

Grahams Concrete  
1 Craig Street  
Kyogle NSW 2474

18th March 2012

The Panel

**RE: Proposed Establishment of Cedar Point Quarry via Kyogle**

The proposed quarry recourses will be used to provide concrete grade aggregate material for use in the Graham's Concrete plant in Kyogle. It is expected that a smaller quantity may be used on the road system of the local area and as aggregate for railway ballast. The operation is proposed to remain small and designed mainly to meet the needs of Graham's Concrete plant.

Below are a number of advantages to Kyogle and the community if the quarry is approved.

Kyogle Shire does not have a Basalt quarry with suitable concrete aggregate or road base for road construction and maintenance. At present these products are being sourced from outside the shire approximately 40km away from the Kyogle town centre. Approving the proposed quarry would create a huge saving in fuel. 86 percent less fuel would be used to deliver the products. This does not include any wear and tear on the vehicles. This huge reduction in carbon omissions will contribute to Australia's target to reduce carbon pollution by 5 to 15 percent below 2000 levels by 2020. There will also be a considerable reduction in time the large vehicles are on the road. The on road time will be reduced by 85% resulting in less road maintenance and large vehicles not travelling through townships.

The average consumption of aggregate per person in NSW is 11 tonnes (data collected from Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia). With Kyogle's 2010 population the amount of aggregate used in 2010 would have been 108,647 tonnes. Using these figures there would be 10,865 truck loads. The heavy vehicles would do 869,176 kilometres per year delivering aggregates to Kyogle. If the proposed quarry is approved there will be a cut in the Kilometres on the road by 738,796 this would have an enormous impact on the carbon omission, road infrastructure, road safety and wear and tear on the vehicles.

This site has been identified as a potential quarry for some years by Kyogle council and the Far North Coast Regional Strategy (appendix 2)

The regional strategy's view on quarries is "the region is rich in natural, extractive resource and productive soils. These resources are an important part of the regional economy and require careful management". The proposed quarry would have many benefits such as convenience, affordable and excellent quality products just to mention a few. The proposed quarry has many management plans in place to minimise any impact it may have on Kyogle and its residents and the Far North Coast.

The Far North Coast Regional Strategy plan 2006 to 2031 also states one of the challenges facing the North Coast is supporting non-coastal centres. The proposed quarry play's a large roll in meeting this challenge by providing an excellent, affordable product for building and infrastructure. More affordable housing will encourage people and families to move to Kyogle taking the pressure of coastal towns.

The Far North Coast is growing at a rate of 3.4 percent a year with a four year average of 3.1 percent (North Coast population & Development monitor number 17) the region is expected to increase its share of the state's population from 6.5 percent to 9 and 11 percent by 2021. From 2005 to 2010 Kyogle's population growth was 0.5 percent (Australian Bureau of Statistics 3218 estimated resident population by local Government area). The

population of Kyogle in 2010 was 9877 if this growth rate stayed the same it would be an increase of approximately 50 people per year. In 2020 the expected population of Kyogle shire would be approximately 10377. This would result in Kyogle needing 125 more dwellings (based on 4 people per dwelling) in the next nine years as there is already a higher demand for housing than there are dwellings (Data collected from PRD Real Estate Kyogle). The 125 new dwellings will require quality concrete products and road infrastructure. The proposed quarry will support this growth by providing excellent products at an affordable price.

The quarry applicants have shown great respect for Australia's Aboriginal Heritage. This is shown by the proposed quarry being reduced in size to protect 2 scar trees. There is also a plan for a buffer zone to be placed around the scar trees so they are not accidentally damaged or destroyed during the operating life of the quarry.

The beautiful landscape and character of the site will have minimal changes. The work site is of a pit type construction and the edge of the plateau is not being lowered therefore the ridge line will not be altered. Other factors providing a limit to the visual exposure are the elevated nature of the site and the visual screening provided by the existing vegetation around the site. The quarry work area is to be fenced to allow cattle grazing to continue. As the extraction area moves around the site rehabilitation carried out to minimise visual affects and allow cattle grazing to be re-established as quickly as possible. Neighbours, locals and visitors will not see the operation.

Noise from the quarry will not affect the peaceful rural lifestyle. The Noise Impact Assessment has resulted in satisfactory for all quarry activities including blasting up to five times a year. Management plans that will be put in place, including barrier walls and blasting being restricted to Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm. Placing acoustic bunds will also assist in keeping the noise level within acceptable standards.

The proposed quarry will not reduce the surrounding properties land value as the quarry has been listed as a potential quarry since 1996.

The benefits to the community will be significant. Providing an excellent quality product only 6km from the town centre provides convenience and reduced cartage costs to the Kyogle Shire less large vehicles on the roads which will in turn provide more cost effective council infrastructure which will benefit all rate payers.

The proposed Cedar Point Quarry would provide a source of road base and aggregate within the Kyogle local government area and is a potential supplier of these materials to the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority and road construction contractors within the Kyogle Council area while making a significant reduction in carbon omissions.

The supply of material from this quarry to these contractors will reduce the cost for the departments who have to source the materials solely from other quarries outside the shire. In addition, it would have a positive socio-economic effect by reducing the amount of vehicle movements and pressure on the road network to and from other quarries.

Furthermore, the quarry would supply road base to local residences in the area for construction of roads and driveways.

There will be a need for Graham's to employ more personnel to operate the quarry, which will create jobs in the shire. There would also be activities at the quarry that would be undertaken by subcontractors, such as blasting, crushing and screening, this encourages more people to spend money in Kyogle Shire. The proposed quarry will minimise the social and economic costs to the local community.

Grahams Concrete uses the blue metal basalt in the production of their Readymix Concrete and Concrete Products. The products they manufacture include:

- \* Precast Concrete and Steel Grids which are made to T44 standards
- \* Australian Standard Certified Septic Tanks
- \* Headwalls made to RTA Specifications.
- \* Cattle Troughs
- \* Wetland Cells for Wastewater Management.

Every year the demand for these products is increasing due to the population growth to this region and the development of new dwellings being made to house these people. Grahams Concrete supply concrete product all over the Northern Rivers Region and have done and hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Attached is a graph of the usage rates since 2000 that Grahams Concrete has used in their business each year.

Since 2000 the growth rate of Basalt needed has more then doubled. With 4,751tonne being used in 2000, 6566 tonne in 2005 and with over 10,650 tonne in 2011.

By the year 2005 the need for basalt at the Grahams Concrete plant had increased by 38%. This rate increased further such that by the year 2011 the usage of the basalt had increased by over 120%.

The Grahams Concrete plant needs a reliable source of high quality, affordable basalt. It is extremely important, that this supply be reliable and under the control of Grahams Concrete, so that we can supply customers with concrete and concrete products that will meet strength requirements at an affordable price that is also competitive within the Northern Rivers Region. With the proximity of the Northern Rivers to South East Queensland, it is imperative that Grahams Concrete keep control of its production costs and the

supply of concrete aggregate is a critical component of that cost control. Otherwise Grahams will potentially loss some of its markets, particularly in the eastern sector of the Northern River Region.

Rod and Karie Graham

Grahams Concrete Pty Ltd