

SUBMISSION IN PROTEST OF PROPOSED SAND MINE CABBAGE TREE RD WILLIAMTOWN

It is quite unbelievable that we are once again here to fight a project that will change our lives

My husband & I have lived at [REDACTED] Cabbage Tree Road [REDACTED] to the proposed sand mine on 88 acres for over 30 years. Our 3 children also lived here & now our 7 grandchildren stay with us constantly because of the farm they love so much.

I am more than concerned about noise & dust pollution from the proposed sand mine even though WSS say there will be no noise or dust, well I am not completely stupid but how can you operate a sand extraction business with no noise & no dust.

We live on a very flat area of land with quite strong winds on a fairly frequent basis, so much so that it wrecked our big plastic hot houses & another one down the road on different occasions several years ago which put us both out of the business of growing flowers (both frames are still standing to tell the story) so I am concerned how they will control the sand blowing everywhere in any winds & even spraying it with water is not going to stop it completely when the winds are strong.

Driving along Nelson Bay Road on a windy day in the Salt Ash area it is very evident how much dust is blowing around from the already working sand mines on that road

Where are they getting the water from? If it is being trucked in? that would mean many more truck movements, if they sink a spear point that is going into be Pphas affected?

The area on that property is normally very swampy but of course we are seeing it in the driest time we have ever seen in 30 years of living here.

What happens when we get heavy rain like January 2016 (many photos to prove same) where the front of our property almost up to the house (& we live 30 meters from the road) was flooded & the area directly opposite was flooded to the drain beside the road on the edge of the proposed mine site, will that water table not bring up water affected by the contamination which will be dangerous to their workers.

The silica in the air is a big problem for us who live directly opposite

The traffic is already too much for this road & its construction, it has only recently been upgraded as there were little trenches in the road where the trucks heavy loads have made the road sink, this became a great danger for unsuspecting traffic in wet weather especially at night when you can't see them till you are almost sliding along the road, thank goodness that has been fixed for the time being but of course it will happen again as more trucks rattle down the road. With this proposal they want to put another 120 truck movements (that's without the water trucks if any) on this poorly constructed road, it was not built for hundreds of b doubles a day.

We have already had 2 cars in accidents turning into our badly constructed driveway for turning traffic, one car written off & another badly damaged not by trucks thank goodness, that was before there were so many trucks on the road. The big b doubles are not too keen on slowing down when we have to come to a crawl to get into our driveways travelling west or east often having to wait in the middle of the single lane to turn into driveways, so my concern is what is going to happen when there are trucks going in & out of the proposed mine site & we are trying to turn in with traffic building up behind us, not able to go around us because of trucks coming out of mine site.

The area of the proposed site is a known buffer zone for airport noise, with the thick bush & sand hills, what a difference we noticed after the last 2 bushfires when all the trees & undergrowth was burnt out, the airport noise was significantly louder, but at least we knew that it would all grow back again

So now we have WSS wanting to take out over 40 hectares of bushland AND sand hills leaving only a little buffer zone along the road & opposite our houses where the road will go, there will be a big gap, all the trees & sand hills will have to be removed to make the road wide enough for trucks turning in & out so consequently there will be a big opening right in front of our homes.

Our property of 88 acres is significantly devalued from the Defence base contamination & now we have another kick in the head to drag the value down even more.

We are both 74 years of age this year & this property that we have put all our money into to improve the land & beautiful old original home is now gone, that's our superannuation gone completely with the stroke of a pen & consequently we are stuck in front of a sand mine for the rest of our lives.

My husbands Ppas readings are extremely high & mine are quite high but of course we don't know (& no one does) what effect that will eventually have on our health, & our property & the proposed mine site IS NOT CONTAMINATED ??????

Just 2 months ago we lost our beautiful courageous 48 year old son in law to Oral Cancer (no family history of same) They lived with their 3 children on Cabbage Tree Road for 5 & half years permanently & with us at different periods of their married life & still this contamination is deemed not dangerous to human health, well we will take a bit of convincing about that as many others on this road would, with the amount of different cancers in a small amount of residences, so the WSS is prepared to expose there workers & truck drivers to this !!! Not a good workplace practice.

We as residents are not able to take fill of any type off our properties with out it being tested in a proper facility but somehow it is OK for WSS to take tons out per day (& as far as we know no testing) so my question is how can the EPA let this happen or is it one rule for the council & 5 syndicate members & let the rate paying hard working residence who have already lost value from their properties go to buggery.

If that mine site is not contaminated either by water & air borne Phas then how are our properties So my plea is to call on the commissioners to really look at this seriously, imagining you too were in this predicament , would you like it opposite you & completely ruin your lovely lifestyle for the sake of 5 people to line their pockets.

The small amount the council will get out of this is ridiculous over 15 years compared to what it will do to us as residents, no wonder several of us are stressed & having trouble sleeping at night wondering what is going to happen to us if this mine goes ahead.

So I plead with you to oppose this sand mind with all my heart so we will at least have one less worry in our lives

Thank you for reading my submission

Mary Sampson