



Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (TRRA)
Unit 1, 76 Magnus Street
Nelson Bay
NSW 2315

31 July 2023

Email: president@trra.com.au

Application No SSD-10432

Location: Corner of Italia Road and Hamburger Trail, Balickera NSW 2324

The Director, Resource Assessments, Jessie Evans,

TRRA Inc. actively represents the community on a range of issues that affect the Tomaree Peninsula including planning and development, economic development, cultural infrastructure and resources, the built and natural environment, tourism and other grass roots issues. Our interest extends to the Port Stephens Local Government Area as a whole.

TRRA inc. networks with other local organisations on issues of shared interest and works to ensure that our Council and other State and Commonwealth authorities consult with the community and maintain transparent and accountable processes.

With respect to the Stone Ridge Quarry proposal, TRRA Inc. believes that there would be many negative impacts associated with it both locally and for the broader Lower Hunter region. We therefore wish to register our objection to the proposal on the following grounds:

Environmental –

Negative impacts on the environment would include destruction of 79 ha of state forest trust resulting in a permanent loss of habitat and increased threats for local koalas and several other species of threatened wildlife. Degradation of important biological values of the adjacent Wallaroo National Park should also be expected.

The section of Wallaroo State Forest proposed for the site of the quarry is part of a regional fauna corridor with broader connection to the Karuah National Park, Medowie State Conservation Area, and Medowie Nature Reserve.

Sustainability

We maintain that destroying the environment for road base and construction material is no longer sustainable when we have building waste material going to landfill that can do the same job.

Local Amenity

The dust and noise from drilling and blasting, crushing, stockpiling and the loading of trucks will travel over the local area making life miserable for local residents.

Road safety and highway traffic

Safety was the number one concern expressed by local residents in surveys conducted by the proponent. The cumulative volume of heavy truck traffic is also of major concern to the residents of the Tomaree Peninsula community who must share the regional road network with these vehicles.

Truck movements to be generated from the Stone Ridge Quarry will add to the impact of 2 other quarries in the area which have trucks using Italia Road as an exit point onto the M1 Freeway. The roads in the vicinity of the proposed quarry were designed to service a local rural community and are not of a standard to cope with the heavy loads and increased frequency of movements.

The Seaham Boral Quarry and Brandy Hill Quarry are already in operation and trucks from these quarries turn left out of Italia Rd, drive down to the Karuah interchange where they are joined by trucks from Karuah East Quarry and several other quarries operating in the area all driving south to Hexham and eventually the Central Coast or Sydney. Between Heatherbrae and Hexham, they are joined by sand trucks exiting Tomago Road and Old Punt Road from the 8 sand quarries along the coast, closer to Stockton and Williamtown.

The Stone Ridge Quarry plans will result in further calls for new overpasses for Medowie Road, Italia Road and Becketts Way.

Conclusion

Having regard for the above negative impacts, TRRA Inc. strongly recommends that the Stone Ridge Quarry should not be approved.

TRRA Inc. have/has not made any reportable political donations in the last two years. I acknowledge and accept the Departments Disclaimer and Declaration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben van der Wijngaart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ben van der Wijngaart

President

Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc