



SUSAN PROUST

OBJECT

Submission No: 196185

Organisation: <i>Hastings Birdwatchers Inc</i>	Key issues: <i>Biodiversity impacts, Impacts on koala habitat</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2443</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>a representative of a community group, non-government organisation, business or industry group</i>	
Attachment: <i>Submission on Sancrox Quarry.pdf</i>	

Submission date: 9/3/2024 11:10:02 AM

I have uploaded my submission as a PDF below.



HASTINGS BIRDWATCHERS INC

Submission on the Proposed Expansion of the Sancrox Quarry near Port Macquarie.

I am writing this submission on behalf of the Hastings Birdwatchers, a community group interested in birds and their conservation. We are an associated group of BirdLife Australia, which has over 200,000 members and supporters.

Native birds are in trouble in Australia, with data showing disturbing declines in many species. With this background, it is imperative that native habitat is not continually impacted by the “death by a thousand cuts”. Yet this is exactly what continues to happen. Native habitat continues to be cleared incrementally. The net result is that our birds and other species decline year by year. The 2019 Black Summer Fires made this situation much worse, changing the status of some birds from of least concern to threatened.

We are grateful that the size of the clearing of native habitat has been somewhat reduced to protect Sub-tropical Coastal Floodplain Forest and to ensure a corridor exists for native wildlife. However, we question the need to clear any more native habitat, given the dire situation facing biodiversity in Australia. Our objections are set out below.

- The Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot have both recorded precipitous declines in the last few years and are both now Critically Endangered. The Spotted Gum, when flowering is an important food tree for the Swift Parrot, but it appears that all the Spotted Gum Grassy Dry Forest, (a vegetation community which is very rare in the Hastings Valley) will be cleared.
- The entire area to be cleared is designated Koala habitat. In the faunal survey, a koala was sighted and there was koala faecal matter found. The koala is now listed as Endangered in NSW. To ensure they do not become extinct, all koala habitat should be preserved, and yet over 42 hectares of this habitat will be cleared.
- Six Vulnerable bat species were also recorded on the site.
- Clearing for the quarry will result in the loss of nine hollow-bearing trees. It appears that the offset area contains no hollow bearing trees. Is there are plan for replacing these hollows with nest boxes or other hollow types?
- The use of offsets is deeply problematic. Even when the offsets are “Like for Like”, they still lead to the net loss of native vegetation and the decline in native species. And in this case, there appears to be no offset for the Spotted Gum Grassy Dry Forest. Planting of offsets and rehabilitation of the quarry sites is also problematic, as it takes many years to replace the habitat destroyed.

Thank you for the opportunity to again comment on this proposal. We ask that this proposed expansion be refused.

Regards

Sue Proust, on behalf of

Hastings Birdwatchers 1/9/24