

Dear Snow, Janett and Ken

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me last Wednesday. I have reviewed the DPE Assessment report for the proposed Deep Creek quarry. Disheartening, sad and upsetting to say the least.

Point 99: "The Department considers that the Project has been designed to avoid, mitigate and manage biodiversity impacts where practicable." what does that even mean? And when it is not practicable.....? What then?

Of primary concern are the issues outlined from point 89 – 98 - Biodiversity Matters of National Environmental Significance and in particular point 94 relating to the proposed destruction of the significant population (>1000 individuals) breeding ground and habitat of the threatened New Holland Mouse, as well as point 92 relating to the destruction of 0.5% of the States threatened Black-eyed Susan population.

It would appear that sufficient concern was raised by various Government Environmental Offices, BCD and Council bodies. The result? Ironstone shelled out more cash to private consulting firms in order to write reports that contradict the risks and threats to biodiversity.

Point 75 – Deep Creek is a Type 1 – Highly sensitive key fish habitat. The quarry is less than 100m from Deep Creek and discharging regularly into it. How on earth this level of polluting and damage to such an important waterway can be justified is beyond comprehension.

Point 114 - The proposed 220 + heavy vehicle traffic movements per day on The Bucketts Way represent a 19% increase to existing traffic movements on that road. That is a huge amount. A huge amount of large trucks. Did you actually have the pleasure of driving on the first 10km of The Bucketts Way on your recent visit? If you did, you would not have been able to help but notice the appalling and unsafe condition of that road.

Point 130 – "The Department considers that the additional traffic associated with the project would not present unacceptable safety risks to existing road users." – Unfathomable.

Should the quarry be approved, who honestly believes that Ironstone will adhere to any consent conditions? At best, they will be required to self-report and monitor environmental impacts. Hardly a robust system. At worst, there will be no realistic oversight at all, once they have the green light for operations.

You advised that I should make suggestions that could be used as recommendations should the project be granted approval by The Independent Planning Commission. I can't in good conscience do that. I can only hope that the IPC have the integrity, intelligence and foresight to reject the Deep Creek quarry proposal in its entirety, given the overwhelming evidence of environmental destruction and risks to public safety which it poses.

