

Noel Clark

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29th April 2015

Regarding; Application by Cooranbong Water for a network operators licence to operate a sewage/water recycling utility at 617 Freemans Drive.

I would like to lodge my objection to any granting of a network operator's licence to Cooranbong Water.

My objections centre on the building of this massive structure amongst, and in close proximity to, the existing Cooranbong residential community.

The history of the original proposal put forward to Lake Macquarie Council for;

Application Number: DA/714/2014

Address: 615 - 617 Freemans Drive, Cooranbong NSW 2265

Description: Utility Installation - Sewer Treatment Plant.

Shows that the council received 143 submissions, all objecting to the building of a sewerage treatment plant in close proximity to our houses, and our objections to the granting of a network operators licence to Cooranbong Water are just as compelling and relevant as our first objections.

OBJECTIONS:

1. The proposed sewage structure, set in amongst the Cooranbong Community will be an enormous visual eyesore towering over the existing Cooranbong residential houses and properties. It's totally inappropriate for an area that has always been a family residential community.

This site fronts Freemans Drive and is directly opposite the Cooranbong Community Pre-School, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Cooranbong Community centre.

There are existing houses to the rear of this proposed site, existing houses both sides of the site, an existing shopping centre nearby and there are also existing houses along Freemans Drive either side and at the front of this proposed site.

The close proximity of all of these existing houses, community buildings and shopping centre, to this enormous industrial structure is unnecessary and unacceptable.

2. The smell associated with the sewage treatment of human faeces, would be totally unacceptable to the adjoining residents of Cooranbong. Please note D06994287 (14/05/2014) Statements of Environmental Effects which confirms amongst other things, the potential noise and smell we will be subjected to.

The smell will have a health impact on those residents who suffer from asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and will especially affect infants, the very young and the elderly, who may experience other respiratory illnesses associated with the smell.

3. After periods of very heavy rain downpours, which Cooranbong frequently experiences, the nearby existing residents will live with the fear of floating effluent, and contend with the real possibility of overflow and spillage of the effluent which will flow and seep into the surrounding land, waterways and drains, eventually finding its way into Lake Macquarie. I doubt very much that the developers can guarantee that this sewage plant will be a 100 per cent closed and contained system with zero overflow or seepage.

There will be a health cost if human effluent enters our waterways. Contaminated water, both marine and fresh, is a frequent cause of illness from ingesting contaminated water; the associated diseases are giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis, and shigellosis.

Giardiasis symptoms include:

- Diarrhea
- Gas
- Greasy, floating stool
- Upset stomach accompanied by nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Headache
- Stomach cramps
- Dehydration, especially among infants and the elderly.

AS recently as April 25 and 26 2015 our community, along with many other communities in the upper and lower Hunter, experienced exceptional rain downpours completely leaving large overflows of water from his site (617 Freemans Drive) onto and over Freemans Drive. This unfortunately is not an exceptional or isolated event and we are frequently inundated with heavy rainfall, and the overflow from this site is not unusual.

4. The noise associated with the 24 hour entry and exit of heavy trucks, to and from this proposed site is totally unacceptable, as we are a local residential community not an industrial dumping ground for human excrement waiting to be treated.

Access and exit to and from this proposed site would create traffic bedlam as heavy trucks would block both lanes of Freemans Drive turning into this site and cause traffic danger as they push their way out into an already very busy Freemans Drive.

5. The continuous night lighting, from the proposed sewage structure, will glare over the surrounding houses and will disrupt the sleep patterns of everyone.
6. I note that NSW Government guidelines suggest a buffer zone of at least 400 meters from residential areas, and this proposed sewage structure could not possibly meet those guidelines. I hope that IPART supports the residents in this guideline and doesn't support the applicant's view that this is only a suggestion.

7. Application Reference No; MP 07_0147 Location: North Cooranbong
Proponent: Johnson Property Group;

The original North Cooranbong housing development passed by the NSW Planning Department, accepted Johnson Property Groups agreements to connect to the Hunter Water treatment network in the future. Nothing has changed and this must be adhered to. The North Cooranbong Estate must be connected to the same sewerage system as we are connected to.

8. I object to the sighting of this enormous structure so close to long established residential homes and properties in Cooranbong. If Johnson Property Group/Cooranbong Water is so hell bent on building a Sewage Treatment Plant, and in the process destroying the peace, harmony and sense of community that exists in Cooranbong, then I demand that they build this sewage plan on their North Cooranbong Estate (Watagan Park). They have over 900 acres of land to do so. It is entirely appropriate that any sewage plant that serves the Watagan Park Community should be located on this land so future buyers into this development will be fully aware of the presence of a sewage plant near to their future homes, and they can adjust their price expectations accordingly.
9. Lastly I object to this application because it will bring no economic benefits to the existing Cooranbong residents, it will bring no environmental benefits, no aesthetic benefits, no quality of life benefits, no community benefits and no benefits for Lake Macquarie Council. It will be a total disaster with Johnson Property Group/Cooranbong Water showing a total disregard for the health and safety of the existing Cooranbong residents, and I request IPART to support our community in rejecting Cooranbong Water's application for a licence to operate a sewage/water recycling utility at 617 Freemans Drive.

Thank you for your acceptance of my submission.

Yours sincerely

Noel Clark