



SUBMISSION 30

John K Forrester
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Joint Select Committee sitting at Norfolk Island
C/c to Minister for Quarrying and Crushing etc
C/e to Chief Executive Officer, Administration, Norfolk Island

18th February, 2003,

My name is John Kenneth Forrester, age 76 years, residing at Forrester Court, off Mill road, Norfolk Island. My contact points are as shown on this letterhead. I am a resident of Norfolk Island, having purchased land at lot 1 don 20th July, 1983, started building in September, 1984 and completed the project in April, 1986.

My property is adjacent to the Quarry at Cascade. When we purchased the land, the quarry area was just an abandoned large hole in the ground and there was nothing stated on indicated that a quarry would be started. We completed our buildings not knowing that a quarry had previously been in the area described as a hole in the ground and there was no consultation with us ever as to that land being used for future quarrying, as to environmental issues nor any consideration as to our quality of life being adversely affected, by the placement of the quarry below us. I am more than willing for members to inspect our site so that there is no chance of misunderstanding my family's strong objection to there being any consideration of quarrying or Crushing being located in the Cascade area.

My reason for this contact is that I have been advised from a number of sources that Richard Cottle addressed the Committee recently concerning his desire to crush rock on Norfolk Island, and that he mentioned various sites which he felt should be acceptable for this project. My specific interest is to ensure that no quarrying or crushing is ever allowed in Cascade.

I reside directly above Cascade Quarry and Jetty. I have discussed the question of crushing rock at Cascade with Richard Cottle and he and his wife have been to my home to request my support for such an activity.

I was even offered at no cost, a share in his business, if I agreed with his proposed crushing being operated at Cascade. On each occasion I have advised him that I am totally opposed to all industrial activity at Cascade

The previous Crusher owned and operated by Island Industries was located in Stockyard Road and I understand it was operating at that site for about 30 years. New neighbours purchased land in the vicinity knowing of the siting and operation of the crusher and bought at substantially reduced costs. Over years they separately and collectively complained to the authorities until the pressure became so heavy that the Administrator, who is the custodian of the Crown land that was the site of the crusher, refused to allow the operation to continue on that specific site, as issues were unresolved.

The saga stated and the Island became short of rock because legal issues were brought before ART and I understand dragged on as further legal battles were persued.

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Whilst this letter is from me personally, I am able to say that many meetings of the Cascade residents have been held and it is accurate to advise that the vast majority of the residents were of the opinion that no quarrying and crushing would be countenanced at Cascade by them. These meetings were held in some cases before the Administrator and MLA's leaving no doubt in anyone's mind as to the rejection by the residents of Cascade that they were fed up with their quality of life being adversely affected.

For my part I am determined to follow every step necessary through legal avenues should such an operation be considered at the Cascade area. My tourist accommodation will start by mid 2003. This was approved by the Tourist Minister in mid 1999 I know that visitors come to Norfolk for relaxation, peace and tranquility and would not wish to be bombarded with noise and dust in such an ideal site on the cliff top overlooking Cascade Bay. I most certainly am strenuously opposed to any industrial operation in this most beautiful part of Norfolk and in any case there is an Environment Protection Area right along the cliff edge which would prohibit such activity.

I am also aware the land on which the rock is stored, owned by the Christian Family described as lot 5a has a restriction that no crushing will be allowed on this land and it can only be used for rock storage until the existing pile is finally removed. Had the advice given to the Minister in 1999 been accepted, there would be no rock there right now as Island Industries had offered to transport it to their site at no cost to the Government but this was ignored and the eyesore remains. This area should have been beautified from my property right around to cockpit as it is a most attractive area and should remain as such. In addition I have the right of access from Young's Road onto my property where it adjoins Young's Road

Whilst I am not technically qualified in Quarrying and crushing I have a track record in Management. I can state that there is no common sense in a small Island having two crushing plants when this community uses on average about 8000 to 10000 tons of crushed rock per annum. This would take the current operator approximately two months to crush that quantity and wages and overheads have to be spread over that quantity. This has developed into a most unsatisfactory situation, and I believe that Richard Cottle does not have the plant to produce the quality required for crushed rock. So more capital expense would occur.

I cannot image anywhere in the world that a small community of no more than 2000 people would require two crushers. This issue of the possibility has been the cause of shortages of crushed rock through extended legal activities and it needs to be nipped in the bud now before further damage affects this lovely community.

Let me finally add that the Cascade Cliff project was expected to provide a reduced cost of crushed rock as the loan was interest free and the volume was substantially greater than normal average tonnage. However this has not happened and I think it shows that Island industries have been fair in their pricing of crushed rock and the Island has not been held to ransom by only having a monopoly crushing operation.

It is a fact that operating a commercial industry on an Island where growth is limited by the size of the community means that you must look at the commercial viability in an entirely different manner.

I am willing for this correspondence to be incorporated in Hansard if that is the system used by the Committee.

Warm Regards,

