



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

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SOMERSBY FIELDS REJECTED, BUT MORE ATTENTION TO AIR QUALITY NEEDED

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today welcomed the announcement by Planning Minister Kristina Keneally that the Somersby Fields sand quarry has been rejected.

According to Mr Piper this was the only responsible course of action, because of the impacts the mine would have had on the adjoining school and the broader community.

Mr Piper had declared his intention to debate the issue in Parliament and is pleased that there is no longer a need to do this.

“The proposal relied on outdated information on air quality and the impacts of respirable silica dust,” said Mr Piper. “Somersby residents are concerned about existing air quality problems, so understandably there was great concern about a any new source of dust.”

According to Mr Piper, air quality issues have become the important emerging issue when it comes to considering the impacts from mining and quarrying.

“Fine respirable dust is proven to have significant health impacts, but we don't yet have an air quality standard for it,” Mr Piper added. “It is becoming clear that there are huge health costs attached to this sort of development and the Government has a duty of care to protect people.”

“People in dust-affected communities are voicing their legitimate concerns and the Government must make health a higher priority than mining and quarrying.”

“I congratulate the Minister for listening to the genuine concerns of Somersby residents.”

Media Contacts: Greg Piper 0407 770837
Peter Morris 0409 659649

Electorate Office 4959 3200
www.gregpiper1.com