

Your Quick Guide to writing an official objection

An objection is basically your personal letter to Council outlining the reasons that you object to this proposal and a request that they do not give their approval to the facility.

For your letter to be considered valid, it must:

- include your name, address, and signature,
- include the Development Application Number DA 2009 0748,
- be mailed to The Assessment Manager, PO Box 155, Gympie 4570.

Your objection doesn't need to be complicated, scientific or full of official jargon...

- Simply state your interest in the matter, (such as "I live in the area", "...regularly visit the area", "...frequently use roads that would carry trucks servicing this facility", etc).
- State plainly that you object to the proposal and provide grounds for your objection.

There are many reasons to object to this proposal, here are a few ideas to get you started:

You don't share the applicant's assertion that there would be minimal added risk on the roads. Roads servicing the quarry have already had at least two fatal accidents involving trucks. Adding explosives into the mix heightens the traffic volume and consequences of accidents.

Kenilworth has experienced a number of bushfires over the years. The application suggests that a 15 metre cleared buffer around both the store and magazine should be adequate but this is unlikely. As the proposed buildings would be at the very rear of the area designated for quarrying this will involve further clearing of the Kenilworth Bluff, increasing the quarry's visual scar.

The area is well known for lightning strikes. The proposal suggests the entire quarry will cease operations when a storm approaches. Given the frequency of storms this is unlikely to be maintained and fails to recognise the common event of strikes that occur in advance of a storm front.

The proposal outlines truck movements that would bring ammonium nitrate, emulsifier and high explosives into the storage facility but lacks details on the haulage routes and frequency of their dispatch from the facility.

The proposal is dramatically at odds with the Mary Valley Recovery Plan articulated recently at a series of public meetings following the decision to scrap Traveston Crossing Dam.

The application goes to some length to show it's not in an earthquake prone area, but ignores the fact that it's right on the site of regular and substantial blasting as part of

ongoing quarry operations.

The Kenilworth Bluff adjacent to the proposed site is nominated as Koala Habitat. The Environmental Consultants' have failed to identify this in their report, and other parts of the proposal state that the area is NOT Koala habitat. Inconsistency such as this cast doubt over the validity of all claims in the application.

The environmental consultants' report is woefully inadequate. It would appear not to address the need for a fire buffer and fails to respond to Council's question about the environmental impact of night lighting. No reference is made to the Wilcox Family Conservation Reserve on the top of the bluff nor to the area of Essential Habitat very near to the proposed facility.

A spokesperson* for the proposal has said that "two 26-tonne trucks would access the site each week in the initial stages, with a mobile manufacturing unit leaving and returning to the storage each day" and that "the number of movements, both in and out of the site, would increase as the economy grew." The application before council does not mention the "mobile manufacturing unit", nor does it reference the intention to expand the capacity of the facility. * [Sunshine Coast Daily, 'Explosives store 'to help economy'', 28th July 2010]

The proposal creates a terrorism risk that the Sunshine Coast is not prepared for.

There would be many more suitable locations in south-east Queensland that would offer better and safer access roads, better emergency service response time in the event of an accident, and less potential impact on surrounding properties and residences.

More information can be found at www.stoppres.com.au or by phoning (07) 5446 0124