

**Submission
No 113**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITIES**

Name: Mrs Margarete Ritchie

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Please accept this as a personal submission for the inquiry into The Planning System and The Impacts of Climate Change on the Environment and Communities.

I have recently read the article in “the Guardian” regarding the effect of truck transport emissions on the CO2 in the atmosphere and would like to bring it to your attention.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/nov/02/dwindling-use-of-rail-freight-puts-australias-emissions-targets-at-risk-industry-warns>

The reason for doing this is that I live in an area of the Port Stephens LGA where numerous quarries operate or are seeking to operate. They are either sand quarries or rock/gravel quarries and they produce millions of tonnes/annum, all which is transported by road through increasingly densely populated areas, and increasingly to the Sydney Metropolitan markets. They all claim to be vitally important to the economy. However, they fly below the radar as far as any climate change or emission targets need to be met. Nowhere does the DPE request a report on the impact of the diesel emissions on human health or the environment and climate change is rarely, if ever mentioned.

I have included below a section of a submission made by the community organisation VOWW, to DPE (16/7/23).

The total number of quarries either already operating, or in the process of seeking approval, is staggering.

The figures are as follows and send a clear message as to the saturation of the Pacific Highway with quarry haulage vehicles now and into the future.

Karuah South Quarry.....600,000tpa134 trucks/day

Karuah East/ Hunter Quarries....1.5mtpa..... 334 trucks/day

Seaham Boral. Proposal for..... 2mtpa450 trucks/day

Eagleton Quarry. Proposed.....600,000tpa.....134 trucks/day

Brandy Hill. Approved to expand..1.5mtpa.....334 trucks/day

Hillview Booral. Proposed.....1.5mtpa.....334 trucks/day.

Deep Creek, Limeburner’s Crk.....500,000tpa.....111 trucks/day

(Decision pending)

Stone Ridge. Proposed.....1.5mtpa.....334 trucks/day.

Martins Creek...refused by IPC but further proposal possible.

Total=over 9 million tonnes/annum.

*Total average trucks/day = 2,615. This is a rough estimate for average production. At peak production this number would be considerably larger depending on the variables at each quarry. In fact, **close to 5,000 trucks/day.***

This table does not include the numerous sand quarries that also operate out of the Port Stephens LGA and all use the same road systems.

The main point that I wish to make is that there is no planning for rail to be used for this industry. The one quarry at Martins Creek that does have a dedicated rail siding prefers not to use it solely, citing cost and no availability on the freight corridor.

I refer you to the VOWW submission sent earlier for more information. Regarding haulage on local roads.

Thank you for your concern and interest in this extremely important topic.

Margarete Ritchie.