

Attachment A

1. Biodiversity

DPE considers that the Biodiversity Assessment Report (BAR) lacks sufficient detail. In particular, the Department requests further information with respect to the following matters:

- a. The BAR must include a separate chapter which addresses each of the specific requirements outlined by the Commonwealth Department of Environment in Attachment 1 of DPE's letter dated 12 February 2016.
- b. The BAR must include a more detailed Biodiversity Offset Strategy, which conforms to the minimum standards specified in the *Framework for Biodiversity Assessment, NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects*, and addresses the issues raised by OEH in its submission.

2. Traffic

The Department considers that the EA does not adequately address the relationship between the Haerses Road and Old Northern Road sites, and the potential traffic impacts of the proposed modification. Your attention is drawn to condition 3.30 of the development consent for the Old Northern Road Quarry (DA 250-09-01), which states that the combined daily truck movements at that site shall not exceed 180. This includes up to 28 inbound trucks from the Haerses Road Quarry. The proposed modification would allow 100 percent of outbound trucks from the Haerses Road site to travel direct to market.

Without incoming product from the Haerses Road site, the Old Northern Quarry could then increase truck movements to and from the site, without any modification to the development consent, and without any assessment of the associated traffic impacts within the locality. The Department considers that this issue may be addressed by modifying DA 250-09-01. However, any such application would best be assessed in conjunction with the present modification application. DPE requests your response regarding this matter.

3. Visual Impacts

Section 6.9.2 of the EA states that the visual impacts of the extended extraction area would be mitigated, to some extent, by a combination of earth bunds and/or acoustic fencing. However, no consideration is given to the visual impact of these structures themselves, which the Department notes would be up to seven metres in height. Given the scale of the proposed works and the topography of the site relative to nearby receivers, DPE requests a more detailed visual assessment, including photomontages.

4. Noise

Table 6.14 of the Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) indicates that the predicted L_{Aeq} (15 minute) daytime noise level for Receiver 1 during early extraction of Cell 4 is 41 dB(A). This result appears incongruous when compared with the other predictions for Receiver 1, and this apparent exceedance is not discussed elsewhere within the NIA. DPE requests further information or clarification on this matter, in addition to the other issues raised by the EPA in its submission.

5. Agency and public submissions

DPE requests the RTS consider and respond to all agency and public submissions received, including advice presented and recommendations made therein.