

Council Officer comments re late submission Caroline Joseph, For People with an interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way - application 2014NTH006, DA2014/0098

Further to the Assessment Report and recommendation the following comments re made regarding the submission from Caroline Joseph on behalf of People with an interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way as requested by the Panel Secretariat. The submission is as follows:

We write to you in your capacity as Chairperson of the Northern Regional Planning Panel regarding your consideration of the DA from Matsid P/L Sheridan Hardrock Quarry currently recommended for your approval by Clarence Council and scheduled to be heard on Thursday 21st August at Clarence Council.

We believe that, "Waterfall Way Safety Review" from RMS is nearing completion and that the results of the review are vital to a fair and proper decision being made about this development.

The community is well aware that the decision to approve a recent quarry expansion at Dorrigo was made without proper uptodate information.

We are requesting that the JRPP Hearing scheduled for Thursday 21st August at 4pm at Clarence Council be delayed until the results of the Waterfall Way are finalised and available for presentation.

Yours faithfully,

For People with an interest in Road Safety for Waterfall Way

Caroline Joseph

Council Officer's Comment

Following the receipt of this submission information was sought from the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) on 13 August 2014 regarding the Waterfall Way Safety Review (WWSR).

The RMS advised that:

- It is anticipated that the outcome of the WWSR will provide short term measures that can be implemented immediately to increase the safety of the road. The review has included the assessment of current traffic movements, crash data, crash cluster data, speed zones, improvements to signage, sections of road to formalise 'pullover bays' and improved delineation along the road. While no formal date to finalise the review has been set it is anticipated that it may be finalised by the end of September 2014.
- Any future upgrades or significant works to the Waterfall Way would be subject to a future Corridor Planning Strategy implemented and funded through Transport for NSW. There is no planned strategy for the Waterfall Way.
- The RMS have outlined in their written submission (9 May 2014) that the number of laden truck movements from Sheridans Hard Rock Quarry along the approved haulage route should not exceed the existing approved truck movements for the quarry under DA2010/0358. In determining the operating hours of the quarry consideration should be applied whether to permit operation on Saturdays.

- Provision should be allowed for the quarry to be allowed operate outside of the restricted times to allow emergency works to be undertaken e.g. land slips.
- A code of conduct for truck drivers should be required for the operation of the quarry.

The WWSR arose from community concerns relating to truck movements on the Waterfall Way. The Review will assess the current use of Waterfall Way, including the current traffic movements of laden and un-laden trucks being used by Sheridan's Hard Rock Quarry, and implement recommended short term measures to improve the safety for road users.

As proposed in the Assessment Report to the Panel and the draft conditions of consent, the daily laden truck movements of the quarry will be limited to that of the current approval of the quarry, being 20 laden trucks per day. The Assessment Report provides that the Panel may consider limiting the laden truck movements traveling eastbound along Waterfall Way on Saturdays to mitigate concerns raised by the RMS and users of the Waterfall Way while allowing the quarry to transport product to alternate locations westbound along Waterfall Way. Should the panel consider this to be an option it will need to be included as a condition of consent. Suggesting wording for such a condition is as follows *'No haulage of quarry product is permitted east-bound from the intersection of Bald Hills Road to the Pacific Highway on Saturdays. Council may permit access and operation outside of the periods identified in this consent for emergency purposes'*.

The draft conditions of consent restrict operation hours, blasting hours, operations on Sundays and Public Holidays and allow Council to permit the quarry to operate during restricted hours for emergency works if required (conditions 11, 12 & 13) as well as requiring the submission of a code of conduct to be included with the Plan of Management for the Quarry (Condition 4). It is noted that these measures are adopted under the current approval of the quarry.

It is submitted that there will be no benefit to the Panel in deferring the JRPP meeting as any outcomes or safety measures implemented by the Waterfall Way Safety Review will be specific in improving the safety of Waterfall Way in the short term. The current impacts from the maximum quarry truck movements from Sheridans Hard Rock Quarry (and those proposed under the quarry expansion) will be considered under the Review. Deferring the meeting may also be unfair to the applicant in delaying the outcome of the application and possible loss of income from the expansion of the quarry.

The approval of the application can adequately address concerns raised by the RMS in their submission. The issues raised in this submission do not change the recommendation in the Assessment Report to the Panel.