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Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Comments submitted online via EPBC Public Portal

Eagleton Quarry Project: EPBC Number: 2024/09967

The proposed Eagleton Quarry Project is very clearly a controlled action, in that it will have a significant and devastating impact on protected ecological communities and threatened species.

According to EPBC listings, this project will impact on 5 threatened ecological communities, 49 threatened species and 15 migratory species. According to the EPBC report generated in relation to this site endangered species known to occur within the area include the Spot-tailed Quoll (aka Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll) and the Koala.

Vulnerable species known to occur within the area include the following birds: South Eastern Glossy Black Cockatoo, the Brown Treecreeper, the White-Throated Needletail. Vulnerable mammals known to occur within the area include the Large-eared Pied Bat or Large Pied Bat, the Yellow Bellied Glider and the New Holland Mouse or Pookila. Vulnerable plants known to occur within the area include the Grevillea parviflora subsp. parviflora.

Many other species are listed that may occur in this area or which are likely to occur in the area.

The objection to the proposed Eagleton Quarry Project submitted by the Koala Koalition EcoNetwork Port Stephens confirms the negative impacts on the environment, including the destruction of koala habitat, risks to wildlife from increased traffic as well as air and water pollution. The document criticizes the project's reliance on outdated data and lack of attention to wildlife corridors.

A submission from the Gloucester Environment Group and the EcoNetwork Port Stephens also objects to the Eagleton Quarry saying the cumulative and combined impacts on the region have been inadequately assessed. The submission criticizes the DPHI's failure to consider existing and proposed quarry developments in the region, and calls for a regional strategic plan for hard rock quarry development.

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It is noted that there are two other quarry applications (one adjoining and one across the road) from this project site and they are both controlled actions and the cumulative impacts of these developments and the associated infrastructure upgrades (there is an application to upgrade the Pacific Highway intersection) must be properly assessed together rather than in a piecemeal fashion.

We are concerned that the process currently applied for assessing environmental impacts is inherently biased and unreliable and the community is not adequately resourced to fund expert reports to rebut the spurious claims made in reports commissioned by the developer. There is therefore an onus on the EPBC to do its job and honour the Federal Government's commitments to cease deforestation and refuse inappropriate developments of this kind.

Had we had more notice of this process, we would make a more detailed submission, but unfortunately despite being objectors, we have not been independently notified in a timely fashion and have only heard about this process from an anonymous third party.



Anna Kerr
President, Save Balickera Inc