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7 Samuels Lane,  
KIAMA DOWNS,  
NSW 2533

INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

12 OCTOBER, 2020

RE: PROPOSED NEW SANDMINING OPERATIONS - MINNAMURRA RIVER CATCHMENT

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the approval of new sandmining operations (Stages 5A & 5B) in the Minnamurra River Catchment, by Boral.

My opposition is based on Environmental, Health & Safety and amenity issues associated with the proposed new operational sites, those being:

1) ENVIRONMENTAL

- i) the proposed new sites within the Minnamurra River Catchment contains Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC).
- ii) Stage 5A abutts the old Minnamurra Landfill site where there is an existing Toxic Bloom in the water table. The concern is that sandmining operations here would disturb this, leading to this toxicity leeching into the river.
- iii) Stage 5B would be sited on the flood plain, within the NSW Coastal Management Zone for the Minnamurra River. Stage 5B would require the destruction of already endangered tree species (Bangalay on Sand).
- iv) extensive Aboriginal artefacts have been identified on the sites, which would be disturbed and / or destroyed by the proposed new operational sites, along with areas of great cultural and historical significance to the both the local Aboriginal & European communities.
- v) the river mouth & approach area is frequented by several water bird species, for feeding. These feeding grounds require that the water quality of the river not be put at risk.

2) HEALTH & SAFETY

- i) the new sites would involve greatly increased use of Riverside Drive, by very large vehicles, particularly in the moving of an estimated 325,000 tonnes of fill, required to eventually fill in Stage 5A. Riverside Drive is an already very busy and fairly narrow road, constricted by the River on one side, and residential areas and the Kiama Golf Course on the other. The increased potential for road accidents is obvious.
- ii) the proposed new sandmining areas, particularly Stage 5B, would bring an increase in both noise and dust. Being sited much closer to residential areas than the current operational sites, these residential areas would be subjected to increased dust, given that the new sites are situated upwind with the typical westerly and northwesterly winds the area experiences. The potential for increased health issues is of great concern to me.

3) AMENITY

The Minnamurra River, particularly the river mouth area, is a recreational asset highly prized by both the local community and visitors, alike. This recreational asset has taken on increased importance during the restrictions placed on other forms of recreation, necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hard to imagine that such restrictions might be removed in the foreseeable future, hence the desirability for the Minnamurra River to remain available for healthy recreational activity.

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Finally, I note that I am in very good company in my total opposition to the proposed new sandmining operations, along with the Kiama & Shellharbour City Councils, the Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council, as well as local State MP, Gareth Ward and Justin Field MLC.

Based on all the foregoing, I respectfully request that this new Proposal be rejected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gerber', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David Gerber

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