



DEB CHARLTON

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215822

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Biodiversity, Water resources, Traffic, Air quality, Noise, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/19/2024 5:36:19 PM

Please refer to the attached document

I live with my family [REDACTED], located at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am a resident deeply concerned about the potential approval of the Stone Ridge Quarry, which would significantly impact our home, and our quality of life. Whilst I would have preferred to speak in person, I have been unable to do so due to work commitments which conflicted with the day of the meeting.

While we understand the need for economic development and resource extraction, the approval of this quarry will have devastating consequences for our home and our community. We have already endured the negative effects of truck traffic, noise, and dust from the nearby Boral Quarry and Port Stephens Gardenland and the addition of this new quarry will only exacerbate these issues.

1. Change in the Area and the Impact on Our Decision to Buy

When my husband and I purchased this property 26 years ago, we specifically researched the expected lifespan of the Boral Quarry, believing that it would close within a reasonable timeframe and that our semi-retirement plans would align with that closure. We were confident in our decision to buy this property, knowing that the quarry's operations would eventually cease. However, over the years, the situation has drastically changed. Not only has Boral Quarry become increasingly busier over the years, but the lifespan has also been extended. Port Stephens Gardenland moved in which added more trucks on Italia Road and now we are faced with the real possibility of two additional quarry proposals, including the Stone Ridge Quarry, being in extremely close proximity to our home.

These developments have fundamentally altered the landscape we thought we were buying into—one of peace, quiet, and a close connection to nature. Instead, we are confronted with an increasing number of trucks, dust, noise, and the loss of the tranquil environment we were promised when we made the decision to purchase this property.

2. Truck Traffic and Safety Concerns

If this quarry is approved, all quarry trucks will need to exit via the Pacific Highway, meaning they will all pass directly by our property on Italia Road. As the only residence on this route, we will bear the brunt of a constant flow of heavy trucks, day in and day out. Already, we experience significant disruptions from the existing truck traffic, and the situation will only get worse.

We are frequently woken by trucks entering Italia Road as early as 5 a.m. This early morning disturbance is not just inconvenient; it impacts our health and our ability to rest. The issue of trucks blocking our driveway is also a major concern. At times, trucks line up waiting to exit, making it difficult—if not dangerous—for us to enter or leave our property and also just as dangerous when turning into our property if we need to give way to oncoming traffic as the trucks come around the corner onto Italia Road and have very little space to pull up if we are stuck in the middle of the road waiting to turn in. With trucks constantly approaching the highway intersection with too much speed and using their air/compression brakes as they pass, the noise is incessant. For a family living in what should be a peaceful home, it has become intolerable.

As someone who works from home full-time, the noise from poorly maintained trucks, the squeaky brakes and the constant unnecessary use of air/compression brakes make it difficult to conduct meetings, disrupt my concentration, and even force me to reschedule important calls and meetings. Our home, which is supposed to be a sanctuary, is becoming a source of stress. If this quarry is approved, it will only make the situation worse. We will no longer be able to live in the place we have called home for 26 years.

3. Environmental Impact and Health Concerns

In addition to the noise and truck traffic, there are other serious issues we face as a result of nearby quarry activity, such as dust entering our home, affecting our water tanks, pool and pumping equipment. The air quality has already deteriorated from existing operations, and the additional dust from the Stone Ridge Quarry will only exacerbate these health and hygiene issues. We are also concerned about ongoing effects of blasting.

We should be able to live in an area where we do not have to worry about the air we breathe, our walls or foundations being damaged, our pumping equipment failing due to excess dust in the tanks or pool, whether our water is safe to drink, nor should we have to clean day in and day out due to the amount of dust entering our home. The ongoing dust problems we face now will become far worse should this quarry proceed, making daily life more difficult and more dangerous for our family's health.

4. Environmental Impact on the State Forest

The proposed quarry operation stands to disrupt this fragile environment in ways that are difficult to fully quantify, but easy to imagine. The clearing of land, the potential for erosion, and the noise, dust, and vibration that would result from quarry activities are all significant threats to the health of this ecosystem.

5. Property Value and Liveability

As a family who has invested time, money, and effort into making our home a peaceful and welcoming place, the potential decline in property value due to this quarry is a heartbreaking concern. If this quarry is approved, we know that our property value will decrease significantly. What we have worked so hard for over the past 26 years may be lost and we cannot see how we will be able to afford to relocate to another property with the same qualities that we currently enjoy.

Our lifestyle will be permanently disrupted if this quarry is approved. We will be forced to reconsider whether living here is even feasible, let alone enjoyable. If we are unable to sell our property at a fair value, we could find ourselves trapped in a situation where we can no longer live in a home that reflects the life we've worked so hard to build. The constant flow of trucks from Stone Ridge Quarry passing our property every day would create an environment that is not only unbearable but also completely out of step with the peaceful lifestyle we have spent decades cultivating.

I raised these concerns directly with the quarry developer at a face-to-face meeting, asking what plans were going to be put in place to mitigate the impact on our home and our way of life. His response, which was essentially that we would just have to "wait and see," struck me as dismissive and wholly inadequate. To hear that our genuine concerns were met with no real plan or consideration was not only disappointing but deeply concerning. It suggests to me that if the proposal's proponents are unwilling to engage with us in a meaningful way at such an early stage, there is little hope for our concerns to be taken seriously as the project progresses.

6. Additional Disruptions and Uncertainty

Beyond the quarry, there are further disruptions to our daily lives due to the proposed upgrade of the intersection outside our property which will be needed to accommodate the large amount of truck movements which Stone Ridge Quarry will create. We have not yet received clear documentation about these proposed upgrades, but we've had surveyors entering our property without prior approval to conduct investigations. This adds to the growing sense of uncertainty and frustration in an already challenging situation.

As long-term residents of this community, we feel that our voices are being disregarded in this process. The approval of this quarry would transform our once peaceful home into a relentless hub of noise, truck traffic, and dust, creating an environment that would be impossible to live in. Given the unique location of our property, situated directly in the path of this proposed operation, we firmly believe this impact must be given the careful consideration it deserves.

7. Conclusion and Call for Responsible Decision-Making

Our concerns are not just about the immediate inconvenience; they are about the long-term impact on our safety, health, and quality of life.

In conclusion, we ask that you consider our lifestyle and how it will be fundamentally affected by the approval of this quarry. I cannot imagine that anyone would want to find themselves in the position we are currently facing—living in a home that will be directly impacted by the constant flow of quarry trucks, noise, dust, and safety concerns. We are the **only** residence between the proposed quarry and the Pacific Highway, and we feel that the effects on our entire way of life are being greatly overlooked in this process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.