

**Friends of
Minnamurra River (FOMR) (Incorporated)**

NEWS RELEASE



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27 January 2021

**KIAMA COMMUNITY GROUP ASKS BORAL AUSTRALIA TO MEET ITS
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY**

Friends of Minnamurra River (FOMR) Inc. has asked Boral Australia to live up to its recently announced commitment to the community by initiating a full and independent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under NSW government guidelines, of Boral's two new approved sand mines close to the Minnamurra River at Dunmore.

FOMR has written to the CEO and managing director of Boral Australia, Mr Zlatko Todorovski, asking Boral to take up its undertaking announced publicly earlier this month¹ to "continue to work with the community to ensure we (Boral) meet or exceed all of our planning conditions" in the two new sand mines.

Formed four years ago, FOMR is an association of Kiama local government area community volunteers formed to protect the biodiversity and fragile marine, terrestrial and aquatic environments of the catchment, banks and estuary of the Minnamurra River, one of the last largely natural estuaries in southeast Australia.

FOMR's letter to Boral's CEO of 22 January says an independent environmental impact study of the proposed new sand mines would, as the NSW government EIS guidelines state, "enable the community and other stakeholders to understand the project and its impacts".

FOMR says a full EIS on the new sand mines, approved by the NSW government late last year, has never been done.

The letter says an EIS "is particularly important in Boral's case because the NSW government's environment department has stated publicly that your company's new sand mines will not only destroy and damage threatened and vulnerable plant and animal communities and a forest which is protected under NSW legislation, but will likely dump pollutants and sediment in the Minnamurra River during flood events.

¹ Boral Australia spokesperson quoted in The Bugle online app, of 14 January 2021: "We acknowledge concerns raised by the community during the (NSW Independent Planning Commission) assessment and appreciate this feedback. We will continue to work with the community to ensure we meet or exceed all of our planning conditions, as we have for many years at our existing operations."

“It is essential that these impacts raised by the NSW environment department are examined more fully and a complete and accurate picture obtained of all the impacts of your company’s new sand mines.”

FOMR’s Chair, Kiama Downs’ Will Chyra, says the only way to do this is to undertake an independent Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with NSW government guidelines.

“We are offering to Boral the support and assistance of FOMR in initiating and undertaking an independent EIS because the study would be of benefit not only to Boral but to the local and wider community and to the goals of FOMR”, Mr Chyra says.

FOMR has offered to meet and work with Mr Todorcevski and other Boral Australia representatives to achieve a full and independent EIS and has asked for a response to its letter by 10 February 2021.

(Copy of FOMR’s letter to Boral Australia, attached.)

Contact: Will Chyra – 0419 633 191

Friends of Minnamurra River (FOMR) Inc.



Secretary
9 Samuels Lane
KIAMA DOWNS
NSW 2533

22 January 2021

Mr Zlatko Todorcevski
CEO and Managing Director
Boral Australia
Level 18
15 Blue Street
NORTH SYDNEY
NSW 2060

Dear Mr Todorcevski

You may be aware that FOMR Inc. is a community organisation working to protect the biodiversity and fragile marine, terrestrial and aquatic environments of the Minnamurra River, one of the last largely natural estuaries in southeast Australia and closely adjoining Boral's proposed two new sand mining pits at Dunmore, NSW.

We are writing to take up Boral Australia's undertaking, published on 14 January 2021, that your company "will continue to work with the community to ensure we meet or exceed all of our planning conditions" in these two new sand mines.²

In accepting your offer of co-operation, we are asking that Boral Australia joins with FOMR, as an active and responsible community organisation, to work jointly in initiating an independent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for your company's proposed new sand mines near the Minnamurra River.

While we realise that your company submitted some environmental impact information about your new mining proposal to the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) that considered your application in 2020, we know that neither Boral nor any other entity, has yet undertaken a full EIS, under NSW government guidelines, of your proposed project.

² Boral Australia spokesperson quoted in The Bugle online app, of 14 January 2021: "We acknowledge concerns raised by the community during the (NSW Independent Planning Commission) assessment and appreciate this feedback. We will continue to work with the community to ensure we meet or exceed all of our planning conditions, as we have for many years at our existing operations."

An independent EIS would, as the NSW government guidelines state, “enable the community and other stakeholders to understand the project and its impacts”. This is particularly important in Boral’s case because the NSW government’s environment department has stated publicly that your company’s new sand mines will not only destroy and damage threatened and vulnerable plant and animal communities and a forest which is protected under NSW legislation but will likely dump pollutants and sediment in the Minnamurra River during flood events.

It is essential that these impacts raised by the NSW environment department are examined more fully and a complete and accurate picture obtained of all the impacts of your company’s new sand mines.

The only way to do this is to undertake an independent Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with NSW government guidelines.

We are hereby offering you our support and assistance in initiating and undertaking such an EIS which will be of benefit to your company, to the local and wider community and to the goals of FOMR.

FOMR is ready to meet and further discuss with you or other Boral Australia representatives our working together to achieve a full and independent EIS for you and the community.

Given that the matter is of current concern to the community, a concern which your spokesperson acknowledged, and as a result is topical and pressing, we would appreciate a response to this letter by 10 February 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Will Chyra
Chair

Mobile: 0419 633 191