Speech by

Glen Elmes

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard Wednesday, 8 August 2007

YANDINA CREEK QUARRY

Mr ELMES (Noosa—Lib) (11.07 pm): I rise to address the House tonight on the subject of extractive industries and their impact on the environment and social wellbeing of communities. Specifically, I refer to the community of Yandina Creek in my Noosa electorate and measuring the triple bottom line of social, financial and environmental outcomes of a proposed quarry which is a mere 400 metres from their homes.

Recently, I attended a fundraiser hosted by Alan Hubbard at the Coolum Beach Hotel in support of the Yandina Creek Community to raise funds to fight this project. I would like to extend my thanks and that of the community to Peter Maddox, manager of the Coolum Beach Hotel, and Jason Riddell of Cool Events for their invaluable assistance. I would also like to acknowledge the committee which has been fighting this proposal now for many months. Their dedication to this fight has been admirable and demonstrates their commitment to the peace and good standing of their local area. This community body, led by Samantha Watson, Murray Browning, Annie Qualtrough and Annie Nolan, sets a high standard for other community groups. Indeed our community owes a great debt to these tireless volunteers and their supporters.

On the social aspect, this community faces certain upheaval and disruption from blasting operations to the tranquil lifestyle that attracted people to the area. Residents also fear safety risks from heavy trucks carrying the quarry product along the normally quiet, gravel back roads where children play while waiting for their school bus and where families live peacefully.

Additionally, there are concerns about the silica dust produced from the processing of the igneous rock from the quarry. This silica dust is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a class 1 known human carcinogen. This dust poses a significant risk to the local population in the vicinity of the quarry. Due to the close proximity of the quarry to local homes, there is also concern about injury and damage from flyrock, a by-product of the blasting process. I draw the attention of the House to a recent incident at the Martha Mine in New Zealand where flyrock landed on shops and in a car park nearby after a misfire.

Then there are the financial costs to the community. As well as undoubted property devaluations caused by this quarry, local residents have had to foot the bill to fight this project when it should never have been given a start in the first place.

The third bottom line result will assuredly be the degraded environment. I am talking about the damage that continuous extractive industries cause to the environment and the damage of the transportation of these resources through the environment, not to mention the damage that this project would do to the local ecosystem.

Historically, Zgrajewski Road, where the proposed quarry site is located, is a former Cobb and Co access route linking Nambour with Tewantin. The original home of the pioneering Zgrajewski family still stands directly across the road from the proposed quarry site.

Time expired.