

19/06/2020

To Whom It May Concern

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

I live along Giles Rd and moved to the area just over four years ago to give my young family the experience of quality and healthy rural living in a strong community. Living on Giles Road allows us the feeling of being rural, whilst also being part of a wonderful community with an easy commute to Newcastle.

As residents of Giles Road, we already live “on the doorstep” of Brandy Hill Quarry. We bought into this street knowing of the Quarry’s operations, but were lead to believe, as many residents of the area have also, that the Quarry would be ‘wrapping up’ operations in the near future due to coming to the end of its 30 year licence. The was the advice from Ports Stephens Council and from our due diligence from our solicitors upon purchasing our property.

Hanson will argue that the quarry has always been here, but it was farm and agricultural land long before the quarry. The quarry was established to supply aggregates to the local Newcastle / Port Stephens and Maitland communities. Not to supply Sydney. The original agreement was for only a hand full of trucks per day.

Hanson have not always been the owners of the quarry.

Increasing the Quarry’s operations including a concrete crushing and batching plant is extremely concerning. Putting in such extensive industry in an already highly populated rural area is deeply worrying. The possibility of a beautiful agricultural environment that is home to protected and almost extinct fauna becoming and industrial wasteland for the next 140 years (the time taken to rehabilitate) is absolutely mind boggling.

We already feel and hear the quarry operations – including explosions and crushing and feel the vibrations within our house. The crushing of rock is relentless somedays and can totally drown out the native wildlife sounds that we love in our rural setting. Yes. This is a rural, farming area. Not an industrial area. If this noise were to happen of a nighttime it would make our family dream a nightmare and would be like living inside a night club with constant Doof, Doof, Doof.

The crushing of rock is an incredibly loud operation and does not fit in with a rural amenity of this area. The quarry uses old machinery that is 25 – 30 years old and it not enclosed.

The process of this application has increased my concern about the regular dust plumes we see over the quarry. The dust plumes over the quarry are so extensive that it cast a glow into the night sky on twilight, giving the area an almost apocalyptic feeling. During the daytime plumes of dust can be seen rising form the quarry from our house. I am concerned that these fine dust particles can travel wind currents extensively and am aware that the current air quality monitoring stations in use for the quarry are already questionable or not enough in number.

How can an industry creating dust be reliant on data from a monitor 16km away. Where the coal fields on Kooragang Island have monitors within a 2 -5 km radius. An industry such as this should be under the same stringent regulations.

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. We have daily sightings of Koalas and how is buying so called Koala credits going to help this Australian icon. The land that our Koalas live needs to be protected not destroyed.

The data that Hanson has produced cannot be relied upon as doing their due diligence and proving they can protect the community and the environment with their proposed expansion. Their data is deeply flawed.

For example. For a period of about 6 months in 2018 – 2019 We asked Hanson for a dust monitor. They obliged and a portable monitor was installed with a worker from Hanson coming to change batteries every couple of weeks. This monitor was found to be faulty and no results were ever given to us. We asked for another working monitor to which Hanson would did not oblige.

I am concerned how this dust, its pollutants and potential toxicity might impact on my family's health. As our water is tank water, how can I be assured that these fine dust particles are not going into my drinking water, or lying on my children's outdoor play equipment and potentially being digested?

We do not want the beautiful Seaham, Brandy Hill area become a red zone similar to that of the PHAS contaminated Williamstown, Fullerton Cove areas. This has seen a class action won by the residents of these areas. Hanson's proposal gives us that risk. Fly Ash from concrete crushing is extremely toxic and will then settle into our water tanks, dams etc.

Hanson already operate outside their allowed operating hours. Trucking movements start as early as 5:00am some days. With Hanson fully prepared to cop a fine rather than do the right thing for the community. We have regularly reported Hanson's operation to the EPA for breaching their agreed hours of work. This has seen works on a Sunday and late evenings sometime crushing at 9pm. Again, fully prepared to cop a fine to fill a quota. How is this being a good community citizen. Even the good people of Sydney get a curfew on the airport so why would we be any different.

I commute daily to Newcastle City and travel along Brandy Hill Drive through to Raymond Terrace at all hours of the day due to my shift work roster. The proposed increase to 24-hour operations and increased trucking movements will drastically escalate already dangerous traffic and road safety issues, along with increasing noise, dust and diesel emissions. Brandy Hill Drive and Clarencetown Road are already extremely busy rural roads and the physical condition of the road is already poor and poses road safety issues. There are numerous dangerous potholes that are regularly having to be fixed and there is significant road edge erosion on these roads. I am greatly concerned about the cumulative transport impact associated with the proposal of the Brandy Hill Quarry. The estimated combined daily total of 988 quarry trucks on Brandy Hill Drive alone is shocking for a road with numerous school bus stops and high residential usage.

Seaham Rd, Brandy Hill Drive and Clarencetown road intersection are known black spots on our roads. Not only for cars but to pedestrians. In the 4 years we have lived here. We have seen a young schoolgirl killed on Brandy Hill Drive and a major fatality road incident at the entrance to the

quarry. Increasing the trucking movements in this area will only exacerbate it even further and I feel for the families who will have to deal with the loss of a loved one if this expansion is granted. More road fatalities will happen.

I am also concerned on what this extension will do to the visual and real estate potential of the area. House values will certainly be affected if air quality diminishes, noise disturbances increase, and heavy industry is allowed to operate 24/7. I worked incredibly hard to give my family this lifestyle. With 15 years spent away at sea as a foreign going seafarer. Yet some rock that Sydney needs is going to ruin my family dream of our rural setting.

My position as a tug boat captain on Newcastle Harbour means I have lives in my hands when I go to work. The work I undertake each day is extremely dangerous. Sufficient rest is required for me to undertake this position. A night crushing operation would make my rest periods unattainable and I would have to move my family. Who would want to buy a home that sounds like a night club 24hours a day.

I moved my young family to this area to enjoy the high quality of amenities that the area and its communities had to offer. Clean air, safe roads and a healthy environment should not be in question. The potential impact that increasing quarry resources, hours and operations will have on our health, our community and the lifestyle we currently enjoy is deeply worrying.

Yours Sincerely,



Captain Luke Redman
Ships Master
Managing Director
STOK Marine Pty Ltd.