

Oberon Quarries SSD_6333 Modification 3 Response to Submissions



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OBERON QUARRIES MODIFICATION 3 - RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

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Executive Summary

Oberon Quarries Pty Ltd (Oberon Quarries) operates a hard rock quarry which is located on Racecourse Hill approximately 4 kilometres (km) south of Oberon NSW. In 1994 when the quarry was first approved, it was estimated that there were approximately 12.7 million tonnes (Mt) of high-quality hard rock resource within the approved extraction area.

Earthworks to establish the quarry and associated infrastructure commenced in 1994, with commercial quarrying operations including drilling, blasting, crushing, processing and delivery commencing in 1995.

In 2015, Oberon Quarries was granted SSD-6333 which extended the life of the quarry to 2045 and provided for increased truck movements and for an annual maximum production level of 400,000 tonnes per annum (tpa).

In April 2026, Oberon Quarries sought a modification (MOD-3) to extend the approved extraction area by 0.9 ha. Apart from the 0.9 ha extension, which is located within the Project Area approved under SSD-6333, the modification does not seek to change any other aspect of the approved quarry operations.

1.0 Introduction

Oberon Quarries Pty Ltd (Oberon Quarries) operates a hard rock quarry under SSD-6333. The quarry is located on Racecourse Hill approximately 4 km south of Oberon NSW (see **Figure 1**) and currently employs approximately 35 staff and 10 contract truck drivers.

The quarry has a good environmental track record having operated since 1995 without any significant environmental incidents or complaints.

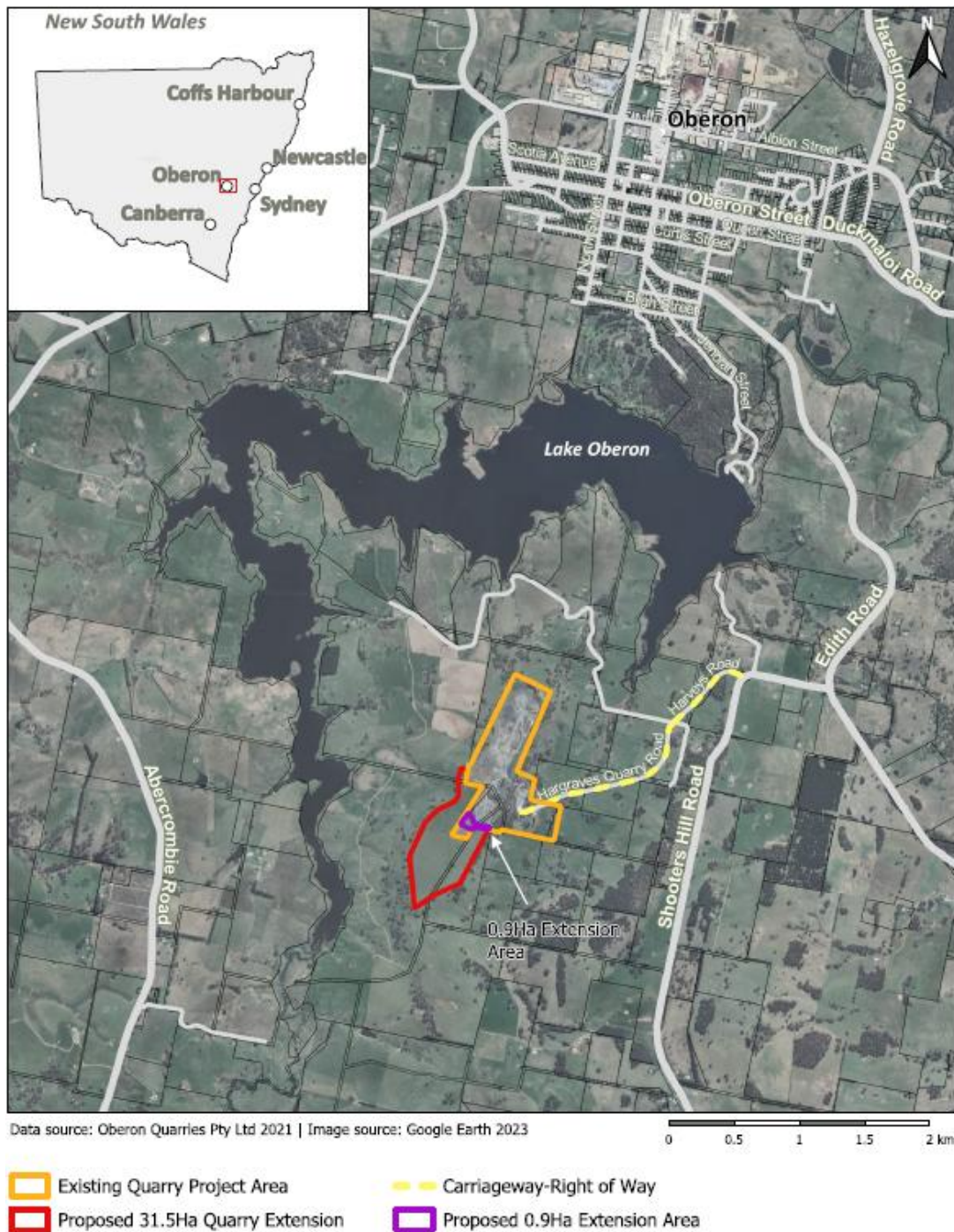


Figure 1 - Locality Plan

The 0.9 ha extension area will provide access to approximately 400,000 tonnes of hard rock resource that is not impacted by wet weather conditions. Remaining hard rock resource within the currently approved extraction area is either located in low-lying sections of the quarry floor that are subject to water ponding or contains high proportions of highly weathered breccia that become unworkable when wet.

Oberon Quarries is seeking the modification to enable continued access to high quality hard rock resources while an EIS for the proposed 31.5 ha extension to the quarry (see **Figure 1**) is being finalised and the application determined.

No other changes to quarry operations are being sought as part of MOD-3.

2.0 Analysis of Submissions

2.1 Submissions Register

Written responses to Oberon Quarries MOD 3 were received from:

- WaterNSW
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
 - Water Assessments
 - Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR)
 - Heritage NSW

Oberon Council contacted the Department by phone in regard to MOD 3.

No other submissions were received.

2.2 Response to Submissions

2.2.1 WaterNSW

Water reviewed the modification document and has indicated that it has no requirements

2.2.2 NSW EPA

NSW EPA has reviewed the modification report and notes crushing, processing and haulage operations will not change from those of existing operation and there will be no changes to the environmental impacts from the extension. The EPA has no further comments.

2.2.3 DCCEEW – Water Assessments

DCCEEW requests more information in regard to aquifer interference and an update of the Water Management Plan.

It has been long established and accepted that the groundwater aquifer at the site is associated with Tertiary sediments that are located below the basalt deposit at an elevation of approximately 1120 mAHD and are not disturbed by quarry operations. All water captured within the quarry water management system is surface runoff. No groundwater is used in quarry operations as has been the case since the quarry commenced operations in 1995. As a result, there is no aquifer interference.

DCCEEW also requests that the Water Management Plan be updated. This will be undertaken post approval to reflect the 0.9 ha increase in extraction area if and when the modification is approved.

2.2.4 DCCEEW - Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR)

Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR) reviewed the modification and provided the following comments:

"We understand the modification proposes to expand the quarry by 0.9 ha in an area of non-native, improved pasture, and based on the information provided, we are satisfied the proposed modification would not increase the impacts of the development on biodiversity values."

Based on this, it is considered that no further response is required.

2.2.5 DCCEEW - Heritage NSW

Heritage NSW reviewed the modification and provided the following summary:

"it is considered that the proposed minor extension would not give rise to additional Aboriginal heritage impacts beyond those already assessed for the approved project. Heritage NSW has no comments on the proposal."

2.2.6 Oberon Council

No written submission was received from Oberon Council, however in consultation with the Department Council noted a concern about the potential for overburden from the modification to be transported offsite without appropriate compensation for impact to the road network. Specifically, Council requested:

"confirmation as to how overburden is to be used on the site or if it or any part of it is to be removed."

In regard to Oberon Council's questions, no overburden from the proposed 0.9 ha extension area will be transported off site (i.e. outside of the approved Project Area) and as such there will be no impact to the road network.

3.0 Other Submission Response Matters

3.1 Actions taken since exhibition of MOD-3.

The proposed modification was discussed at the Community Consultative Meeting on 3 March 2026 and no comments or objects were raised.

No actions have been taken since exhibition of MOD-3.

3.2 Updated mitigation measures

On approval of MOD-3, should it be granted, the Water Management Plan will be updated to reflect the change in the catchment area of the quarry's water management system.

All other activities will be undertaken in accordance with current approval and mitigation measures which do not require to be updated for the proposed modification.

3.3 Supporting information

No additional engagement or technical reports were required in response to the submissions received.

4.0 Conclusion

Submissions received have raised no issues requiring further assessment.

Assessment of the proposed modification indicates that the proposal can be undertaken with negligible impact on biodiversity and without significant impact on the environment as a whole.

Accordingly, the proposed modification does not substantially change the development from that approved in 2015 under SSD_6333 and can be undertaken with minimal environmental impact.

5.0 References

Anditi, 2023 (a) – Oberon Annual Review 2022 - 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023

Anditi 2023 (b) – Oberon Quarries Modification April 2023

Anditi, 2024 (a) – Oberon Annual Review 2023 - 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Anditi 2025 (a) - Oberon Annual Review 2024 - 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Anditi 2026 (a) - Oberon Annual Review 2025 - 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

DPIE 2019, *Population Projections*, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Population-projections>

DPIE, 2021. *Major Projects*, <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>. NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

EPA, 2001. *OEHS 'Approved methods for the sampling and analysis of air pollutants in NSW'* which refers to Australian Standard AS 2923 -1987 (Guide for measurement of horizontal wind for air quality applications)

EPA, 2017. *Noise Policy for Industry*. NSW Environment Protection Authority

Resource Planning Pty Limited, 1992. Environmental Impacts Statement for Hard Rock Quarry 'Langly Heights' Oberon NSW

R W Corkery & Co Pty Limited, 2022. Oberon Quarry Annual Review 2021 for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

Standards Australia, AS 2187.2-2006 – *Storage and Use – Use of Explosives*

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited, 2015. Proposed Extended Life of Operations and Development Changes to Oberon Quarry, Environmental Impact Statement, Report prepared for Oberon Quarries Pty Limited

Umwelt (Australia) Pty Limited, 2016. Environmental Management Strategy. Report prepared for Oberon Quarries Pty Limited.

