, will have a detrimental effect to our Koala population. Smaller pockets of habitat, increased population pressures, disease and urbanisation are all combining to sound the death knell for these beautiful creatures.

I am increasingly concerned by the lack of concern and attention given to the direct loss of 45.8 hectares of foraging and breeding koala habitat that will result if approval is given to the extension of the Brandy Hill Quarry in Seaham, NSW.

The Seaham and Brandy Hill area has regular sightings of koalas.

Given the increasingly disjunct and threatened koala populations across Australia, and the extremely threatened Eastern Population of Koalas, the loss of 45.8 hectares of koala habitat is likely to have a significant impact on the national population. Numerous small koala populations occur along the coast, but are increasingly threatened and separated as a result of urban and rural development, roads and other forms of development.

A report by R. W. Corkery & Co. addressed to Ms Genevieve Seed, Senior Planning Officer, Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment, dated 7 February 2019, lists the following species as identified by Biosis Pty Ltd, as directly under threat by the Brandy Hill Quarry proposed extension.

- Koala
- Grey-headed Flying Fox
- Spotted-tailed Quoll
- Regent Honeyeater
- Swift Parrot

Biosis Pty Ltd finds:

***“Within the locality, the clearing of 45.8 hectares of Koala habitat will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species.”***

The Report found that the Brandy Hill Quarry development and the clearing of Koala wilderness to be so significant, that it will impact koalas at a "**a national level**".

The proposed mitigation measures to minimize the impact on these threatened native species seems insufficient. Mitigation measures include having an Ecologist or fauna rescuer to be present during vegetation clearing and the purchasing of 1191 Koala species credits under the NSW BioBanking Scheme. However, 'Koala Credits' have been criticized and debated as being ineffective and possibly an outdated scheme in the future.

Section 3 of the report, titled **Impacts**, finds the following:

**Koala**

**Direct Impact:**

45.8 Hectares of Habitat

**Indirect Impact:**

Potential loss of habitat due to erosion and sedimentation of adjoining native vegetations and waterways; increase in noise, vibration and light pollution on the boundaries of the adjoining vegetation.

**Cumulative and consequential impacts:**

Long term reduction and fragmentation of koala habitat within the locality.

Increase of vehicular traffic may lead to an increase in Koala collisions. Increased risk of pathogen exposure (Chlamydia, retrovirus) through transport of invertebrate vectors or livestock carrying the Chlamydia pathogens.

**Discussion:**

Based on these impacts and confirmed presence of Koala during targeted surveys (Biosis 2017) **it is likely that Koalas will be significantly impacted by the Project** and as such, a Referral under the provisions of the EPBC Act was submitted for this species.

I am rightly concerned over the expansion of the existing Brandy Hill Quarry and how it will involve:

- Direct impact and removal of:
  - o 48.62 hectares of native vegetation.
  - o 45.34 hectares of Swift Parrot foraging habitat.

- 44.12 hectares of Regent Honeyeater foraging habitat.
- 45.8 hectares of Koala habitat.

I urge you to give attention to this matter. The clearing of 45.8 hectares of Koala habitat will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the koala, and other significant threatened Australian species.

We need to stand together as a community, as a state, and as a nation to protect our Australian Koala before it's too late.

Kind Regards

***Chantal Parslow Redman***

*Link Address to R. W. Corkery & Co. Report*

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachmentRef=SSD-5899%2120190301T050137.443+GMT&fbclid=IwAR3Dji7wBqZhqScATnU05LA4Kk9LrFWH0HNczlNriLeJ4SrV1XHqn5oocKA>

## Response to Submissions: NSW Department of Planning and Environment



Genevieve Seed  
Senior Planning Officer  
Resource Assessments  
NSW Dept of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

2 November 2018

### **RE: Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion Proposal – Response to Hanson’s Response to Submissions Paper**

As a resident of Giles Rd, and as a member of the BHAG, VOWW and as a CCC representative for the Brandy Hill Quarry I have reviewed Hanson’s *Response to Submissions* document and remain frustrated, concerned and disappointed over the lack of adequate attention given to legitimate Community concerns across many areas.

Please review my original Submission which highlights a number of my concerns which I feel have not been given an adequate response in the Hanson’s *Response to Submissions* (RTS) Paper.

Several of my areas of ongoing concern include, but are not limited to:

#### **Dust and air quality:**

- I am a local resident nearby to the quarry. We are on tank water. I urge the Quarry or relevant Authorities to test the dust that lies on my roof and the resultant quality of tank water that my children and family drink, cook with and wash ourselves with.

- The Quarry has been doing a ‘dust monitoring’ Assessment on my property. However, the dust monitor only operates on a rotating day basis, ie. Monday one week, Tuesday the next etc. It does not operate continually, thereby, not necessarily operating on a day of a blast, nor in different wind or weather conditions. I ask for continuous dust monitoring on my property.

- I regularly see dust plumes over the Quarry. Dust suppression and the health impact of dust particles under the Quarry’s current operations and projected potential increase of operations and change of operations to concrete recycling etc have not been adequately addressed in the RTS Paper.

- I continue to be extremely concerned over the potential impact on my and my family's health from potential dust contaminates. The potential health impact has not been given adequate attention in the report. Stress is also a concerning health issue and its impact has not been given attention.

#### **Noise:**

- The extreme crushing noise that I hear on a daily basis is 'glossed over' in the report. The crushing noise is extremely frustrating and is a constant annoyance from early in the morning to late. On many occasions, crushing is clearly occurring beyond current time guidelines.

#### **Blast disturbances and vibration damage to buildings:**

- P.117 of the report asks that residents directly approach the Quarry for an investigation of the structural impact. I have asked the Quarry to undertake Blast monitoring on my property, which they did on several occasions. The Quarry Representatives were surprised by the level of sound and vibration heard and felt on my property. Given that the Quarry seeks to increase their operations, this is very concerning and I ask that more attention be given to the Quarry only blasting under favorable weather conditions, using blasting techniques that limit impact and also alert the community to when they are to blast.

#### **Traffic and Roads:**

- There is discrepancy in the number of trucks and truck movements that are estimated. The estimated number of truck movements has been deemed to have a 'low' impact on residents. This statement is ridiculous and unacceptable.

#### **Land Clearing:**

- There is confusion throughout the document on exactly where and how deep some of the various stages of the project are to focus on.

#### **Threatened Species:**

- Inadequate attention was given to a number of highlighted species that will be potentially threatened, affected or lose habitat. Nor were there adequate surveys undertaken that took into account seasonal changes etc.

#### **Changing Scale of the Project:**

- The parameters of the project, and scope of the 'stages' have changed. I am extremely concerned over the 'grey' areas of what exactly is proposed and when it is proposed to happen.

### **Impact on Property Values:**

- P.82 / p. 128 of the Report does note the potential economic impact on property values and the potential negative economic impact on local land values if there are significant and sustained losses to the amenity and current lifestyle of local residents. Given the current proposal, impact will clearly be extensive and very costly. When I moved here 3.5 years ago, I asked several Council Members, including a Town Planner, what the future of the Quarry would be. I was told "Don't worry about it. They're wrapping up. They are running out of rock and their license will not be renewed". How wrong this statement was. I would not have moved here with my young children, if I had known they were about to embark on another 30 year license!

### **Insufficient Local Benefit:**

- The Report finds that Hanson deems itself to be a 'valuable part of the local community' and is projected to give 12m over 30 years to the upkeep of roads etc. This figure is low and clearly inadequate based on their projected expansion and estimated truck movements that will do substantial damage to the road. Limiting truck speed to 60km/h (in the current 80km/h) zone will not substantially lesson the impact on road surface, nor impact on the level of noise and disturbance felt by residents. It will simply 'slow down' the truck noise.

- It is also highly questionable the suggested \$15,000pa to a community group or fund. I agree that all businesses should work as good Corporate Citizens and support the community they work in, but good corporate social responsibility is multifaceted and not limited to a single paycheck. It also includes operating under the best possible work practices and with the most current operating equipment. This is not what Hanson is currently doing.

### **Future Residential Development:**

- Under the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and future housing projections in the Seaham and surrounding areas, heavy industry operations and burgeoning residential areas with projected growth patterns do not go hand in hand. This area has been given inadequate attention in the RTS.

### *In Conclusion:*

I strongly feel that the concerns outlined in my original submission of April 2017 have not been alleviated nor addressed adequately.

The document did not adequately reflect, nor adequately answer, the overgoing concerns, queries and questions of the 165 individual submissions that were submitted by the community. In fact, the report was far from impartial, and felt too heavily weighted towards pushing the project through rather than trying to objectively address the submissions.

The *Response to Submissions* Paper has done little to dampen my concerns and fears towards Hanson's Brandy Hill Quarry proposed extension.

In fact, I feel extremely disappointed by the *Response to Submissions* Paper.

In summary, I re-state my objection to the proposal.

Kind Regards

Chantal Parslow Redman

## Submission: Objection to the Proposed Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion, April 2017

**Original Submission: 8 April 2017**

### **Giles Road Resident – Objection to the Brandy Hill Quarry Expansion**

I am a resident of Giles Rd, and live within 1km of the Quarry. I am strongly opposed to the expansion of the Brandy Hill Quarry. My objection to the extension of current quarry resources follow some of the key issues as outlined in the Environmental Assessments and include, but are not limited to: Socio- economic impact, Noise and blasting, Air quality, Traffic, Ecology, Surface and groundwater. We are strongly opposed to increased operational hours, including crushing and blasting, and for quarry operations and transport to be increased to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I am a Business Management Consultant, Sessional Academic and mother of three young children, aged 4months, 2.5years, and 4 years. Our family moved to Seaham two years ago as part of our “tree-change”. We looked forward to the lifestyle and quality of rural living – great communities, great schools, clean air, safer roads and a healthier environment. The proposed expansion of the Quarry will have a significant cumulative socio-economic impact on this area.

There will be a great impact on our local social and health amenities, including visual, traffic, noise, vibration and air quality. The Seaham area and its surrounds have high social value and include local and regional natural conservation areas (Hunter Estuary Wetlands, Stockton Sand Dunes), engaged and dynamic rural communities, businesses and schools. The extension of the quarry will impact on Seaham and its surround negatively.

We are concerned about the impact on Air Quality. Although the Air Quality Impact Assessment rates the air impact as potentially low, as a local resident, I often see dust plumes over the quarry. These dust plumes and their movement on wind currents are particularly evident at twilight and I am already concerned regarding the health impact that this dust has on my, and my children’s, health. I live on a hill, and have a good vantage and view of the surrounding landscape. The dust plumes over the quarry are extensive and I do not believe that the extension would remain a “low” impact at all.

Quarry operations already excrete air pollutants that are extremely dangerous and toxic to human health. Monitoring of current Brandy Hill Quarry Operations is already inadequate. Emissions from the blasts are extremely concerning. Increasing blasting will only increase existing health concerns and issues about air quality.

There are currently inadequate monitoring stations to monitor and collate information regarding quarry air and noise pollutants. How will the proposed quarry expansion impact on our air quality and health if there is already inadequate monitoring?

I am concerned about the long-term health implications of the proposed extension for myself and my children. I am concerned that we are already greatly aware and regularly hear noise and blasting, including crushing, from the quarry. We are concerned about the vibrations and noise from the quarry.

Increased heavy vehicle movements will significantly affect the amenity of the area. Seaham and Brandy Hill are home to many families. There are several schools, preschools and school bus stops that service the surrounds. There is already a safety concern addressed by residents of this

area about their ability to safely and comfortably move on Brandy Hill Drive and Clarencetown Road, particularly in terms of cycling, walking, horse riding, accessing bus stops and the pre-school. The road shoulders are inadequate for these functions. Although the EIS/Traffic Impact Assessment states that the projected traffic increases will be within the local and regional road network capacity we are extremely concerned. One of our key concerns is the proposed 24 hour operations and trucking movements and the associated increase in traffic, noise, dust and diesel emissions. Brandy Hill Drive and Clarencetown Road are already extremely busy rural roads, with high speed limits (80-100kms). Heavy vehicle movements along these roads are already a concern and the physical condition of the road, which is poor, is already posing road safety issues. There are numerous dangerous pot-holes and significant road edge erosion on these roads.

Consideration must also be made to the cumulative transport impact associated with the proposal of the Brandy Hill Quarry and the proposed Martins Creek Quarry. The estimated combined daily total of 988 quarry trucks on Brandy Hill Drive alone is astonishing and the impact of 24hour movements will be massive. The number and intensity of trucks would cause an unreasonable and unacceptable impact on the environment. In this case, the environment being the residents and users of these roads.

I am concerned that the potential impact on the environment has been inadequately addressed by the proposal. The extension of the quarry is likely to have a significant impact on listed threatened species and communities including the Koala and Grey-headed Flying-fox. The proposed action will result in the clearance of habitat critical to the survival of these species and a number of other endangered or vulnerable species as highlighted in the EIS. Clearance of 48.65ha of undisturbed vegetation as proposed in the application includes 45.8 hectares of confirmed habitat for Koala. As a resident of Giles Road who regularly walks along Giles Road and Croft Road (bounded by the Quarry) I am concerned for our local koalas and other wildlife.

The extension of quarry operations, resources and transport at Brandy Hill is concerning and will greatly affect the lifestyle, health and well-being of the area and its residents. I want my children to grow up in an area where the air is clean and free of toxic pollutants, the roads are safe and the community is strong and dynamic. I want my children to benefit from growing up in an area that is environmentally sound, where wildlife thrives, the popular Wetlands are healthy and the local water areas are thriving. I want to wake up and hear the sounds of birds calling, not be woken by the sound of quarry blasts and feel its vibrations 24 hours a day. I want my children to be able to travel to school on a road that is safe, to feel comfortable with them using the school bus stops. I want to know that I own a home in an area that is growing and increasing in value from a social and financial point of view – not one that is going to suffer the financial effects of heavy industry and degraded air quality, dangerous roads and denuded wildlife. I am a concerned mother. I am a concerned resident.

**Report Number:** 6966

Date Issued: 25/01/2019 {Interim Report Date} Revision Number: 00

**Site/Job:** Tank Water 3 Giles Rd, Seaham

Client: Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd  
 Address: 979 Clarencetown Rd  
 Seaham NSW 2324  
 Contact: Shaun Boland

PO Box 2335 Greenhills NSW 2323  
 P (02)4028 6412 E mail@vgt.com.au  
 www.vgt.com.au ABN 77 621 943 600

The following 1 sample(s) were received on 17/01/2019

Client Sample Reference	Licence Ref /GPS	Date Sampled	Laboratory ID	Matrix	General Comments
Drinking / Tank Water		16/01/2019 12:00 AM	6966/1	Water	

The samples have been tested and the following reports are included:

- Test Report: Results relate to sample(s) as received
- Chain of Custody (if available)

NATA Accredited Laboratory – 20375

Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 – Testing. The results of the tests, calibrations and/or measurements included in this document are traceable to Australian/national standards.



**Results**

Table 1 - NSW PWS Guidelines	Units	Method	Limit of Report	6966/1 Drinking/ Tank Water 16/01/2019
Antimony*	mg/L	EXT	0.001	<0.001
Arsenic*	mg/L	EXT	0.001	<0.001
Cadmium*	mg/L	EXT	0.0001	<0.0001
Chromium*	mg/L	EXT	0.001	0.003
Copper*	mg/L	EXT	0.001	0.010
Fluoride, F*	mg/L	EXT	0.1	0.1
Lead*	mg/L	EXT	0.001	<0.001
Nickel*	mg/L	EXT	0.001	<0.001
Nitrate as N*	mg/L	EXT	0.005	0.64
Nitrite as N*	mg/L	EXT	0.005	<0.005

Table 2 - NSW PWS Guidelines	Units	Method	Limit of Report	6966/1 Drinking/ Tank Water 16/01/2019
Manganese*	mg/L	EXT	0.005	0.009
Sulphate, SO4*	mg/L	EXT	1	3

Table 3 - NSW PWS Guidelines	Units	Method	Limit of Report	6966/1 Drinking/ Tank Water 16/01/2019
Temperature	°C	Temp	0.1	18.5
pH	pH Units	APHA 4500-H B	0.1	7.9
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L @105°C	AS3550.4	20	50
Total Hardness*	mg CaCO3/L	CALC	1	22
Electrical Conductivity	µS/cm	APHA 2510 B	50	91
Turbidity	NTU	APHA 2130 B	0.1	0.80

**COMMENTS:**

Location Analysed : 4/30 Glenwood Dr Thornton NSW 2322 & External Lab

Note: # Where present, indicates the performance of this test is not covered under NATA accreditation

\*tests by Envirolab NATA Acc 2901 Report No.209765

Results are Awaiting Approval

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