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The NSW Planning Assessment Commission.

Cabbage Tree Road Sand Quarry.

12.30pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Submission from Geoffrey Dingle

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on the Cabbage Tree Sand Mine proposal. I'm against the proposal based on health, social, economic and environmental grounds.

I was a Councillor with Port Stephens Council between 2004 and 2017 and over this period I had the unpleasant but unique opportunity of being directly involved in the birth of this proposal.

Port Stephens Councils Community Mission states:

*Leadership and alliances are innovative and entrepreneurial, stimulating growth and profits and deliver to our community a great lifestyle in a treasured environment.*

There is nothing innovative about knocking down 40 hectares of old growth forest in our treasured environment, the PS Koala population has reached endangered status, a return of 0.1 % on ratepayers total resource value is pathetic supporting a business consisting a truck and front loader operation employing a few contracted employees in low skills jobs is not being entrepreneurial. There is no community partnership, the entire process has been cloaked in secret deals, changes in shareholders and funding arrangements all under confidentiality. <sup>SECRET</sup>

Mining sand on Councils community land next to its residents and ratepayers will directly impact on health and lifestyle, contaminated dusts, noise from trucks and machinery, activity, lighting and increased road traffic from early in the morning and into the evening six days per week, damage to local roads, it's an admission of PSC's failure to demonstrate duty of care.

The proposed mine is located in the contaminated PHOS PHOA designated red zone. PS Councils <sup>THROUGH EPA</sup> directive is no materials, mineral or organic, may be removed ~~or relocated~~ from the zone. It is common knowledge that silica dust, produced by sand mining, is a known carcinogen that can lead to fatal diseases such as silicosis and lung cancer. This is already a known cancer cluster area and this project is doing everything but deliver<sup>ING</sup> a great lifestyle to the residents of Williamtown.

The State significant argument, the site contains some significant high-quality silica sand for glass making is irrelevant. Australia's glass industry is grappling with uncompetitive glass prices and fierce overseas competition many of our best-known glass manufacturers have closed. Cheap imports making up over 25 percent of the market have pushed glass prices in Australia down, an industry in crisis. The sand from Cabbage Tree will end up as

building sand or concrete but most likely fill, the value of any high-quality silica will not realise it requires expert identification, expensive cleaning and separation, the volume is too small. The coast of port Stephens is lined with the largest sand dune system in the southern hemisphere moving into residential areas and requiring constant harvesting. There are multiple operators in the PS area collectively mining more than the cabbage tree total mine output annually. There is no pending sand supply shortage in the medium longer term this argument is false and misleading.

In 2013 Council staff spent considerable energy and time to assess nine tenders to mine sand on Council owned land at Cabbage Tree Rd with only one recommendation, Collins Sands. On the 12<sup>th</sup> February when the tender came before Council, Councillors moved to reject all the tenders and the debate then focused on Castle Quarry Products. Speaking to the staff representative responsible for the tender process after the meeting, he told me the CQP tender was non-conforming, one employee, no funds equipment or mining record, a business related to the now bankrupt Buildev majority owned by Nathan Tinkler. Councillors where offered a tender review of Collins Sands and CQP only, this did not follow tendering due process. Based on dollars per tonne return Crs voted on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013 to enter into an agreement to offer a lease to the non-conforming tenderer CQP. A bank guarantee arrived on the 12th July 2013 three months later with much fanfare and the announcement it was in cash, an extraordinary admission. There little wonder our community has no faith in a lease and a DA being sought by a relatively unknown organisation with little to no track record of mining experience.

Approval of this DA would rely on <sup>A PERSONALLY</sup> conditions of consent to manage any impact on residents and ratepayers. When it comes to enforcement of regulations our community knows from personal experience that authorities are reluctant to become engaged, there is less and less resources available for investigation and legal enforcement. The community would have no choice but to carry out their own investigation, monitoring and reporting at risk to themselves, until the media noise becomes intolerable and ~~the politicians send~~ some poor sacrificial semi informed officer to investigate after the event.

I implore members of the PAC committee to consider the welfare of the residents of this community already under severe stress from the RAAF contamination. Please reject the proposal there are more than enough solid arguments to support such a decision. If the approval gets up so will our community.

Geoff Dingle