

People with an Interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way

Email us at: friendsofwaterfallway@gmail.com

Or visit our website: www.friendsofwaterfallway.wordpress.com

Press Release

Community not consulted on proposed new increase in maximum permissible truck movements along Waterfall Way

Further information can be obtained by contacting Pauline Kidson on 0410 031 935

Modification to existing DA by Sheridan's Hard Rock Quarry – MOD2016/0028

In 2014 Sheridans Hard Rock Quarry in Hernani was successful in obtaining consent for a maximum of 20 return (40 total) truck movements per day along their haulage route and on to Waterfall Way (a public road). At the time, the community was assured that peak movements in an easterly direction would cease upon the opening of the Nambucca to Urunga bypass.

Just when the communities of Dorrigo and Bellingen thought that truck movements were about to reduce, Sheridans Hard Rock Quarry has made application to modify their existing DA to allow for a maximum of 66 return (132 total) truck movements per day on weekdays and 37 return (74 total) truck movements on Saturdays during periods of peak demand.

Documents relating to the application were not available to the public on either the Clarence Valley Council or the JRPP websites and were only received by the Working Group on Thursday 21 July, one day before the submission deadline.

There has been no opportunity for any community discussion with Bellingen and Dorrigo Shire Councillors or the Chamber of Commerce as these documents were not made available.

Accordingly, the Working Group has requested an extension from Clarence Council and the Joint Regional Planning Panel and has scheduled a public meeting for **6:00pm on Monday 01 August 2016 at the Uniting Church Hall** to discuss this issue and the apparent lack of transparency and community consultation.

The applicant, Sheridan's Hardrock Quarry gave as an example of their reasons for their modification request, the scheduled Woolgoolga to Ballina bypass which will require 4 million tonnes of rock.

The Community would like to make the following comments and observations regarding the impact of this application:

People with an interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way is a non-aligned community group of residents of the Shire of Bellingen, comprising social, environmental and economic stakeholders concerned about the safety and amenity of Waterfall Way

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- The justification for this application for an increase in truck movements does not take in to account the effect that these increased movements would have on the residents and businesses located along Waterfall Way. The document refers only to “the haulage route”, which is the rural section of road between the quarry and the intersection of Waterfall Way. It does not deal with the effect of noise and pollution created by the increased truck movements along Waterfall Way, which would surely be detrimental to residents and businesses in Bellingden – particularly if the peak haulage period occurred in school holidays.
- 66 truck movements equates to 132 journeys – or roughly one truck every 5 minutes during daylight hours – along Waterfall Way and the Dorrigo mountain road. This is in addition to already existing heavy vehicle usage, which is due to increase once logging commences in Sweetmans Lane, Bellingden.
- Using the applicant’s data of an average load of 33 tonnes and an annual extraction limit of 198,000 tonnes, truck movements could amount to 6,000 return – or 12,000 total per annum.
- The applicant also requests an increase to Saturday truck movements to 37 return (74 total). If these truck movements are not permitted eastbound along Waterfall Way to Pacific Highway projects – the community wonders where the demand will originate?
- There is no monitoring of Trucks down the Waterfall Way on Saturday and no regulation.

In addition to the above points there will be further discussion and additional items will be taken on the night.

- Why there has there been no effective monitoring of the maximum daily number of truck movements to date, and no effort to ensure the cumulative number of existing movements have not exceeded the maximum annual total?
- Why has noise and emissions monitoring equipment not been installed in the main street of Bellingden?
- The presentation of community concerns at a yet to be scheduled JRPP Panel Meeting.

Without these, the community is not in a position to support any further increase in truck movements on Waterfall Way. This is our road, and we have a right to be consulted, and included in decision making, not kept in the dark.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Pauline Kidson on 0410 031 935