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From: Fiona Rae [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 5:20 PM
To: IPCN Submissions Mailbox
Subject: Deep Creek Quarry Objection
Attachments: Objection to Deep Creek Quarry - Fiona and Mark Rae.docx

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Please find our objection submission attached.

Kind Regards,
Fiona and Mark Rae

Bayview Stud – Mark and Fiona Rae

6th Dec 2023

[REDACTED]
Limeburners Creek
NSW, 2324

E: [REDACTED]
P: [REDACTED]

Objection to Deep Creek Quarry

Dear IPCN,

We ask that you reject the proposed Deep Creek Quarry based on the impacts we have outlined below:

1. Any environmental impacts to important and threatened species should be offset within the local area not through the purchase of "credits" which provide no protection or benefit to local flora and fauna species and the ecology and biodiversity within and surrounding the area impacted by the proposed quarry.
2. We live on The Bucketts Way and can hear trucks using the Bucketts Way from many, many kilometers away despite the diverse topography and forested landcover of the area, so the proposal by the quarry operators that a ridgeline will mitigate any noise pollution from blasting and crushing activities at the quarry is fanciful.
3. We are yet to see any impact statement regarding the noise pollution from the trucks travelling up and down The Bucketts Way from 6am to 6pm on weekdays and also on Saturdays. One of the reasons we live in the country is for the peace and quiet it affords us but this will be destroyed by the constant noise and vibrations from 55 truck movements a day, 5 ½ days a week for the next 30

years. I imagine this will also impact the value of properties, including ours, in this area. There are many homes which are located close to the road where this additional truck noise and vibration will be unbearable. The quarry has not quantified this impact on our quality of life.

4. We also have concerns for the safety of our children who must cross the road to get on the school bus in the morning having to negotiate the constant flow of quarry trucks.

5. The Bucketts Way road is in a constant cycle of ruin and repair which the council (both Mid Coast and Port Stephens) has been incapable of keeping pace with. The road doesn't cope with the current traffic and is covered in a patchwork of pot-hole's and failed repairs and would be one of the worst maintained roads in either local government area. I am a rep so I have plenty of experience driving on our local roads and The Bucketts Way is easily the most dangerous due to the poorly maintained road surface. The proposal by the quarry to contribute \$333,000 per year over the life of the quarry to allow the council to maintain The Bucketts Way wouldn't be enough to maintain the road currently let alone with the addition of almost 16,000 additional truck movements per year. I would be interested to hear from the council as to what amount/type of road work \$333,000 would pay for? Maybe \$10,000,000 per year (rather than over 30 years) would be a more adequate amount for the quarry to contribute towards road maintenance and repair. How much road work will this amount of money pay for in 20 years' time? Has inflation been taken into consideration? It seems to be a very small amount of money. I'd encourage the decision makers to speak to the council regarding current costs of road maintenance on The Bucketts Way and to also to take a drive along The Bucketts Way to see just how poorly maintained the road is currently. Approval of this quarry will undoubtedly put more drivers lives at risk on this road.

6. The intersection from The Bucketts Way onto the Pacific Hwy has always been dangerous and very busy at peak times even despite recent improvement works. During holiday periods and long weekends it is not unusual to wait in excess of 30mins to exit onto the freeway from The Bucketts Way. The traffic is often queued for kilometres. The impact to all of us who drive this road during

these times is one of great inconvenience and frustration. If we add 55 additional truck movements exiting from The Bucketts Way everyday it would be reasonable to expect that this time and queue of traffic would double, especially with how slowly the trucks would be entering the highway intersection. How will emergency services vehicles exit The Bucketts Way during these times of extreme congestion? The road does not allow for vehicles to pull over to the side to make way for emergency vehicles. What impact will this have on the local community?

The Deep Creek Quarry claim that the project will create 10 ongoing jobs but with no guarantee that these will be local workers and families who benefit from this. What other local businesses will benefit from this project? The quarry is not near to any local shops or amenities. Workers and businesses that may contribute to, and benefit from the business activities of the quarry will likely come from outside of the area that suffers the greatest impact, which are the communities along The Bucketts Way.

The ongoing costs of the impacts of this project to local families, communities, road users, tourists, plants, animals and the peace and tranquility of the region are far higher than any proposed financial benefits of this project. To expose the local communities and citizens living along The Bucketts Way and those further afield who use this road regularly is negligent at best. The negative impacts of this project, even at a surface level, far outweigh the totality of benefits purported by the Deep Creek Quarry proposal.

We ask that the proposed Deep Creek Quarry be rejected.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark and Fiona Rae