

17 November 2014

Submission to Select Committee into aspects of the Queensland Government
Administration,
PO Box 6100,
Parliament House ACT 2600.

Dear Senators,

A large number of people living in and around Redland and Logan City and in particularly the Mt Cotton area have been concerned about the way the Barro Group Pty Ltd of Mt Cotton Road, Mt Cotton, applied for and after a ten year fight was given approval for Superquarry in the middle of 55 residential properties and on land that was zoned Conservation and koala protected under the then Goss Government in 1995.

The Redland Shire Council (RSC) wanted to keep in place conservation and koala protection on the site in its revised Planning Scheme. The Minister for Local Government and Planning (as was then) issued a directive to RSC to adopt the draft State Planning Policy for extractive industries and to change the draft planning scheme for the Barro property from the proposed zoning "Environment Protection/Conservation" to "Rural Non-Urban" over the site the Barro Group had just bought in 2004. We have been advised that this was illegal, as at the time of the direction the SPP was in draft and marked "Draft - No official status" and "Not Government Policy".

Over the next ten years the people and Redland and Logan City Councils rejected the application, won two court cases signed 11,000 petitions and submissions, were promised by the LNP that if we elect them there will be no quarry. Then in May 2010 a previous Liberal candidate, a councillor in Logan City who had been fighting against the quarry for his constituents for six years was put under pressure to limit the public outing of concerns raised by the community of the Barro Group because they (the company) were attending fund raising functions, this alone needs to be looked into.

How much did the Barro Group donate to the LNP? We will probably never know. On 30th May 2013 Ian Ridoutt, Queensland Manager of the Barro Group, asked the Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney about call in powers under the Planning Act, his response was "I am not averse to 'calling in if they were being jeopardised by vocal 'minority group.' " . He goes on to say that "I will listen to what the councillors want." This was just awhile after the Premier said in the Courier Mail, his government will leave it to Councils to decide what they want in their Shire. The following Wednesday

5th June, Redland City Council rejected the Barro quarry development application for a second time by 9-2 majority. The Mayor Karen Williams said, "the decision was a clear expression of the strong community opposition to the proposal" - not exactly the vocal minority group Mr Seeney was espousing.

Soon after the Barro Group asked Mr Seeney to call it in his favour. In December 2013 Mr Seeney called it in favour of the Barro Group,

As far as quarries go, Redland City, the smallest council in SE Queensland has already got six quarries and all are in Mt Cotton. The Minister is wrong to call the new Superquarry of State Significance as there is 28 hardrock quarries (KRAs) within 50 klms of Brisbane CBD, 7 greywacky quarries (KRAs) within 45 klms of Redland City each with a supply average of 60 years. In all we have 43 hardrock quarries within 80 klms of the CBD. The Mayor of Redlands Cr Karen Williams informed the State Government that Mt Cotton was a dedicated Tourist area in the Redlands Planning Scheme but it appeared it fell on deaf ears. It also needs to be said that the 55 property owners surrounding the quarry lost all their development rights, were never called in as stakeholders and had their land devalued.

We, as citizens of the Redlands and Mt Cotton speak for the 11,000 citizens who signed petitions and submissions demand a full public inquiry into all aspects of this development which this very government knows cannot comply with or rescind the Barro Group Pty Ltd's application.

Sincerely yours,

Luke and Jean Daglish.