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Dear Sarah

**Wallerawang Quarry – MOD 1
Environmental Assessment Exhibition - Adequacy**

I refer to your email dated 25 May 2017 inviting the Division of Resources & Geoscience (the Division) to provide comments on the Wallerawang Quarry – MOD 1 Project (the Project) Environmental Assessment (EA) submitted by Walker Quarries Pty Ltd (the Proponent).

The Division has reviewed the adequacy of information supplied relation to the abovementioned Project and provides the following advice:

The Division advises that the EA requirements for rehabilitation have not been adequately addressed in the Project EA dated May 2017.

Additional information is required to demonstrate that sustainable rehabilitation outcomes can be achieved as a result of the project.

The required additional information is as follows.

Post Mining Landuse

- i. Assessment of post mining land use options and justification for the selected option needs to be provided, including justification for retaining the access road which was proposed to be removed in the 2001 Environmental Impact Statement – Indicative SEARs (mining) (2015) (a)(b).

Rehabilitation Methodology

- ii. Details of rehabilitation scheduling are to be included – Indicative SEARs (mining) (2015) (f).

Monitoring and Research

- iii. Details of Monitoring programs, the process for triggering intervention and adaptive management measures, and detail of any rehabilitation research or trials, need to be provided – Indicative SEARs (mining) (2015) (h)(i)(j). Also see paragraph under 'Further Rehabilitation Comments' in reference to the Mining Operations Plan (MOP).

Post Closure Maintenance

- iv. A description of how post-rehabilitation areas will be actively managed and maintained in accordance with the intended land use(s) in order to demonstrate progress towards meeting the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria in a timely manner, needs to be provided – Indicative SEARs (mining) (2015) (k).

Barrier or limitations to effective rehabilitation

- v. A review of aspects of the site or operations which may present barriers, limitations or risks to effective rehabilitation needs to be included. Also additional detail about the rehabilitation strategy to meet the target vegetation community(s) should be included, including methods of seeding/planting and species mix. Justification should be provided for the use of slopes up to 25 degrees (Table 14 of the EA) – Indicative SEARs (mining) (2015) (l)(o)(p).

Further Rehabilitation Comments

It is noted that within Appendix 1 of the EA is an “Approved Final Landform” from the MOP. It should be noted that the MOP must be consistent with the Development Consent, and therefore the MOP approved final landform should in no way influence the final landform approved in the Development Consent.

It is appropriate for references to the content of the current MOP to be removed from the EA and the relevant information added directly to the EA. Ideally, the proponent would prepare and provide a checklist outlining how each of the Indicative SEARs (mining) (2015) have been addressed in the EA, or why they are not applicable.

It is noted that Section 5.4 of the EA currently refers to Caloma open cut. This needs to be modified.

Resource Sterilisation

There are no resource sterilisation issues highlighted in the EA in regard to the proposed placement of the Western and Eastern Stockpile Extension Areas. Should there be a requirement to establish biodiversity offset areas (if the proposed modification is approved) the Division requests that consideration be given to potential resource sterilisation when selecting future offset areas.

Condition of Consent

As requested by the Division at the EA requirements stage, a condition of the modified development consent should be the provision of annual production data to the Division, including tonnages for each size fraction of aggregates produced. The statistical data collected is of great value to Government and industry in planning and resource management, particularly as a basis for analysing trends in production and for estimating future demand for particular commodities or in particular regions. Production data for individual operations is kept strictly confidential.

Should you have any enquires regarding this matter please contact:
Adam Banister, Acting Senior Advisory Officer - Royalties & Advisory Services on (02) 4931 6439.

Yours sincerely



Adam W. Banister
A/Senior Advisory Officer
15 June 2017

for
Zane West
Manager Royalties & Advisory Services