

From: [Selwyn Holland](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Dunmore Sandmine submission in favour. Selwyn Holland
Date: Tuesday, 3 November 2020 2:11:24 PM
Attachments: [Dunmore Sandmine submission in support of Mod. 2.docx.docx](#)

The Independent Planning Commission Sydney

Please find attached submission in favour of the application for Mod 2, Dunmore.

Regards

Selwyn Holland

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Minnamurra NSW 2533

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MINNAMURRA N.S.W. 2533

Independent Planning Commission
Level 3
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Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment
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SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF VARIATION TO DA 195 – 8 – 2004 MOD 2

DUNMORE LAKES SAND EXTRACTION PROJECT

LOCATION: Riverside Drive DUNMORE N.S.W. 2529

PROPOSER: Dunmore Sand & Soil

COUNCIL AREA: Shellharbour

Dear Sir,

Over a period of time, I have formed the opinion that **this sand mine proposal should proceed as is with no changes.** The following will hopefully outline how I arrived at this position. My wife also feels as strong as I do about what is being said here.

I live in the heart of Minnamurra, just a kilometre or so from the proposed new sand mine sites at Dunmore. I have been a local resident since 1979 and have a strong personal bond to the area

I have been a member of the **Boral Dunmore Quarry and Dunmore Sand and Soil Community Consultative Committee (CCC)** for 8 years and it should be noted that I have no personal, commercial or other ties to Boral and its operations.

After being subjected to a range of misinformation in the media and items appearing in my letter box on this proposal, I now feel compelled to try and bring some balance to this debate.

I and my family have a strong scientific background. Initially trained in Geology, Physics and Chemistry at Wollongong University, I turned to science education for most of my career time. So it is natural to go looking for the facts when clarifying issues rather than rely on cherry picked information and half truths to form an opinion.

Following are my main points supporting this development.

Boral And Their Current Operations: An Ethical, No Harm Approach.

The Dunmore site (CCC) meets twice per year to view the activities, both past and current. It is a well organised and comprehensive review with an exemplary level of openness and transparency displayed by the staff for the members. Many a delving question has been asked and always the answers and information stack against the evidence of data available. There is a strong and well

concerted effort within the organisation to keep the operation well within the guidelines under which they operate. Much time and care is taken when operating the site and especially at times of change when equipment and processes could cause issues to the local environment. Almost all of the staff live in the local region and obviously practice a “Zero Harm” philosophy in all they do. There have been many cases of where they have gone out of their way to improve the local environment, from building micro bat homes in local trees, to encouraging aquatic life research with Wollongong University to preserving, to relocating a significant aboriginal “Scar Tree” to Bass Point so that the community can have direct access to it in a park environment. There are lots of other cases.

My observations have lead me over time to the conclusion that this company and its staff can be trusted to do the right thing both at the current site and the new operation at Dunmore. Being a naturally cynical person, this is a strong recommendation from myself.

The Boral Submission And Information Packages To Account For The Concerns Of The Local Community

I have read the Boral submissions and wondered when receiving the community literature and reading about the concerns in the local papers whether these people have really engaged their minds in the expert data, research and surveys that have been done to show compliance with government regulations on the mining process. The desperate cherry picking and re-crafting of the truth to try and block what is apparently a legitimate mining development application has been interesting to observe. The recent well presented letter box leaflet from Boral to the local homes and stake holders accounted for any final doubts I had about the operation. The reality is, there is always something small that can be brought up to try and further stop a legitimate application but ultimately one has to look at the bigger picture and this is how I am judging the situation.

1. In the Covid Era with all the economic issues including job losses facing us, this seems to be an excellent way to extend the life of a vibrant and well run very necessary local industry. Besides, it is clear that state and federal governments are already strongly promoting a construction based recovery based around housing and roads. This sand is valuable and will be one of the key background materials needed to have this happen.
2. The two sites of extraction are to only be exposed mining operations for relatively short periods and then returned to a far better condition than currently. The front paddock is an exposed farm land environment with a very poor sandy base. This will be returned to the owners in a much better condition with a soil base that is able to hold water in the ever more common drought conditions and requiring far less fertiliser to keep nutrients in the soil for grass growth and continuing cattle grazing. The water table has clearly been shown to be independent of that seeping through the now retired Minnamurra waste site.
3. The rear site is also largely a damaged and poorly soiled farming environment. Yes, some natural plant stock will be removed but the replacement far outshines what is there right now. New and more numerous stands of local shrubs and plants will be introduced and the poor farm land will replaced with a relatively rare and private freshwater lake. Much like what can be seen on the western side of the highway. Those western lakes attract large numbers of native aquatic life, birds, insects and other species, they are a great window into what to expect in the future. Freshwater lakes are rather rare on the east coast of Australia, another one here has got to be a good thing for the local environment. The western side

lakes have shown to sustain a solid pyramid of life from the local sea eagles down to the tadpoles flipping around in amongst the reeds. I don't see that abundance in the damaged paddock currently there.

Lets Now Look In To The Future

This is the "Elephant In The Kitchen".

Please take me seriously on this next important matter. Anyone watching the current changes in atmospheric and oceanic conditions (climate change) would be aware that the world's surface and biosphere is being altered at what would have to be stated a perceptively obvious rate. The Greenland ice is melting faster than ever, several huge areas of the Antarctic ice flows are melting from beneath at unprecedented rates. The Arctic Ocean ice flow has shrunk and is very much looking like all year round shipping can use the previously blocked northern passage across the top of Canada. Storms and storm surges are becoming more violent and more often and of course there is the rapidly rising sea level.

So how does this fit in with the sand mine?

Fast forward a few decades, which will go quick, take the increased sea level rise and more intense storm surges, and that whole mine site has a very high chance of being inundated with oceanic brackish water. This makes it useless as a farming area, the eucalypts will gradually be cornered into the higher zones of the paddock, and the new lake will most likely gradually become an extension of the current protected salt marsh along the river front. This brackish environment over time will widen across the shallow flats, extend up the river and actually increase the size of the "natural" river environment.

Why is this important?

The sand is an important community resource, it is better to get it out now before it becomes part of this expanding river environment making it environmentally tricky in what may not be too far into the future. If you can follow this line of reasoning, most of the objections for the rear site will eventually be covered by or inundated by the rising waters caused by climate change. Even if the mine does not go ahead, the site is going to be changed. Latest research is showing it is happening faster than expected and even if the ocean rises only by 3m in the next century, the back paddock will become part of the river environment well before that. The world is changing around us regardless of regulations or community concerns for the environment we have today.

Hope this helps.

Kind regards

**Selwyn Holland
Minnamurra**

