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Dear Ms Pignone

**Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project (SSD-7293)  
Request for Submissions Report**

The public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project (Project) concluded on 11 December 2019.

The Department received over 250 submissions from community members and advice from 7 government agencies, including Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. The majority of these submissions were in the form of objections, with one submission received in support and a further 12 submissions providing comment on the Project. The submissions can be viewed on the Department's website at [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects)

The Department is expecting further advice from the Rural Fire Service and the Water Group within the Department. The Department will make any further agency advice and supplementary comments available to you as soon as possible once they are received.

The Planning Secretary requests that you prepare and submit a Submissions Report in accordance with clause 85A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Regulation). The Submissions Report should detail your responses to all issues raised in submissions and agency advice. I note that a number of submissions raised detailed and material concerns and warrant a considered and detailed response. In particular, the Department requests that you consider the matters outlined in **Attachment A**.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Melissa Anderson, on the details above.

Yours sincerely

19/12/2019

Matthew Sprott

**Director**

**Resource Assessments**

as delegate for the Planning Secretary

Enclosed: **Attachment A**

## Attachment A

### Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project (SSD 7293)

#### Request for a Submissions Report

Key Issue	Comments
Scope and adequacy of information within the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are several instances where inadequate information about the proposal has been provided or the information in the EIS is inconsistent, making it difficult for the Department and agencies to accurately assess the proposal and its impacts. Of particular note, please clarify the following matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIS section 3.3.1 -The total resource is calculated on current quarry footprint only, to the proposed depth of RL -40 m, at approximately 3.22 million tonnes (Mt). However, the development application seeks to extract up to 750,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) for 30 years which equates to a maximum total resource of 22.5 Mt. Your response must contain an accurate figure of the total resource to which the development application applies.</li> <li>• EIS section 17 – Quarry Closure and Rehabilitation – Conceptual final landform and rehabilitation figures must be provided, suitable for inclusion as an appendix to any proposed conditions of consent. These figures must show the areas proposed to be rehabilitated to native vegetation, timing of areas of progressive rehabilitation, the size and location of any final void and any other relevant features that the company is proposing for the site at the completion of quarrying.</li> <li>• EIS – page 39 indicates that the bitumen plant is coal fired, but page 40 shows it being gas fired. Please clarify this discrepancy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Several community submissions, particularly those representing the interests of proposed subdivisions in the Sancrox area, have challenged statements within the EIS regarding the scarcity of hard rock quarry resources within the vicinity of Port Macquarie. Please provide further details on the availability of hard rock resources in the Port Macquarie area and why Hanson considers the proposed quarry expansion is needed and justified.</li> </ol>
Planning Issues / Compatibility of land uses	<p>Several community submissions raised concerns about potential adverse impacts of the proposed quarry expansion on approved or proposed residential developments occurring adjacent to, and on land surrounding, the quarry. Please provide details on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Where the proposed/approved residential areas of Le Clos Verdun, Le Clos Sancrox, Thrumster, Fernbank Road and Riverpark Sancrox would occur in relation to the existing and proposed quarry expansion areas. Please provide a suitable figure containing this and any other relevant information about potential residential areas in the vicinity of the quarry.</li> <li>4. Have the proposed/approved residences been considered as residential receivers for noise and air quality impact assessment purposes?</li> <li>5. Are any noise or air quality mitigation measures proposed for these approved/proposed residences?</li> <li>6. The company's consideration of the strategic planning work associated with the Port Macquarie Hasting Council's (Council's) Fernbank Creek and Sancrox Planning Investigation Area.</li> <li>7. The justification for the need to operate 24 hours, 7 days a week.</li> </ol>
Noise	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. The Environment Protection Agency's (EPA's) submission has identified departures from the Industrial Noise Policy (INP) procedures including in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collection of background noise data,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of noise data collected under excluded meteorological conditions of high winds;</li> <li>• lack of attended monitoring during Evening and Night periods;</li> <li>• collection of noise data free of any contribution from existing operations;</li> <li>• demonstration that the more stringent of the intrusive or amenity criterion has been applied;</li> <li>• validation of the noise model to demonstrate that its predictions are reasonably accurate; and</li> <li>• justification of the assumed sound power levels for mobile equipment use in noise modelling for the proposal.</li> </ul> <p>9. The Department strongly supports the EPA's request that details be provided of how noise mitigation measures will be achieved and implemented, and which items of equipment can meet their sound power level requirements.</p> <p>10. Please provide an assessment of the noise impacts that will be generated during the construction of the proposed noise mitigation bunds.</p>
Air Quality	<p>11. The EPA submission has identified instances where the Approved Methods for air quality impact assessment have not been followed and where the analysis in the Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) has not been as detailed as required. These matters must be addressed in your Submissions Report.</p> <p>12. Importantly, the EPA has requested revised modelling be undertaken which incorporates additional control strategies to achieve compliance with the EPA criteria at all sensitive receivers. The Department supports this requirement. The additional modelling must be provided in your Submissions Report.</p> <p>13. Please ensure all nine matters listed by the EPA for air quality are addressed in your Submissions Report.</p> <p>14. Please ensure that your Submissions Report indicates how the operation of the quarry will be managed to address the air quality mitigation measures set out in Council's submission.</p>
Biodiversity and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	<p>15. The DPIE Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) submission contains ten recommendations, which are supported by the Department. Please ensure that your Submissions Report addresses all ten recommendations, including BCD's proposal to amend the development footprint to avoid impacts to and preserve the Aboriginal scar tree located on the site.</p> <p>16. Please reassess the likely impacts of the proposal on the sub-regional habitat corridor (identified to be significant for the local Koala population) that runs through the site and the biodiversity matters identified in Council's submission.</p> <p>17. Please respond to Council's concerns that the ecological surveys were not sufficiently comprehensive.</p>
Heritage	<p>18. The NSW Heritage Council identified the presence of a grave site registered by the National Trust in the Sancrox area as part of its advice for the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Project's EIS. This matter has not been sufficiently addressed and you are requested to address this in your Submissions Report.</p>
Blasting Impacts	<p>19. Several community submissions have raised concerns about the management of flyrock and vibration from proposed blasting activities. Please provide further consideration of impact zones, road closure procedures and predicted impacts on local residences, industrial lands, the Pacific Motorway and the winery to the east of the Motorway.</p>
Traffic & Transport	<p>20. Please ensure that you carefully consider and respond to the EPA's request for additional information in order to correctly assess the road traffic noise impacts of the proposal. The EPA's submission has identified inconsistencies between</p>

	<p>information in the noise report and the EIS in respect to whether trucking is proposed for Shoulder and Night periods. Assumptions of the noise generated by existing traffic must be justified in your Submissions Report.</p> <p>21. Please respond to Council's request for a per tonne monetary contribution for damage to local roads attributable to haulage of quarry product by heavy vehicles.</p>
Water Impacts	<p>22. Please provide information on the volume of water that will be required to suppress dust on the overburden stockpile in the site's water balance.</p> <p>23. Please consider and respond to the concerns contained in the submission from Expressway Spares regarding stormwater drainage from the site and its effects on adjoining landowners.</p>
Soil Properties	<p>24. Please respond to the EPA's concern over the proposal to undertake development activities within the very strongly acidic Euroka Soil Landscape.</p>
Social Impacts	<p>25. Please ensure that you carefully consider and respond to the potential social impacts of the proposal in accordance with the Department's Social Impact Assessment Guideline.</p>