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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 1:44 PM
To: IPCN Submissions Mailbox
Subject: Fwd: Deep Creek Quarry (SSD-11591659)

TO:

submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Deep Creek Quarry submission (SSD-11591659)

I object to the Deep Creek Quarry application and urge the Commission to reject the application on the basis of substantial negative impacts on the local fauna, flora and residents as detailed below:

Koala and other fauna and flora

The quarry development will take 31HA, 18HA for the hole and 12HA for infrastructure.

All of this site is considered Koala Habitat considered critical to Koala survival. Resident Koala populations have been identified. This should be all that is required to refuse development of this quarry.

The risk of "fauna vehicle strikes" has been identified as an additional hazard.

The proposal to use biodiversity offset credits will be of no use in preserving the current resident koala who will likely die. The Koala is under such intense extinction pressure that no populations should be put at risk. The need to sustain genetic variability among diverse koala populations and prevent in-breeding is not accounted for through "offsite credits".

Additionally, 2 threatened fauna species are present within the area

Traffic

The access road intersects with the Bucketts Way and which leads to the Pacific Highway.

The Bucketts Way is a notoriously poorly constructed single lane (each way) road which is already inadequate for the traffic it experiences. As the gateway to Barrington Tops it receives additional traffic during holiday periods. The addition of quarry trucks will necessarily detrimentally affect traffic flow on the road.

The impact of quarry traffic when joining the Pacific Highway is likely to be considerable.

Noise

The EIS classifies the Bucketts Way as an arterial road. Although it provides access to towns further along, in reality it is not a major road. The proposed noise level of 43db for the eight nearby houses (a little as 18m and up to 50m away) would be unbearable for the residents. It is unreasonable to expect people who have lived in the area for a long time to endure this level of noise in their rural setting

Social Impacts

The EIS acknowledges that the quarry will change “the peaceful way of life in a rural residential area” and will change “the amenity and environmental values” though noise, dust and blasting resulting from the operation and from the access road. These impacts can not be “managed”, particularly not simply by communicating. Communication should be a minimal standard, not a bonus management strategy. People who live in the area should be able to expect to continue to enjoy their peaceful way of life and amenity of their environment.

Air Quality

The monitors used to establish background air quality are inappropriate, being located in the urban / industrial areas of Mayfield and Beresfield. These areas are likely to have higher air pollution than the rural area around the proposed development and thus would underestimate the incremental impact of dust and other air pollutants.

Water

The proposed site wil interrupt a number of unnamed water flows which feed into Deep Creek. Such riparian zones are key for the survival of wildlife and should be maintained. Additionally run off and interruptions to water flow from quarry activities will likey significantly degrade Deep Creek (as has occurred for Deadman's Creek in Seaham, downstream from Brandy Hill quarry).

Cumulative Impacts

Numerous quarries are proposed in the regional area, including two major developments at Balikera. The cumulative effects of quarry operations on wildelide, traffic and local residents will decimate these localities which are currently peaceful rural areas, enjoyed by human and wild residents alike.

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Sincerely

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