



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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Minister for Infrastructure
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MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER PROHIBITS SAND REMOVAL AT SOMERSBY

Extractive industry proposals have been banned at a Somersby site where a sand quarry was previously refused.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 has been amended.

“This is great news for the local community which has fought against quarrying on this site,” the Minister said.

“It had potential impact on the nearby Somersby Public School, air quality, ground and surface water and surrounding land.

“While we need sand quarries to supply our building industry, it’s important they are located in the right areas.”

In August 2009, then Minister for Planning, Kristina Keneally, refused a development proposal for the site following advice from an independent panel and recommendations from the Department of Planning.

Gosford City Council subsequently sought to introduce a prohibition on extractive industry in its local planning instrument, however Mr Kelly said it was more appropriate for it to be considered as an amendment to a State planning instrument which specifically oversees extractive industries.

Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews, welcomed the announcement.

“Council has indicated its support of this approach and it’s something the local community and I have been pushing for,” Ms Andrews said.

The proposed amendment has been processed in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act on State environmental planning policies.

Over the last 12 months, the NSW Government has approved a number of major quarries to ensure sufficient supply for the building industry throughout the state. These include:

- The Mackas Sand quarry at Port Stephens which has the potential to extract 30 million tonnes of sand from two sites on the Stockton Bight for a period of up to 20 years;
- The Ardmore Park quarry near Bungonia with the potential to supply 15.2 million tonnes of sand and basalt over 30 years; and
- The extraction of up to 650,000 cubic metres of sand a year for 15-20 years from the Cudgen Lakes Sand Project in the Tweed area.