

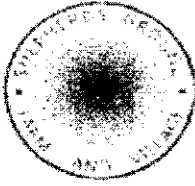
**Submission  
No 141**

## **INQUIRY INTO KOALA POPULATIONS AND HABITAT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Shepherds Ground Pty Lrd

**Date Received:** 2 August 2019

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Shepherds Ground Ltd  
15 Green Wattle Creek Road, Butterwick 2321  
[www.shepherdsground.com.au](http://www.shepherdsground.com.au)

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

**Re: Impact to Threatened species, specifically the Koala, as a result of the Brandy Hill Quarry Extension Project**

For your consideration.

Shepherds Ground is a rural eco-village & farm enterprise situated on Green Wattle Creek Road, less than two kilometres north-west of the proposed Brandy Hill Quarry Extension site. Shepherds Ground Pty Ltd has Development Consent from Port Stephens Shire Council to build 27 eco-friendly homes within a village precinct at 15 Green Wattle Creek Road. The surrounding farmland of 267 acres are in the process of development for organic certification, to encourage a range of local, diverse micro-agri businesses. The Board of Shepherds Ground Pty Ltd has serious concerns regarding some of the key aspects of this proposed Brandy Hill Quarry expansion.

The close proximity of the quarry will create a number of impacts, in many ways. Particularly, it has come to our attention that Hanson's are not adopting best practice mitigation of noise, dust and light impacts on the surrounding environment. There is also grave concerns regarding the increased traffic movement on the local rural roads that are a major connection to the surrounding towns and services.

It is noted that the extension takes away some 45 hectares from what is, already a small area for the viability of local koalas, native species and 5 endangered species habitat. Shepherds Ground, as a company, is investing in increased wildlife corridors and habitat development in our local area. We cannot accept that an international company has the moral or legal right to degrade our local native species and habitats in the way that they propose to do.

A report by R. W. Corkery & Co. addressed to Ms Genevieve Seed, Senior Planning Officer, Resource Assessments, Department of Planning and Environment, dated 7 February 2019, lists the following species as identified by Biosis Pty Ltd, as directly under threat by the Brandy Hill Quarry proposed extension.

- Koala
- Grey-headed Flying Fox
- Spotted-tailed Quoll
- Regent Honeyeater
- Swift Parrot

Biosis Pty Ltd finds:

***"Within the locality, the clearing of 45.8 hectares of Koala habitat will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species."***

The Report found that the Brandy Hill Quarry development and the clearing of Koala wilderness to be so significant, that it will impact koalas at a **"a national level"**.

Given the increasingly disjunct and threatened koala populations across Australia, and the extremely threatened Eastern Population of Koalas, the loss of 45.8 hectares of koala habitat is likely to have a significant impact on the national population. Numerous small koala populations occur along the coast, but are increasingly threatened and separated as a result of urban and rural development, roads and other forms of development. I urge you to give attention to this matter. The clearing of 45.8 hectares of Koala habitat will adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the koala, and other significant threatened Australian species.

We seek your support for our concerns and the concerns of many others in this rural neighbourhood. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Wendy Butler.  
Chairperson.