



19 December 2020

Sarah Lees
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Director Southern Region, Local and Regional Planning

BY E-MAIL ONLY sarah.lees@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sarah Lees

Submission by Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd to the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

Introduction

Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd is a company within the privately-owned Cleary Bros Group based in the Illawarra and South Coast regions of NSW. Since its establishment in 1916, and initial involvement in the transport and timber industries, Cleary Bros has expanded and diversified over a period of more than a century to become a significant operator in the construction and materials supply industries. The Cleary Bros Group operates a number of divisions, including:

- extraction and processing of hard rock and sand from two extraction sites:
 - the Albion Park hard rock quarry; and
 - a sand extraction operation at Gerroa;
- earthmoving equipment and transport services;
- pre-mixed concrete manufacture at four plants located within the Illawarra / Shoalhaven area; and
- small to medium civil engineering works.

Approximately 320 people are employed by the Cleary Bros Group, of which approximately 30 are directly involved in the hard rock extraction and processing operations at the Albion Park Quarry. A larger number of employees within the broader Cleary Bros Group are reliant upon the transportation and ongoing production of a range of quarry products at the Albion Park Quarry.

The Cleary Bros Group has an established reputation for quality and reliability within the construction industry, with operations conducted in accordance with an Environmental Management System compliant with ISO14001. Furthermore, the Group has demonstrated a strong commitment to the community through both financial contributions to local historic associations, sporting teams, and charities and through the active participation of employees in community organisations.

The Regional Plan's Vision

The Cleary Bros Group shares the Department's vision for the Illawarra / Shoalhaven region and the need for the retention of the great diversity of industries and services. We are well aware of this diversity given our Group's experience in supplying construction materials to numerous industrial and infrastructure projects for private industry and government organisations.

Commentary on Objective 10 and Strategies 10.1 and 10.2

The Cleary Bros Group is fully supportive of Objective 10 and the need for future planning to provide certainty to the Group's divisions and the numerous industries and government organisations that the high quality hard rock and sand resources within the region will continue to be made available at a reasonable cost to ensure that the homes, factories, schools, hospitals, roads, etc. are constructed as economically as possible. The Department is no doubt well aware that the Sydney Metropolitan area no longer has any locally-sourced hard rock products used in construction projects – as a consequence, all hard rock products are now imported into the Sydney Metropolitan area at great cost. Good planning for the Illawarra / Shoalhaven region would push back the similar position for many decades and allow the current and many future generations to benefit from the high quality resources on our doorstep.

Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd

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Strategy 10.1

"Consider the ongoing operation of existing mining and resource extraction and future development of known resources in local strategic planning and local plans by:

- *protecting areas of mineral and energy resources potential.*
- *protecting infrastructure that facilitates mining industries such as road and rail freight routes from development that could affect current or future extraction."*

The hard rock extractive resources within the Albion Park-Dunmore area are highly valuable given their high quality and close proximity to development areas within the Illawarra region. Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd has been operating its Quarry at Albion Park since 1963 during which time it has operated three extraction areas within its property. The most recent extraction area currently has between 4 to 8 years of reserves of high quality hard rock remaining – as a consequence, the Company is currently finalising its Environmental Impact Statement and Development Application for submission to DPIE to extend the operational life of the third quarry by at least 30 years. The Scoping Report submitted to DPIE in August 2019 provides the relevant background to the current proposal.

It is requested that current planning under consideration in the Albion Park area recognises the opportunity provided by the extended extraction area to underpin the Group's operational divisions for many years to come.

Strategy 10.2

"Consider opportunities for strategic biodiversity conservation measures around known hard rock resource lands to protect environmental values and provide certainty for extraction activities."

This strategy needs to review the current knowledge of both the "known hard rock resources" as well as the biodiversity values of the ecosystems that have developed on the hard rock resources. Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd has recently undertaken a considerable exploration program across its Albion Park property and, consequently, has a greater understanding of the resources beneath the property, which in turn, could assist to improve the accuracy of the mapping of important hard rock resources in the Albion Park-Dunmore area. A knowledge of the location of high quality hard rock resources will be important in achieving the most appropriate balance to protect the environmental values of the area whilst providing long-term certainty for the supply of the high quality hard rock products. It is important that, when considering the environmental values, they are related to the quantity of hard rock products that can be recovered per hectare of high biodiversity value land.

It is requested that the current planning to establish this balance adopts the above suggested approach to provide the Illawarra region with the greatest long-term certainty for the supply of locally sourced hard rock products.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

CLEARY BROS (BOMBO) PTY LTD



Steve Rogers

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