

The Department recognises that the proposal would permanently alter the landscape of the site from low lying agricultural land to a largely aquatic landscape. This alteration would obviously sterilise the historical agricultural landuse of the site, however the Department and the DPI are satisfied that this loss is not significant and is justified given the significance of the sand resource.

Importantly, the proposal would provide economic and social benefits for the region by guaranteeing a local supply of fine construction sand for the Tweed Shire and the North Coast, as well as providing continued direct employment for 10 people.

On balance, the Department believes the benefits of the proposal outweigh its potential costs, and consequently believes it is in the public interest and should be approved, subject to conditions.

8. RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Minister:

- consider the findings and recommendations of this report;
- form the opinion that the development is of a kind that is described in schedule 1 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (State Significant Development) 2005*, and is therefore State significant development;
- approve the DA under section 80 of the EP&A Act, subject to the conditions set out in the attached instrument of consent; and
- sign the attached instrument of consent (Appendix A).


Mike Young
Manager
Mining & Extractive Industries
26/7/06


Chris Wilson
Executive Director
Major Projects Assessments
29.7.06


21/7/06