

via EMAIL - dem.miningregrehab@sa.gov.au

Attention: Business Support Officer
Department of Energy and Mining

Re: Applicant: Erimar Quarries Pty Ltd
Claim Number: 4541
Location: Hartley
Reference: 2021/000567

Dear Sir/Madam,


In response to the Public Notice in The Courier dated 26th July, 2023, I am writing to you in relation to the above-mentioned Mineral Claim No. 4541 by Erimar Quarries Pty Ltd to extract limestone and sand in the area of Hartley.

I live in Hartley and hereby submit my objection and serious concerns for this mining application for many reasons, in particular the potentially detrimental impact on the environment and structural integrity of the land.

Some members of long established farming families, who live in close proximity to the relevant parcel of land (and have done so for generations), have indicated there is good quality underground water in the vicinity and sink holes underneath the area of land proposed to be mined.

During discussions with other concerned residents of the area, some of whom have past and present knowledge of other mining operations in Hartley and adjoining areas, have suggested that due to the soil structure, drilling and blasting would be necessary to access the limestone. Both drilling and/or blasting could have disastrous affects and open up these sink holes, if not at the very least create issues with the underground water, with the potential to contaminate the water.

The Natural Resources Board have encouraged and supported many residents in Hartley to re-vegetate and extend areas of existing vegetation to create a wildlife corridor. There has also been funding, assistance, and information sessions regarding removal of feral species ie box thorn and control of rabbits, etc. We have been encouraged to fence off areas of bushland as well. The result has been incredibly successful with many rare and timid species of bird and other native wildlife inhabiting, nesting and breeding, feeding and thriving on our properties. Examples of this are the presence of the beautiful small


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bird, the firetail (genus *Stagonopleura bella*), the magnificent wedged tailed eagle, other eagles, hawks & kites, different varieties of magpie and parrot, reptiles including goanna, and relatively rare mammals such as echidna. Most recently Kookaburra have been seen and heard in the area. Flocks of Stork arrive annually to strut about and feed in our grasslands and open spaces. It is a glorious sight and sound experience.

However, the more mining that is approved in this area, the more noise impact, which in turn affects not just the residents' day to day enjoyment, but has the potential of moving on the wildlife.

The other issue with so much mining is the dust nuisance, due to the relatively low rainfall and windy conditions this area experiences.

During the past decade there appears to have been a significant increase in new mineral claims being lodged, as well as applications for expansion of existing mining operations. When is enough, enough? At what point, is there a line drawn in the sand and an area is declared to have met it's limits? Surely environmental sustainability includes restricting the impact of mining in particular areas?!

For what it's worth, many residents established homes and properties in the Hartley area for the lifestyle and peaceful enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and the far reaching views, especially beautiful from the rolling hills either side of the Bremer Valley that follows the Bremer River all the way to the Lake.

There is another major concern for all in the vicinity of this mining proposal, which relates to information that it is also apparently proposed to have a facility that accepts, crushes and recycles building and construction waste on this same site. This will only add to the dust and noise nuisance, which is already an issue in this area.

I have contacted Alexandrina Council for information about any application for such a facility, as well as in relation to access to the proposed mining site, which is essentially land locked from what I can gauge and have been told. Despite maps indicating there is a 'public road' running all the way to the boundary, the reality is that it is barely a dirt track bordered by trees and undergrowth. Erimar Road has only fairly recently been limestone rubble to the entrance to the Harvey's property known as "Erimar" and is essentially a 'no through road'. I have heard there were discussions with a large land holder whose property adjoins the proposed site at one point, to provide a private access track over his vast acreage off Chauncey Line, through/past the sand mine (EML 6522). Either access route would put additional wear and tear onto this unsealed section of Chauncey Line. The sand mine has already taken its toll on the unsealed road base, due to there being much more movement of trucks coming and going than originally indicated by that particular mining

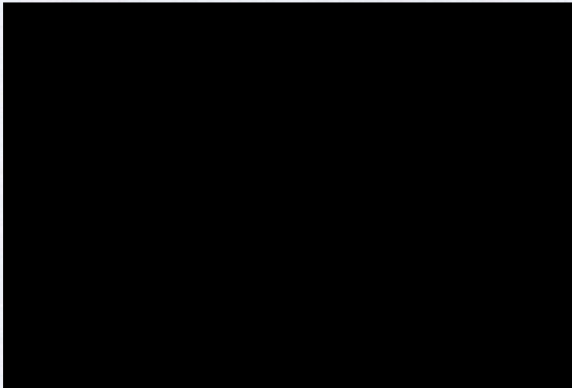
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company. One can only begin to imagine the detrimental impact additional heavy vehicles would put on these unsealed roads.

Unfortunately, Alexandrina Council have yet to respond to my correspondence.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate my objection to this mining application, and request the Department give serious and due consideration to the impact yet another mining operation will have on this area and it's residents - creatures great and small in addition to the humans.

Yours sincerely,




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