

COLLECTOR RESOURCES PTY LIMITED

ABN: 11 619 710 155

Barina Quarry Modification 3 (DA 1-01-2001-Mod-3)

Submissions Report



December 2025



Declaration

Proposed Development	Barin Quarry
Name of Applicant	Collector Resources Pty Limited
Address	2692 Collector Road COLLECTOR NSW 2581
Property Description	Lot 3 DP1177623, Lot 33 DP750008 and Lot A DP86342
Description of the Development	Recommencement and continuation of quarry operations, extension to quarry stockpile areas, importation of clean fill for stockpile construction, repurposing of overburden emplacement, incorporation of a washing circuit to produce manufactured sand and fine aggregate products from crushing by-products (<5mm) and refinement to on-site infrastructure and transport operations.
Landowner	Northam Park Pastoral Company Pty Ltd
Landowner Consent Obtained	Yes
Integrated Approval Requirements	Yes
<i>I, Alex Irwin, certify that I have prepared this Submissions Report. The assessment is based on information obtained through site inspection, supplied by the Applicant or obtained from other consultants. To the best of my knowledge this assessment:</i> <i>a. has been prepared has been prepared pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment 1979 and Clause 24 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021</i> <i>b. has been prepared with reference to the relevant provisions of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021, State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021, State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021</i> <i>c. contains all information relevant to the environmental assessment of the proposed development, and</i> <i>d. does not include any information which is either false or misleading.</i>	
Signed:	
Date:	9 December 2025



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Form
AQGHGA	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment
AQIA	Air Quality Impact Assessment
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ACHAR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report
AHIMS	Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System
BAM	Biodiversity Assessment Method
BAM-C	Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
BVMP	Blast and Vibration Management Plan
CES	Community Engagement Strategy
CHPR	Conservation Programs and Heritage Regulation
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EMS	Environmental Management Strategy
ENM	Excavated Natural Material
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPL	Environment Protection Licence
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
IEM	Irwin Environmental Management Pty Limited
LOS	Level of Service
MAC	Muller Acoustic Consultants
MIC	Maximum Instantaneous Charge
NPfI	Noise Policy for Industry
NVIA	Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
NSW WQO	NSW Water Quality Objectives
PM ₁₀	Particulate Matter less than 10 microns
PM _{2.5}	Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns
PM ₁	Particulate Matter less than 1 micron
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Parties
RCS	Respirable Crystalline Silica
RNP	Road Noise Policy



Acronym	Full Form
SAIL	Serious and Irreversible Impacts
SEED	Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data
SISD	Safe Intersection Sight Distance
SWIA	Surface Water Impact Assessment
SWL	Sound Power Level
SWMP	Soil and Water Management Plan
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
TIA	Traffic Impact Assessment
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TARP	Trigger Action Response Plan
ULSC	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
VENM	Virgin Excavated Natural Material
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement
WBM	Water Balance Model
WAL	Water Access Licence
WMS	Water Management System

UNITS OF MEASURE

Unit	Measure
dBA	Decibels – used to measure sound levels
g/m ² /month	Grams per square metre per month – dust deposition
Ha	Hectares – area measurement
Km	Kilometres – distance
km/hr	Kilometres per hour – speed
M	Metres – length or depth
t	Tonnes – mass
tpa	Tonnes per Annum – rate of production
µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic metre – concentration of air pollutant

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE

A Modification Report for the proposed recommencement and extension to operations at the Barina Quarry (the Quarry), owned and operated by Collector Resources Pty Limited (the Applicant) was placed on public exhibition from 28 August to 18 September 2025. In accordance with a commitment made to the local community in April 2025, notification of the exhibition of the Modification report was provided by email to community members who had provided contact details (22 in total) with an invitation to comment on the Proposed Modification. This Submissions Report has been prepared to address the key issues raised in the submissions received.

At the conclusion of the exhibition period, responses were received from the following government agencies and public authorities.

- Queanbeyan-Palerang Council (QPRC). An initial submission was supplied on 18 September 2025, followed by a more detailed submission on 9 October 2025.
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC). A draft submission was supplied on 30 September 2025, followed by a final submission on 28 October 2025.
- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
- Conservation Programs and Heritage Regulation (CHPR) of the Department of Climate, Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- Heritage NSW of DCCEEW.
- DCCEEW Water Group.
- Transport for NSW (TfNSW).
- New South Wales Resources (NSWR) of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), including the NSW Resources Regulator.
- Fire and Rescue NSW.

29 public submissions were also received. An analysis of these submissions, classifying and categorising the issues raised, is included as **Appendix 1**.

This Submissions Report has been prepared by Irwin Environmental Management Pty Limited (IEM) on behalf of the Applicant to address the key issues raised in the submissions.

1.2 FORMAT

This Submissions Report includes:

- An overview of minor changes made to the Proposed Modification, along with clarification on descriptions (**Section 2**).
- A summary of the actions and additional assessment completed since the exhibition (**Section 3**).
- Analysis of the issues raised in the government agency and public authority submissions (**Section 4**).
- Analysis of the issues raised in public submissions (**Section 5**).
- A review and updated Project Justification (**Section 6**).



2. PROJECT AMENDMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS

2.1 AMENDMENTS

The following amendments to the Proposed Modification have been made.

- The hours of operation for extraction, processing and transport activities will be limited to:
 - 7.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday
 - 7.00am to 1.00pm, Saturday
 - No operations on Sundays and Public Holidays

These restrictions exclude low noise maintenance activities which may be undertaken at any time.

- The Applicant now commits to the installation and operation of two real-time airborne particulate matter monitoring stations. **Figure 6.1 (Modified)** identifies the indicative location of these (refer to **Appendix 2**).
- The Applicant confirms it will provide for vegetation management in the median of the Federal Highway, subject to approval by Transport for NSW.
- The Applicant will now only apply for a single discharge point from the Quarry Site.

2.2 CLARIFICATIONS

The following clarifications are made.

- The additional disturbance associated with the Proposed Modification is as nominated in the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR), namely 4.94 ha for the purpose of:
 - South Stockpile Area: 3.68 ha
 - North Stockpile extension: 0.61 ha
 - Internal roads and Quarry Workshop Area: 0.65 ha
- To remove doubt, the Proposed Modification does not propose any increase to the maximum number of hourly and daily truck movements (20 and 134 respectively). The proposed change is to allow for laden vehicles to travel in both directions.
- The speed zone of the Federal Highway at the intersection with Collector Road is 110 km/hr. The Traffic Impact Assessment has been updated to reflect this correction (refer to **Appendix 3**).

3. SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT

In order to review and respond to the submissions received from local Councils, government agencies and the general public, the following additional assessment and analysis has been completed.

- The Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) has been updated to address comments provide by TfNSW and correct an error in the speed limit zone identified for the Federal Highway. The updated TIA, supplied to TfNSW on 10 October, is provided as **Appendix 3**.
- The Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) has been updated to remove predictions for evening and night-time noise levels. The updated NVIA is provided as **Appendix 5**.
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been updated to reflect comments from Heritage NSW and an email has been sent to RAPs on 17 October 2025 providing an update on the status of the ACHAR. The updated ACHAR is provided as **Appendix 6**.
- A supplementary surface water report has been prepared to address comments made by the NSW EPA, QPRC and NSWWR (refer to **Appendix 7**).
- Pink-tailed Legless Lizard Expert Report (in preparation).
- BDAR review and update (in preparation).

The Pink-tailed Legless Lizard Expert Report and BDAR will be supplied to CPHR once complete.



4. GOVERNMENT AGENCY / PUBLIC AUTHORITY SUBMISSIONS

4.1 QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL

4.1.1 Introduction

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) submitted a preliminary submission dated 18 September 2025, and provided a supplementary submission dated 9 October 2025 which objected to the Proposed Modification.

The preliminary submission provided a number of items for consideration by the DPHI during their assessment, including the heavy vehicle access route, Traffic Impact Assessment, disturbance area change, and Voluntary Planning Agreement / Contributions for Collector Road. These are addressed in **Section 4.1.2**.

The supplementary submission provided a range of comments for consideration during the assessment of the development application in relation to human health / air quality, social impact / community concerns, biodiversity, Traffic Impact Assessment, economic need / market analysis, project scope and planning pathway, water security, and site suitability. These are addressed in **Section 4.1.3**.

4.1.2 Preliminary Submission (Council's Reference – PR.2025.0028 / dated 18 September 2025)

4.1.2.1 Heavy Vehicle Access Route

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The Modification Report, prepared by Irwin Environmental Management, July 2025, notes that the proposed heavy haulage route is to be amended to prevent heavy vehicles (HV) exiting the site to the south. Officers recommend that this is reinforced by way of a condition of consent restricting HV movements to the north, through the most direct route to the Federal Highway.

Response

The Applicant has no objection to a condition to this effect. If conditioned, it is requested that an allowance for delivery of small loads to local customers on Collector Road south of the Quarry entrance is permitted.

4.1.2.2 Access Intersection with Collector Road

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The Modification Report states that there are to be no changes to the existing site access, However, Figure 14 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersection and Crossings,

requires the access to be upgraded to a bitumen seal. Council officers recommend that this requirement be included as a condition of consent.

Response

It is noted that QPRC are likely referring to **Figure 7.14** of *Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections* in the submission.

Photo 4-1 to **Photo 4-6**, taken on 13 August 2024, confirm that the intersection of the site access road and Collector Road retains a bitumen seal.



**Photo 4-1 Collector Road – View from
50 m East of Site Access to
West**



**Photo 4-2 Collector Road – View from
East of Site Access to West**



**Photo 4-3 Collector Road – View
towards Site Entrance**



**Photo 4-4 Collector Road – View of
Deceleration Lane from
Site Access**



**Photo 4-5 Collector Road – View of
Deceleration Lane
approximately 25 m West
of Site Access**



**Photo 4-6 Collector Road – View of
from west towards Site
Access**

As noted in the TIA supporting the Modification Report (an updated version of which is provided as **Appendix 3**), the current form of the site access conforms to the standard design of *Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings: General*.

The TIA conducted an analysis of the suitability of the existing access and determined that the existing treatment is adequate for the Proposed Modification and does not warrant upgrade to a treatment conforming to *Figure 7.14 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections*.

The above notwithstanding, the Applicant commits to further upgrades to the site access, including but not limited to:

- Widening of the bitumen seal on the southern (Tarago bound) side of the road to meet the specification of *Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings: General* (or as otherwise agreed with Council)
- reapplication of a bitumen seal between Collector Road and the Site Access gate (in conformance with *Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings: General*), and
- line marking in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design.

4.1.2.3 Traffic Impact Assessment

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The proposed heavy vehicle movements are not increasing under the modification, however, the number of laden trucks is potentially doubling. The impact of the additional load created by this increase on Council's road needs to be considered when determining the road upgrade and maintenance program.

Although under the purview of Transport for NSW, Council officers note that the application of Design Speed and Safe Intersection Site Distance (SISD) for the assessment of the intersection with the Federal Highway is incorrect. Design speed of 120km/h and relevant SISD for that design speed should be adopted.

Response

The Applicant acknowledges the speed zone of the Federal Highway was incorrectly identified and a design speed of 110 km/hr referenced in the TIA.

This error has been corrected and a revised TIA, responding to this and other comments / requirements of TfNSW (refer to **Section 4.5**), prepared which consider the design speed of 120km/hr.

The TIA confirms sight distance in excess of 700 m is available in both directions. This exceeds the SISD for a 120 km/hr design speed for a 2.5 s reaction time of 341 m.

4.1.2.4 Disturbed Area Change**Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:**

It is not clear in the Modification Report what the total disturbance area will be. There is conflicting disturbance areas observed on page 15, noted as a “minor” increase on page 36 and quantified in terms of additional disturbance on page 45. Additional detail is required to determine the actual change to disturbed area.

In addition, as the proposed truck movements and extraction rates are not intended to increase under the modification, additional information is required to clarify the need for increasing the disturbed area to the extent proposed.

Response

Minor discrepancies to the calculation of new disturbance associated with the Proposed Modification are acknowledged and reflect the iterative approach to site design aimed at avoiding and reducing disturbance to the environment.

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) provides the most accurate analysis of additional disturbance which provides for a maximum increase in disturbance associated with the proposed Modification of 4.94 ha allocated to:

- South Stockpile Area: 3.68 ha
- North Stockpile extension: 0.61 ha
- Internal roads and Quarry Workshop Area: 0.65 ha

The approved disturbance footprint of DA 1-01-2000 is not included in the conditions of consent or the EIS accompanying the application, however, interpretation of the figures presented in the EIS (as presented on *Figure 1.2* of the Modification Report) confirms the existing approved

disturbance area as approximately 20 ha. The Proposed Modification would therefore result in an increase in the maximum disturbance footprint of < 25%.

The requirement for additional stockpiling areas, the main catalyst for the proposed increase in disturbance area, is independent of extraction and production rate. The need for additional stockpiling areas is reflective of the increased diversity in products to be produced and sold, including but not limited to:

- concrete aggregates
- road base of various specifications
- quartzite aggregates for exposed concrete (decorative) applications
- decorative quartzite aggregates (for landscaping)
- washed sand for concrete manufacture
- high silica thermos-resistive sand for renewable energy applications, and
- high grade silica materials for smelting and/or industrial applications.

4.1.2.5 Voluntary Planning Agreement / Contributions

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Preliminary discussion have been undertaken in relation to the proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement with Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC). Council staff acknowledge the difficulties managing multi-party VPAs, however, a formal arrangement is required to ensure QPRC has input into appropriate road design, construction and maintenance regime. The current VPA does not provide this and should not be finalised/form part of a final consent.

To address the above concern, a condition of consent is recommended requiring a formal mechanism to be established or proponent to upgrade or fund the upgrade of Collector Road within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council LGA to a standard, satisfactory to Council, and to require contributions to road maintenance through compliance with Council's relevant extractive industries contributions plan.

Council officers note that requiring an upgrade of Collector Road to a standard suitable for the proposed operations should not be to the exclusion of contributions levied under the relevant extractive industries contribution plan.

Response

The Applicant has been proactive throughout the process with respect to consultation with QPRC (and ULSC). The Applicant engaged with QPRC early in the process (29, 30 October, 5, 12 December 2024) to discuss assessment requirements of Council, as well as the requirements and preferred mechanism for establishing a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to provide for the upgrade and maintenance of Collector Road.



Personnel from QPRC did not identify any specific concerns or requirements for assessment during these discussions.

With respect to the establishment of a VPA, the complexity of a multi-party VPA was raised by QPRC early on and it was identified that the preferred approach would be for a VPA to be established between the Applicant and ULSC (with a separate deed or other arrangement between QPRC and ULSC completed to ensure the requirements of QPRC with respect to road design, construction and maintenance were met). During this consultation (notably a Teams Meeting on 24 March 2025), QPRC confirmed they would liaise with ULSC with respect requirements for the QPRC section of road.

Various queries were made to personnel of QPRC and ULSC through Marach, April and May 2025 with respect to negotiations between the two Councils. In response to various emails regarding the status of this agreement, the following correspondence was received from QPRC in June 2025.

“There is general agreement that Upper Lachlan will be the party that will engage in the VPA with you regarding road upgrade and maintenance.”

Email received from Kylie Coe at 10.13am, Monday 2 June 2025

The Applicant proceeded to draft a VPA for consideration by ULSC with the understanding consultation between ULSC and QPRC would be ongoing

Prior to the drafting of a VPA for consideration by ULSC, the terms of the agreement were discussed with both QPRC and ULSC. Ultimately, the Applicant has made the commitment to fund the upgrade and contribute to the future maintenance of Collector Road between the Quarry and the Federal Highway subject to the following considerations.

- The Applicant would be able to use Collector Road on a restricted basis whilst the road upgrade was complete.
- The Quarry would be the source of road construction materials, as an in-kind contribution, subject to meeting the required road construction specifications.
- Any surplus VENM and ENM would be transferred to the Quarry, in accordance with the modified development consent, for application to land.
- The payment of the ongoing contribution will be offset by the costs incurred to upgrade the road.

On 16 June 2025, a draft VPA was supplied to ULSC with the expectation that QPRC and ULSC would review and confirm or propose amendment to this rate based on application of Council’s contribution plans. This expectation was supported by correspondence from both Councils confirming they were in discussion over the VPA.

“Yes, QPRC have made contact to request a meeting,”

Email received from Hugh Waters (ULSC) at 9.14am, Wednesday 7 May 2025

“We have spoken with QPRC, it is my understanding they would be in contact with you?”

Email received from Hugh Waters (ULSC) at 2.32pm, Tuesday 20 May 2025

“Our teams are currently in contact with QPRC.

Once I have an update I will advise”

Email received from Hugh Waters (ULSC) at 2.32pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025

With reference to the detail presented above, **Table 4.1** reviews the key issues raised with respect to the draft VPA.

Table 4.1 QPRC Comments on the draft VPA

QPRC Comment	Response
... a formal arrangement is required to ensure QPRC has input into appropriate road design, construction and maintenance regime. The current VPA does not provide this and should not be finalised/form part of a final consent	On the basis of correspondence from both Council’s confirming general agreement for the VPA to be with ULSC, the Applicant has proceeded on the basis that matters associated with road design, construction and maintenance regimes was a matter for negotiation and agreement between QPRC and ULSC. The agreed requirement between Council’s would be adopted as part of the final VPA.
Council officers note that requiring an upgrade of Collector Road to a standard suitable for the proposed operations should not be to the exclusion of contributions levied under the relevant extractive industries contribution plan.	On the basis that VPA would be with ULSC, the nominated road maintenance contribution of \$0.1076, derived with reference to ULSC Section 94 Contributions Plan, is considered the relevant contributions plan. Without the proposed upgrade by the Applicant, the cost of upgrading and maintaining Collector Road, which is in poor to moderate condition, would fall solely to the relevant Council’s. It is noted that a pavement survey of Collector Road (refer to <i>Appendix 13</i> of the Modification Report) identified the road pavement and general condition to be in poor condition. While previous quarry operations may have made some contribution to degradation of the pavement surface, the Quarry has not operated since 2008 and has not contributed to deterioration over this time. Noting the above, and given the significant financial outlay by the Applicant to upgrade Council road infrastructure, the offsetting of contributions to maintenance against construction costs is considered fair and reasonable.

The Applicant considers the establishment of a VPA as the best outcome for the Council's given the agreement would be between the Applicant and Councils directly, without the encumbrance of DPHI and a condition of development consent.

However, in light of delays to establishment of a VPA, and in agreement with QPRCs recommendation, the Applicant is comfortable for a condition of consent to be added/amended to reflect the following (in the absence of a VPA being obtained).

1. The Applicant will provide for the upgrade of Collector Road, in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 3: Geometric Design and to the satisfaction of both Council's.
2. The upgrade works are to commence within 6 months of modification of DA 1-01-2000.
3. The works are to be completed 24 months of commencement (unless delays outside of the control of the Applicant occur).
4. Whilst road upgrade works are ongoing, the Applicant may undertake restricted haulage operations, being 70 truck movements per day and 10 truck movements per hour.
5. Following road upgrade, the Applicant will make an ongoing contribution of \$0.1076/t/km as per the ULSC Contributions Plan (with annual review and variation in accordance with the ULSC Contributions Plan).
6. The payment of the ongoing contribution will be offset by costs to upgrade the road.

In the opinion of the IEM, the offer to complete the road upgrade is considered a very reasonable one given there has been minimal contribution made by Council to road maintenance over the last 17 years. The restricted use of the road during upgrade and offsetting of contribution costs are considered very reasonable terms in this context.

4.1.3 Supplementary Submission (Council's Reference – PR.2025.0028 / dated 09 October 2025)

4.1.3.1 Human Health / Air Quality

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The Modification Report presents an apparently optimistic assessment of potential air quality impacts. This is primarily due to the adopted baseline air quality data being from a far more populous area with significant existing industry. The Modification Report notes that the use of this data results in a conservative assessment, however this is contrary to objective data as comparing against a higher baseline than is appropriate results in understating the impacts. It is unclear how this data has been determined to be suitable or what method may have been used to scale the data to a point it could be considered suitably representative of the quarry site and surrounds.

Response

Council has misunderstood the application of the background data to the overall assessment of air quality impacts. The higher background concentration is considered conservative as it provides for higher predictions of airborne and deposited dust concentrations. The query was referred to Airen Consulting for comment who provided the following response.

The “Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW” (the Approved Methods) (EPA, 2022) outlines the methods for assessing air quality impacts including the establishment of background levels. It is accurate that the adopted baseline air quality data is from a more populous area with more significant existing industry. This means that the adopted baseline air quality data will include concentrations that are higher than in the project area. With these assumed higher concentrations, it also means that there will be a smaller margin for the project to demonstrate compliance with the EPA assessment criteria. That is, the adoption of data from a more populous area represents a conservative approach in terms of the project’s allowable contribution to air quality.

Shane Lakmaker, Airen Consulting – 15 October 12.39pm

Notably, compliance with all airborne and deposition criteria was demonstrated in the AQIA.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Further, the application states that the modification would generate additional dust emissions relative to those assessed for the earlier modification application. Emerging studies and advancements in the understanding of the serious adverse health impacts of respirable crystalline silica suggest that the full impact has not yet been recognised. However, it is established that exposure to (RCS) presents a serious risk of irreversible damage to human health. This is recognised in the issuing of new NSW standards for occupational exposure, in 2024. Given new knowledge about the risks that exposure poses, it is reasonable to require monitoring for residences, particularly those closest to the quarry site.

Response

It is reiterated that the modelling for respirable crystalline silica (RCS) was highly conservative as it assumed that 100% of the PM_{2.5} emissions would be RCS. The air quality modelling, undertaken in accordance with the Approved Methods and based on conservative assumptions, demonstrated:

- compliance with the NSW EPA’s interim 24 hours assessment criterion of 24 µg/m³ and annual average criteria of 3 µg/m³ at any private dwelling, and notably
- concentrations, even under these conservative parameters, returned results which were:
 - 12.5% the 24 hours assessment criterion, and
 - < 7% annual average criteria.



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Table 3.5 of the Modification Report (pg. 32) compares what was included in the previous consent and what is proposed under this modification. Council specifically draws attention to Item 7.1 and Item 7.2. These items state that the application seeks to reduce dust deposition monitoring requirements. Not only does this seem to contrast with the intention to expand the disturbed footprint of the quarry, but it signals concern to residents in relation to dust generation and the flow on human health impacts that can result from polluted air and rainwater. It is noted that the Applicant also wishes to drop the use of prescribed controls in favour of an Air Quality Management Plan to be developed for approval by DPHI. However, Council understands that the environmental licencing and compliance for the site and any approved activities should be managed by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (under relevant EPL) and consider that the alternate proposals are not appropriate as they bypass involvement of the correct authorities.

Response

The reduction in the number of dust deposition gauges reflects the fact that three were to be located around the crushing plant to (assumedly) monitor source emission rates. This approach to monitoring dust emissions is not supported by contemporary regulatory requirements.

The placement of four dust gauges, to the north, south, east and west of the Quarry Site, provides for assessment of deposition rates on discharge from the Quarry Site in order to demonstrate EPA criteria are met.

While the AQIA noted the predicted emission levels of the Quarry as not warranting ongoing air quality monitoring, the Applicant commits to the following air quality monitoring (refer also to **Figure 6.1 (Modified)** – refer to **Appendix 2**).

- Deposited Dust. Continuation of monthly monitoring of four dust deposition gauges located on the north, south, east and west boundaries of the Quarry Site.
- Airborne Particulate Matter. Installation and management of two real-time monitoring stations. These would be located near the southwestern and eastern boundaries of the Quarry Site, i.e. between the Quarry operations and the closest residences. Monitoring of smaller particle sizes PM_{2.5} and PM₁ would enable compliance with RCS criteria to be demonstrated.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

With any such project, a proposed long-term operational period heightens the risk that appropriate mitigation measures surrounding the exposure to this dust will not be incorporated into the project. Further, any errors in supporting plans and documents have the possibility to result in recommended mitigation measures that are not suitable and may have accumulating impacts over a 15-year approval period. For example, Appendix 7 to the Modification Report contains the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas assessment which appears to underestimate truck movements by 50% (see section 1.3, dot point 8). If recommendations from this report are derived using incorrect inputs, then Council expects that proposed mitigation measures will fall short of being effective.

Response

The AQIA correctly identifies the truck movements for the Proposed Modification as not increasing from the approved limit of 134 movements / day and 20 movements / hour, with the modification seeking to allow for laden truck movements in both directions.

The above notwithstanding, the author of the AQIA confirms that the number of truck movements is not directly linked to the emission calculations for the assessment. This is because the emission calculations for the assessment used the truck size and material quantities to determine the necessary trips required.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Despite noting community concern, no apparent assessment has been completed as to the possible dust contamination of local residents' rain harvested drinking water supplies.

Response

Quartzite is a compound of silica and oxygen and is not associated with mineralisation with elevated metals content. When ingested (as distinct from inhaled), silica is not harmful.

As such the only contaminant of note is the dust itself. The air quality modelling demonstrates that deposition rates fall well below the EPA's assessment criteria.

It is also noted that if residents are relying on harvested rainwater as a drinking water supply, a first flush system should be in place which removes any dust and organic material before collection.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Based on above matters, Council considers the risk to human health has not been duly addressed and poses too great a risk to consider without further assessment.

Response

The Modification Report and accompanying AQIA have considered and addressed health-related matters associated with air emissions from the Quarry.

An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (AQGHGMP) will be updated to document all controls and monitoring to ensure emissions remain at or below the levels predicted.

4.1.3.2 Social Impact / Community Concerns**Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:**

Despite noting the generally agreed international principles relating to Social Impact Assessments, the Modification Report provides no apparent consideration of the psychological impacts that may be an affectation of the Development's operations. For example, there are

numerous studies demonstrating links between industrial noise and psychological harm, for example, though this appears to not be a consideration.

Such harm mechanisms include:

- *Increased stress levels,*
- *Anxiety and depression,*
- *Interference with cognitive processes,*
- *Impairment of attention, and*
- *Mental impairment.*

Response

The Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment clearly illustrates the Quarry would operate in compliance with noise criteria set in accordance with the EPA's Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI). The NPfI considers the impacts of industrial noise sources with respect to intrusiveness and amenity.

It is also noted that there would be no noise generating operations in the evening or at night.

On the basis that the Quarry would operate in compliance with EPA and DPHI endorsed policy criteria, during the daytime only, the potential for psychological impacts on local residents has not been considered, nor is it considered a reasonable requirement.

The Applicant has communicated in an open and transparent way with the local community in relation to the proposed recommencement of Quarry operations. The Applicant has maintained an open door policy to those with concerns and is committed to continuing this policy to ensure that any issues are identified and addressed as quickly as possible. If residents identify noise as having a detrimental effect on their health, the Applicant will review in consultation with experts and implement additional mitigatory measures where appropriate.

4.1.3.3 Biodiversity

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (included as Appendix 8 to the Modification Report) notes that no entities considered to be at risk of Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII) have been retained in the assessment. Council seeks clarification as to whether such entities exist on the site, and if so, how was it determined that potential impacts need not be retained in the assessment.

Response

The BDAR was completed by an experienced, qualified and Biodiversity Assessment Methodology (BAM) accredited consultancy and personnel. The BDAR has been reviewed and confirmed as compliant with the BAM in relation to consideration of Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII) by

the Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR) of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). **Section 4.4.2** review the submission of CPHR, who are the appropriate regulatory authority for matters relating to biodiversity in NSW.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Further, it is not clear in the Modification Report what the total disturbance area will be due to conflicting information. Whilst this is covered more in Council's preliminary submission, Council seeks to understand the need to increase disturbed area by such a large percentage given that proposed extraction rates are not increasing. These two items appear to be at odds with one another and concern is raised over the necessity of this clearing and the resultant, possibly unnecessary, biodiversity impacts.

Although sections of the project site have been cleared for agricultural use, the site retains areas of relatively high species richness and abundance (Appendix 8). Areas of Southern Tablelands Western Hills Scribbly Gum Forest in good to moderate condition were identified on the site.

Response

The BDAR provides the most accurate analysis of additional disturbance which provides for a maximum increase in disturbance associated with the Proposed Modification of 4.94 ha allocated to:

- South Stockpile Area: 3.68 ha
- North Stockpile extension: 0.61 ha
- Internal roads and Quarry Workshop Area: 0.65 ha

The requirement for additional stockpiling areas, the driver behind the increase in disturbance area, is independent of extraction and production rate. The need for additional stockpiling areas is reflective of the likely increased diversity in products to be produced and sold, including washed sand products.

It is also noted that the majority of the proposed additional disturbance occurs over land which has been previously cleared and modified for agricultural purposes. Only a small proportion of the proposed new disturbance occurs on land identified as in moderate (0.35 ha) or good (1.1 ha) condition. Attention is also drawn to *Section 7* of the BDAR which documents the measures taken to avoid and minimise impacts. In review of the BDAR, CPHR have provide the following statement.

"We are of the opinion that the proposal has demonstrated adherence to the Avoid, Minimise and Offset hierarchy ...".

Allison Treweek, Senior Team Leader Planning, Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation, 11/09/2025



Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

There is a risk of loss of mature Eucalyptus trees along Collector Rd from road widening, as well as a threat to hollow-bearing trees which provide nesting habitat for squirrel gliders, a listed native species identified on the site. The loss of hollow bearing trees is a significant contributing factor in species loss, recognised as a key threatening process in NSW. Other listed species identified on site were four microbat species and the scarlet robin. Quarrying activities will undoubtedly affect threatened and vulnerable wildlife, through noise, vibration and dust impacts, while the expanded activity footprint was assessed as further constraining habitat connectivity.

Response

As noted in Section 7 of the BDAR which documents the measures taken to avoid and minimise impacts, the presence of hollow-bearing trees has been mapped on the Quarry Site and a commitment made to avoid these.

On the basis no new alignment is required for road works, these will not require disturbance to any remnant mature trees within the road reserve.

The BDAR identifies and acknowledges all threatened species which occur on, or have the potential to occur on the Quarry Site. Any impacts associated with Quarry operations on these species have been assessed and accounted for through the calculation of biodiversity credits (either ecosystem or species credits). Council's attention is drawn to CPHR's submission in relation to the Modification Report and BDAR, the relevant excerpt of which is provided below.

"We are of the opinion that the ... BDAR is generally compliant with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) ...".

Allison Treweek, Senior Team Leader Planning, Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation, 11/09/2025

The matters identified as requiring further attention are discussed in **Section 4.4.2**.

4.1.3.4 Traffic Impact Assessment

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

According to the Traffic Impact Assessment (Included as Appendix 11 to the Modification Report), up to 268 heavy vehicle movements will occur daily, with up to 100% of them being fully laden. Travelling during a window of up to 11 hours, six days a week. The typical hourly truck count establishes an average dispatch rate of one fully laden truck every 2-3 minutes. The addition of this rate of fully laden trucks to the Federal Highway through the currently established seagull intersection may result in dangerous conditions for commuters. This is further compounded as the number of heavy vehicles presents a risk to other local road users, particularly during morning and evening commuter periods and during winter when days are shorter and fog more likely.

Further to the consistent community concern in this regard, Council urges the Department to consider any advice from TfNSW which may request consideration of, or implementation of, safety improvements to the Collector Road, Federal Highway intersection, such as the possible extension of the southbound acceleration lane on the Federal Highway.

Response

Council is incorrect with respect to truck movements. The Modification Report and TIA clearly identify that the daily maximum will not increase (from 134 movements per day), with the modification seeking to allow for vehicles to be laden in both directions.

The intersection of Collector Road and the Federal Highway has been assessed and confirmed as suitable for the volume of traffic proposed. TfNSW raise no objections, nor require any further works to the intersection (see below).

*“TfNSW has reviewed the additional information requested and has **no objections** to the proposed modification.*

TfNSW’s primary interest is the impact of the additional movements from the quarry on the Federal Highway and associated connections. Based on the Traffic Impact Assessment provided and Modification report, TfNSW notes there is no increase in vehicles movement beyond the approved one hundred and forty-four (144) movements. Therefore, the traffic volumes are unlikely to significantly impact the operation of the Federal Highway and the associated connections.”

Chris Millet, Manager, Development Services (South Region) Planning, Integration and
Passenger, 3/11/2025

In considering Council’s comment, the Applicant reiterates that the concerns of the community have been heard and the Applicant’s approach to managing these outlined in public forums, to individual community members and in the Modification Report. In summary.

- On the busiest day, the total number of daily truck movements will be capped at 134 per day. This represents an average of 12 truck movements per hour between 7am and 6pm.
- On most days, the number of truck movements would be less (within an average of 60-70 per day).
- The intersections have been assessed as part of a TIA and confirmed as suitable for the type and volume of traffic proposed.
- The Applicant has committed to upgrading, and reconstructing where required, Collector Road which has not been maintained by ULSC and is in poor condition.
- The Applicant will prepare and implement a Traffic Management Plan which will identify all commitments with respect to transport operations. Specific controls for early morning and foggy conditions will be included.
- The Applicant will implement and enforce a Driver Code of Conduct.



The matters raised in public submissions with respect to local roads and traffic are reviewed in **Section 5.2.**

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Further, in relation to possible advice from TfNSW, Council understands that the Applicant is seeking removal of a condition to ensure vegetation in the Federal Highway median, north of the Collector Rd junction, be cleared to provide a minimum sight distance of 500 m for vehicles turning right into Collector Rd. The Applicant's position is that this is the responsibility of Transport for NSW. However, the condition certainly exists because of the impact of additional heavy vehicles using this route to the quarry. This will only be exacerbated if those heavy vehicles are also laden and unable to cross the intersection as quickly or safely. This condition should not be removed unless there is a clear arrangement by which TfNSW would manage the vegetation.

Response

The Applicant only noted the removal of this condition given the vegetation is located within the road easement and operation within this would require a permit or licence from TfNSW.

The Applicant is happy to maintain the vegetation of the median if this is satisfactory to TfNSW.

4.1.3.5 Economic Need / Market Analysis

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

Council raises concern over the completeness of the market analysis included at Appendix 5 to the Modification Report. Whilst the analysis discusses economic benefit, the benefit considered in the project apparently does not assess the degradation of value to the community insofar as unrealised value of future land releases or a direct impact to cumulative property values.

Negative economic impact to Council is also realised through the net reduction in land values, the cost of any future rehabilitation and through degradation of council services and infrastructure.

Council is aware that the existing quarries in or adjacent to the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Government Area are currently under-producing and indicates that re-establishment of operations at the subject facility may not be necessary at this point in time.

The proposal brings very little economic value to the region except for profits for the quarry ownership. Few local jobs will be created, most employees will come from out of the area and the benefit back into the community is extremely limited.

Response

The **Market Analysis** was completed to illustrate the shortage of landfill space for inert natural materials and the opportunity this provides for mutual benefit to the generators of this waste and Collector Resources with a need for fill material to construct functional stockpile areas.

The scope of an environmental impact assessment does not extend to assessment of **land values**. However, any negative impact on land values would be as a result of changes to the biophysical setting, e.g. noise, air quality, water quality, visual impacts and traffic. In each case the Modification Report demonstrates the impact would comply with relevant criteria (air and noise), would be largely imperceptible (water and visual impacts) or mitigated by other commitments (traffic). On this basis, there is no clear basis for the statement relating to a reduction in land values.

Production rates from quarries, like most businesses in subject to market forces (supply / demand). While existing quarries may not be operating at full capacity now to supply construction markets, future growth in construction will result in an equivalent increase in the **demand for materials**.

It is also noted that continuity of supply is important. While current quarry operations may satisfy current demands, new or extended quarries need to be approved and enter the market to maintain this continuity.

Finally, the Barina Quarry produces quartz/silica based aggregates and other products. These are not limited to the more commonly produced sand and aggregates for concrete and road construction, but also include specialty products such as:

- decorative aggregates for exposed concrete surfaces
- thermo-resistivity sand for the renewables industry
- high silica sand for drilling and other uses, and
- high-silica smelting sands.

As discussed in the Modification Report, there is a clear and demonstrated need for both the standard construction and other specialty products of the Barina Quarry.

The Applicant rejects the QPRC statements that:

*“The proposal brings very little **economic value**”, and*

*“**Few local jobs** will be created, most employees will come from out of the area”.*

The recommencement of the Quarry would generate the following stimuli for local / regional economic activity and employment.

- Provide for the upgrade of Collector Road, which has been neglected by local Councils for several decades.
- Provide job opportunities for local residents. The Applicant will preferentially higher local residents than those from outside the area.



- The increased employment at the Quarry would provide a stimulus for local businesses in Collector, e.g. café's, accommodation or ancillary suppliers. Employees would be encouraged to support these businesses.
- The Quarry Site will provide for the placement of inert clean fill materials which otherwise would take up valuable space (at cost to the Council) within landfill.
- The Quarry has also committed to supporting local organizations and projects either through supply of materials, equipment or other contributions.

4.1.3.6 Project Scope and Planning Pathway

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The application asserts that the proposal recommences a land use which started in the mid-1990s, and 'which is consistent with historical and ordinary activities that have previously occurred'. However, the application proposes new activities on the subject land, not simply a recommencement of quarrying operations.

These new activities include:

- *Constructing a washing circuit to manufacture sand and fine aggregates from crushing by-products of quarrying; and*
- *Import of up to 120,000 tonnes p.a. of recovered resource from the construction sector (Appendix 7), for use as onsite engineering fill in addition to blending with quartzite quarried onsite (Appendix 1)*

It is not clear whether the import of this material is intended to continue for the life of the quarry operation, although the Clean Fill Market Analysis (Appendix 5) suggests this is the case. The analysis identifies this activity as an economic opportunity for the quarry based on the estimated remaining life of regional landfills and historic and planned construction activity in the Sydney and Canberra regions.

In Council's view, the proposed new activities combined with the doubling of laden trucks and the significant expansion to disturbed area result in the proposal failing to meet the "substantially the same" threshold required for it to be considered a modification of the existing consent.

The application seeks approval to operate for 15 years but notes that the estimated remaining quartzite resource is 30 years based on the same extraction rate of up to 300,000 tonnes p.a. The available resource implies a high likelihood of the Applicant seeking a further extension to project operations and this should be considered in assessing the adequacy of proposed infrastructure, treatments and mitigation measures to minimise the risk of adverse human and environmental impacts.

Response

The Modification Report is clear with respect to the scope of the Proposed Modification. In consultation with the local community, the Applicant has been equally clear regarding the scope of the proposed modification.

The Proposed Modification is clearly explained as a recommencement of quarry operations as approved and historically undertaken. It includes modifications, which are comprehensively and definitively described, which provide for operations ancillary to the approved Quarry operations. Of the new activities to be undertaken.

- Washing provides an ancillary processing operation of crusher dust and other fine aggregates which otherwise would report as waste to overburden emplacements or require removal from the site to landfill elsewhere.
- The import of clean fill allows for the construction of additional stockpiling space required to ensure sufficient room for the production and storage of the various construction and other specialty products. This activity is not proposed to extend the life of the Quarry, rather to serve a need for the Applicant, construction industry within the region and operators of landfill facilities.
- Blending of clean fill materials with the extracted quartzite would only represent a very small component to processing activities and only included such that this activity may be licensed under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) as Waste Processing (Non-thermal Treatment) if opportunities arise based on the material received. It is considered reasonable to retain in the Project Description, however, the Applicant is comfortable to remove if requested by DPHI.
- Allowing laden truck to return to the Quarry, while not increasing maximum daily and hourly truck movements, would have no direct impact on local traffic (when compared to approved transport operations). Any impact on local roads would be mitigated and offset by the Applicants commitment to upgrade and contribute to ongoing maintenance of Collector Road via a VPA.

Notably, the extraction area, extraction rate and production rate would remain the same as originally approved.

It is acknowledged that the approved resource of the Quarry exceeds that which can be extracted within the proposed 15 year extension. It is considered likely that the future of the Quarry will be reconsidered at some point over the extended term of the development consent, however, this would be subject to the planning requirements of that time (which could prohibit further development). We do not believe Council is in a position to make judgement on the probability of this.



4.1.3.7 Water Security

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

It does not appear that climate change projections have been considered in assessing water security impacts. Given the proposed period of operations and the potential for an ultimate 30-year life of the quarry, it is essential to have regard to anticipated warming, more severe droughts and more intense rainfall events.

The modification report notes that operations would need to be scaled down in the event of low onsite water availability and that a water shortfall would occur in very low rainfall years. In this event, the Applicant proposes applying for a licence to extract groundwater.

This means there could be impacts on surrounding groundwater users that are unknown at this time.

Response

The comment on water security was referred to Engeny Australia Pty Ltd (Engeny) whose full response is included as **Appendix 7**.

Engeny completed an additional Water Balance Model (WBM) scenario to simulate a climate change forecast scenario. Under this scenario, no change to the outcome of the model was forecast under wet and median rainfall conditions. Under simulated dry conditions the predicted shortfall of water increased from 4.9 to 8.1 ML.

The occurrence of a water shortfall, either under existing or climate change conditions, would be managed in the same way and as has been discussed in the SWIA and Modification Report. In summary:

1. Operations will be scaled to match the available water supply while maintaining environmental controls (i.e. dust suppression) as a priority.
2. If ongoing shortfalls are considered likely, the Applicant will investigate the feasibility of extracting groundwater via an appropriately approved and licensed bore to supplement operational demands.
3. If access to groundwater is not obtained, the Applicant would purchase and import water to ensure environmental controls are maintained.

In the event the Applicant considers the sourcing of groundwater to be necessary, the Applicant would undertake the required assessment to confirm the water could be taken without adversely impact on other groundwater users. Application for a Water Supply and Use Approval would be made and a Water Access Licence obtained with sufficient annual entitlement to account for supplementary water use.

4.1.3.8 Site Suitability

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The subject land is zoned RU1 Primary Production under the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2022. While extractive industries are permitted with consent, the zone objectives include the following:

- *To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base*
- *To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands*
- *To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones*
- *To minimise the impact of development on the natural environment*

These objectives need to be considered in determining whether the proposal is suitable for the location, having regard to:

- *additional activities proposed to be undertaken on the site*
- *the proximity of dwellings and farms to the quarry site; and*
- *the risk of groundwater drawdown during periods of very low rainfall which are likely under climate change forecasts during the potential 30 years life of the quarry.*

Response

The Modification Report assesses the impact of the Proposed Modification in sufficient detail to demonstrate the objectives of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2022 would be met. **Table 4.2** reviews each of the four objectives of the RU1 zone and outlines how the Proposed Modification addresses these.

Table 4.2 Queanbeyan-Palerang Local Environmental Plan 2022 Objectives

Objective	Response
▪ To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base	The area of the Quarry Site to be disturbed is mapped as Land and Soil Capability Class 6 land (based on the land and soil capability assessment scheme, OEH, 2012)¹. Class 6 land is identified as having very severe limitations. Removal of < 5 ha of severely limited agricultural land would not impact on this overall objective.

¹ SEED: The Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data in NSW mapping accessed 30/10/2025

Objective	Response
▪ To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands	The proposed disturbance would occur immediately adjacent to approved disturbance areas and does not traverse land with higher agricultural resource value.
▪ To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones	Noise, air and water emissions have been assessed and would comply with relevant criteria so as not to impact on agricultural land to the south and rural residential properties to the east and south east. The proposed extraction would remain above the groundwater table and the Applicant does not propose to draw groundwater for use on the Quarry Site. The Proposed Modification would not have any impact on local drawdown or groundwater availability. The proposed capture and use of surface water would fall within the harvestable right for the landholding. As such, no adverse impact on environmental flows and availability to downstream properties is predicted.
▪ To minimise the impact of development on the natural environment	The Quarry Site is surrounded on three sides by remnant native bushland, with the additional disturbance proposed restricted (largely) to vegetation in poor condition and which has been disturbed previously. Impacts on biodiversity have been assessed in accordance with the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and would be offset in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Scheme.

4.1.3.9 Comments in Summary

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council wrote:

The combined adverse impacts on biodiversity loss, air quality, noise and vibration including heavy vehicle traffic movements and blasting, road user safety and risk to water quality not only outweigh the anticipated project benefits, but are also unacceptable regardless of any possible project benefit.

The Guidelines on State Significant Development (www.dphi.nsw.gov.au) (July 2024) clearly reflect an intention to weigh a range of factors in determining whether a project should proceed and what, if any conditions, should be attached to consent. The guidelines state at Section 1.1: All SSD projects are determined on their merits, having regard to their economic, environmental and social impacts and the principles of ecologically sustainable development.” Based on the concerns and impacts identified above and by the community, Council submits to you that the merit of this proposal is questionable.

The project is inconsistent with the Objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Clauses 1.3 (a) and (b).

Council shares the concerns of residents in the community at Currawang and Collector and consider that this proposal is not in the public interest.

Council requests that a public meeting be facilitated by the DPHI to provide an opportunity for the Community's concerns to be heard directly prior determination of this application.

Response

Section 7 of the Modification Report presents a fair and balanced assessment of the Proposed Modification considering the proposal with reference to:

- the principals of Ecologically Sustainable Development (Section 7.1.1)
- strategic context (Section 7.1.2)
- planning legislation (Section 7.1.3, including the Objects of the EP&A Act – Section 7.1.3.2)
- site suitability (Section 7.2.1)
- need for the project (Section 7.2.3), and
- consequences of not proceeding (Section 7.2.5).

In completing this evaluation and justification, the predicted impacts on the local biophysical and socio-economic setting were appropriately identified. The determining authority can be confident that the potential impacts are well understood, comprehensively assessed and comply with relevant criteria and/or objectives.

The concerns raised by the public, including residents in the community at Currawang and Collector, are itemised and addressed in **Section 5**. It is noted that the matters raised by QPRC reflect the concerns raised in public submissions.

With respect to the request for a public meeting to review the communities concerns, it is noted that the Applicant proactively consulted with the local community, identified their concerns and addressed this in the Modification Report. The concerns raised during consultation have been largely repeated in submissions received and **Section 5** reviews and addresses these.

4.2 UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

4.2.1 Introduction

ULSC submitted a preliminary submission dated 30 September 2025 followed by a supplementary submission dated 28 October 2025.

The submissions of ULSC are very similar to those of QPRC, using the exact same text in many cases.



4.2.2 Upper Lachlan Shire Council Resolution 177/25

Upper Lachlan Shire Council wrote:

In accordance with Council resolution 177/25:

Upper Lachlan Shire Council draws your attention to the supplementary submission made by Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) on 9 October 2025 by the General Manager Rebecca Ryan. Upper Lachlan Shire Council supports the above-mentioned submission and requests that in accordance with the July 2024 Guidelines to State Significant Development, the Department considers the merits of the modification considering both the economic, social and ecologically sustainability of the Proposed Modification.

Council acknowledges the concerns of the residents in the community of Currawang and Collector and requests that the objections made by the Community be duly considered in the assessment of the modification.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council supports the request for a public forum to be held in relation to this Proposed Modification.

Response

Refer to **Section 4.1.3**.

4.2.3 Access Intersection with Collector Road

Upper Lachlan Shire Council wrote:

The Modification Report states that there are to be no changes to the existing site access, However, Figure 14 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersection and Crossings, requires the access to be upgraded to a bitumen seal. Council officers recommend that this requirement be included as a condition of consent.

Response

It is noted that QPRC are likely referring to **Figure 7.14** of *Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections* in the submission.

Photo 4-1 to Photo 4-6 (refer to **Section 4.1.2.2**), illustrate the intersection of the site access road and Collector Road retains a bitumen seal.

As noted in the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) supporting the Modification Report (an updated version of which is provided as **Appendix 3**), the current form of the site access conforms to the standard design of *Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings: General*.

The TIA conducted an analysis of the suitability of the existing access and determined that the existing treatment is adequate for the Proposed Modification and does not warrant upgrade to a

treatment conforming to *Figure 7.14 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections*.

The above notwithstanding, the Applicant commits to further upgrades to the site access, including but not limited to:

- Widening of the bitumen seal on the southern (Tarago bound) side of the road to meet the specification of *Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings: General* (or as otherwise agreed with Council)
- reapplication of a bitumen seal between Collector Road and the Site Access gate (in conformance with *Figure 7.4 of Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4: Intersections and Crossings: General*), and
- line marking in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design.

4.2.4 Disturbed Area Change

Upper Lachlan Shire Council wrote:

It is not clear in the Modification Report what the total disturbance area will be. There is conflicting disturbance areas observed on page 15, noted as a “minor” increase on page 36 and quantified in terms of additional disturbance on page 45. Additional detail is required to determine the actual change to disturbed area. In addition, as the proposed truck movements and extraction rates are not intended to increase under the modification, additional information is required to clarify the need for increasing the disturbed area to the extent proposed.

Response

Minor discrepancies to the calculation of new disturbance associated with the Proposed Modification are acknowledged and reflect the iterative approach to site design aimed at avoiding and reducing disturbance to the environment.

The BDAR (OzArk, 2025) provides the most accurate analysis of additional disturbance which provides for a maximum increase in disturbance associated with the Proposed Modification of 4.94 ha allocated to:

- South Stockpile Area: 3.68 ha
- North Stockpile extension: 0.61 ha
- Internal roads and Quarry Workshop Area: 0.65 ha

The approved disturbance footprint of DA 1-01-2000 is not included in the conditions of consent or the EIS accompanying the application, however, interpretation of the figures presented in the EIS (as presented on *Figure 1.2 of the Modification Report*) confirms the existing approved disturbance area as approximately 20 ha. The Proposed Modification would therefore result in an increase in the maximum disturbance footprint of < 25%.



The requirement for additional stockpiling areas, the main driver behind the increase in disturbance area, is independent of extraction and production rate. The need for additional stockpiling areas is reflective of the increased diversity in products to be produced and sold, including but not limited to:

- concrete aggregates
- road base of various specifications
- quartzite aggregates for exposed concrete (decorative) applications
- decorative quartzite aggregates (for landscaping)
- washed sand for concrete manufacture
- high silica thermo-resistive sand for renewable energy applications, and
- high grade silica materials for smelting and/or industrial applications.

4.2.5 Voluntary Planning Agreement / Contributions

Upper Lachlan Shire Council wrote:

Preliminary discussion have been undertaken in relation to the proposed Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Council (ULSC) and QPRC.

A Voluntary Planning Agreement has been Offered to Council. This Offer will be put to the Councillors on 16 October 2025 to then be placed on Public Exhibition. Following the Exhibition period and Council Resolution, Council Staff will provide an update on the status of the VPA offer.

Despite this, a formal arrangement is required to ensure ULSC has input into appropriate road design, construction and maintenance regime.

To address the above concern, a condition of consent is recommended requiring a formal mechanism to be established or proponent to upgrade or fund the upgrade of Collector Road within the ULSC LGA to a standard, satisfactory to Council, and to require contributions to road maintenance through compliance with Council's relevant extractive industries contributions plan.

Council officers note that requiring an upgrade of Collector Road to a standard suitable for the proposed operations should not be to the exclusion of contributions levied under the relevant extractive industries contribution plan.

Response

The Applicant has been proactive throughout the process with respect to consultation with ULSC (and QPRC). The Applicant engaged with ULSC early in the process to discuss assessment requirements of Council (21 and 31 October and 20 and 27 November 2024), as well as the requirements and preferred mechanism for establishing a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to provide for the upgrade and maintenance of Collector Road.

With respect to the establishment of a VPA, following consultation with QPRC it was identified that the preferred approach would be for a VPA to be established between the Applicant and ULSC (with a separate deed or other arrangement between QPRC and ULSC completed to ensure the requirements of QPRC with respect to road design, construction and maintenance were met). During this early consultation, QPRC confirmed they would liaise with ULSC with respect requirements for the QPRC section of road.

The Applicant proceeded to draft a VPA for consideration by ULSC with the understanding consultation between ULSC and QPRC would be ongoing

Prior to the drafting of a VPA for consideration by ULSC, the terms of the agreement were discussed with both QPRC and ULSC. Ultimately, the Applicant made the commitment to fund the upgrade and contribute to the future maintenance of Collector Road between the Quarry and the Federal Highway subject to the following considerations.

1. The Applicant would be able to use Collector Road on a restricted basis whilst the road upgrade was complete.
2. The Quarry would be the source of road construction materials, as an in-kind contribution, subject to meeting the required road construction specifications.
3. Any surplus VENM and ENM would be transferred to the Quarry, in accordance with the modified development consent, for application to land.
4. The payment of the ongoing contribution will be offset by the costs incurred to upgrade the road.

Various queries were made to personnel of QPRC and ULSC through Marach, April and May 2025 with respect to negotiations between the two Councils.

On 16 June 2025, a draft VPA was supplied to ULSC with the expectation that QPRC and ULSC would review and confirm or propose amendment to this rate based on application of Council's contribution plans. This expectation was supported by correspondence from both Councils confirming they were in discussion over the VPA.

"There is general agreement that Upper Lachlan will be the party that will engage in the VPA with you regarding road upgrade and maintenance."

Email received from Kylie Coe at 10.13am, Monday 2 June 2025

“Yes, QPRC have made contact to request a meeting,”

Email received from Hugh Waters (ULSC) at 9.14am, Wednesday 7 May 2025

“We have spoken with QPRC, it is my understanding they would be in contact with you?”

Email received from Hugh Waters (ULSC) at 2.32pm, Tuesday 20 May 2025

“Our teams are currently in contact with QPRC.

Once I have an update I will advise”

Email received from Hugh Waters (ULSC) at 2.32pm, Tuesday 8 July 2025

With reference to the detail presented above, **Table 4.3** reviews the key issues raised with respect to the draft VPA.

Table 4.3 ULSC Comments on the draft VPA

ULSC Comment	Response
... a formal arrangement is required to ensure ULSC has input into appropriate road design, construction and maintenance regime.	The Applicant has entered into all discussions relating to the VPA requesting the input and requirement of ULSC to road design, construction and maintenance. Notably Clause 7.2.2 of the draft VPA reference works to be completed in accordance with Road Design provided by Council. The draft VPA was supplied to ULSC (on 16 June 2025) for review, comment and input with respect to Council requirements in relation to road design, construction and maintenance regime. To date, no such advice has been provided to the Applicant.
Council officers note that requiring an upgrade of Collector Road to a standard suitable for the proposed operations should not be to the exclusion of contributions levied under the relevant extractive industries contribution plan.	The nominated road maintenance contribution of \$0.1076 is derived with reference to ULSC Section 94 Contributions Plan. With respect to the Applicant’s proposal for road maintenance contributions to be offset by construction costs, the following is noted. ▪ Pavement survey of Collector Road (refer to <i>Appendix 13</i> of the Modification Report) identified the road to be in poor condition. The Quarry has not operated since 2008 and has not contributed to deterioration over this time. ▪ The current burden for Collector Road upgrade and maintenance is held by ULSC. ▪ Given the significant financial outlay by the Applicant to upgrade Council road infrastructure, the offsetting of contributions to maintenance against construction costs is considered fair and reasonable.

The Applicant remains confident of obtaining a VPA. This is considered the best outcome for the Council's as the arrangement is between the Applicant and Councils directly, without the encumbrance of DPHI and a condition of development consent.

However, in light of delays to establishment of a VPA, and in agreement with QPRCs recommendation, the Applicant is comfortable for a condition of consent to be added/amended to reflect the following (in the absence of a VPA being obtained).

1. The Applicant will provide for the upgrade of Collector Road, in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 3: Geometric Design and to the satisfaction of both Council's.
2. The upgrade works are to commence within 6 months of modification of DA 1-01-2000.
3. The works are to be completed 24 months of commencement (unless delays outside of the control of the Applicant occur).
4. Whilst road upgrade works are ongoing, the Applicant may undertake restricted haulage operations, being 70 truck movements per day and 10 truck movements per hour.
5. Following road upgrade, the Applicant will make an ongoing contribution of \$0.1076/t/km as per the ULSC Contributions Plan (with annual review and variation in accordance with the ULSC Contributions Plan).
6. The payment of the ongoing contribution will be offset by costs to upgrade the road.

In the opinion of IEM, the offer to complete the road upgrade is considered a very reasonable one given there has been minimal contribution made by Council to road maintenance over the last 17 years. The restricted use of the road during upgrade and offsetting of contribution costs are considered very reasonable terms in this context.

4.3 NSW EPA

The EPA has reviewed the Modification Report and requested additional information on the following matters.

1. Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
2. Surface Water Management
3. Air quality impact assessment
4. Waste management

These are reviewed and responses provided in the following sections.



4.3.1 Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment

The NSW EPA Wrote:

The EPA requires information that clearly demonstrates how specific PNTL's can be achieved during proposed operational evening work before it can make a decision. The EPA recommends that if the project approval permits operational evening work, a robust Operational Noise Management Plan be developed to demonstrate that the proponent can achieve PNTL's during operational night works.

Response

While the noise modelling illustrated that evening PTNLs could be achieved, the Applicant has chosen to exclude evening works from the proposed operations. The NVIA has been updated to reflect this and is included as **Appendix 5**.

The NSW EPA Wrote:

The EPA recommends that if project approval permits operational night work that the proponent is required to consult with and seek approval from EPA prior to each occasion that night work is proposed.

Response

Collector Resources confirms that night time work will not be undertaken. The NVIA has been updated to reflect this and is included as **Appendix 5**.

4.3.2 Surface Water Management

The requests of the NSW EPA relevant to surface water management were referred to Engeny, author of the Surface Water Impact Assessment completed to support the application to modify DA 1-01-2000. A full copy of Engeny's responses is provided as **Appendix 7**, with a summary supplied below.

The NSW EPA Wrote:

Water security - Section 6.6.5.1 of the Modification Report states that there is a risk of having insufficient water however dust suppression will be prioritised in the case of a water shortage. In order to address this issue, the EPA recommends that a robust Trigger Action Response Management plan be developed that informs the relationship between dust emissions, management controls and ceasing operations.

Response

As discussed in Section 4.2.4 of the SWIA (Appendix 10 of the Modification Report), if there is insufficient water to meet demands, operations will be scaled to match the available water supply while maintaining environmental controls (i.e. dust suppression) as a priority.

The Applicant will include a robust Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) to guide management of water shortages in the Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP) to be developed for the Project, post approval of Mod 3. It is anticipated that the TARP will include:

- trigger levels based on the total inventory stored at the quarry that will be adequate to supply demands over a set forecast period, and
- actions to be taken if the volume stored drops below the trigger levels (such as cessation of crushing and/or sand washing operations) to preserve water for dust suppression.

The NSW EPA Wrote:

Classification of water - Section 6.6.3.2 of the Modification Report states that there are three proposed discharge points on proposed Dam 1, Dam 6 and Dam 9 and outlines consideration of NSW Water Quality Objectives (NSW WQO) Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for fresh and Marine Water Quality (ANZG 2018) and appears to adopt 50mg/L as a total suspended solids discharge criteria. The EPA considers that 50mg/L is not an appropriate discharge criterion as any discharge from the site must protect the NSW WQO and environmental values of the receiving waterway. The EPA considers that quarries can be designed and managed to prevent pollution of waterways. Accordingly, the EPA recommends that the premises be managed to prevent a discharge of sediment laden water to the environment by considering a hierarchical approach to on site water management with procedures clearly captured in a Sediment and erosion control management plan.

The EPA recommends that a detailed water quality objective assessment be undertaken in accordance with the ANZG 2018 prior to consideration of an approved discharge point on the EPL. The EPA does not usually provide licensed water discharge points for a quarry as such developments are expected to be able to operate without polluting the receiving waterway by implementing practical measures to avoid water pollution (for example, utilising sediment basin sizing, reusing water on site, minimising the generation of dirty water).

Response

With respect to the EPA's comment regarding on-site retention of water and prevention of discharge, the Applicant confirms that it will implement measures to retain runoff from disturbed areas and prevent discharge. This would involve the transfer of water to larger storage dams, tanks or in-pit sumps, or increased dust control and/or irrigation.

As noted in the SWIA, discharge from the Quarry would only be undertaken under the following circumstances.

1. Under high rainfall conditions exceeding the 5-day 95th percentile event generating runoff exceeding the minimum capacity requirements of the sediment basins.
2. In a controlled manner, so as to reinstate the required settling volume capacity in sediment basins (as determined in accordance with Managing Urban Stormwater – Soils and Construction Volume (the 'Blue Book') prior to the onset of rainfall that has the



potential to result in uncontrolled discharges, and only after confirmation of water quality meeting criteria.

The Applicant considers the licensing of a discharge point as a responsible management measure allowing for control and regulation of discharge. In acknowledgement of the EPAs comments, the Applicant proposes to reduce the 3 licensed discharged points indicated in the SWIA to a single licensed discharge point.

The Applicant will include a procedure for the hierarchical approach to on-site water management in the SWMP. The procedure will include details of how to monitor and manage water on-site to reduce the frequency and volume of controlled discharged from the proposed licenced discharge points, including:

1. Transfers made in another sediment dam or pit sump with available storage and retained in the water management system to be used to meet operational water demands as a priority.
2. Discharged via the proposed licensed discharge point in accordance with analyte concentration limits specified in EPL 5554.

Section 6.1.1 of the SWIA report presents the proposed analyte concentration limits for pH, TSS and EC for a licenced discharge point (should the Applicant seek approval for a discharge point). With reference to the EPA's comment that 50 mg/L for TSS is not an appropriate discharge criterion, the following is noted.

- The primary pollutant of concern in a sediment basin discharge is TSS. As there is no value for TSS specified in the NSW WQOs, the proposed discharge TSS concentration was established based on guidance in the Blue Book.
- Baseline monitoring commenced in early 2025 and completed on a quarterly basis (refer to **Figure 6.1 (Modified)** – refer to **Appendix 2**), identifies results for TSS sampled upstream of the Quarry at 48 mg/L.

The NSW EPA Wrote:

Operational Water Management - Section 6.6.3.3 of the Modification Report states that in the event of a discharge to Dam 1 the use of flocculants would be used at a proposed licence discharge point. The EPA recommends that a discharge point only be considered after all other avenues for dirty water reuse are exhausted. If any controlled discharges are proposed, a robust NSW WQO assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the ANZG 2018. The EPA has attached its information requirements for assessing the discharge of wastewater that has been flocculated/coagulated in Attachment A.

Response

As noted above, the Applicant is committed to preventing discharge from the Quarry Site and will implement procedures to ensure water collected in sediment basins is transferred and/or used on

site to prevent controlled or uncontrolled (wet weather) discharge from a single licensed discharge point.

If coagulation and/or flocculation is required, gypsum (calcium sulfate) will be used as the first priority chemical to reduce TSS concentrations. Gypsum is widely sold and used for flocculation purposes, carries a low risk of environmental harm (even when overdosed) and is commonly referenced by the NSW EPA in EPLs.

In the event a flocculant other than gypsum is required, the Applicant will provide a robust ecotoxicology assessment undertaken on the proposed coagulants and/or flocculants and specify dosing management measures that demonstrates how the proposed chemical can be utilised for TSS concentration reduction without polluting the receiving waterways.

The NSW EPA Wrote:

Conceptual WMS - Section 6.6.3.1 of the Modification Report outlines that untreated runoff be designed to cater for a 5-day 95th percentile design storm event. The EPA recommends that the proponent design stormwater management to cater for a 1 in 10 year storm event to prevent the pollution of receiving waterways.

Response

The SWIA provides for dam sizing requirements in accordance with the Blue Book. This is considered appropriate given the following.

- No chemical, acidic, organic or metalliferous contaminants are present on the Quarry Site with the primary objective of the proposed dams of the Quarry WMS to capture sediment laden runoff from disturbed areas.
- The Blue Book is the contemporary guideline for management of erosion and sediment control (ESC) in NSW which is often referenced in project approvals and EPLs.

Engeny confirm that sizing the sediment dams for a 5 day 95th percentile and managing the sediment dams using a hierarchical water management approach is appropriate and the 1 in 10-year storm event design is not warranted.

4.3.3 Air Quality Impact Assessment

The NSW EPA Wrote:

Operational Controls, Safeguards and Management Measures. Section 6.3.4 of the Modification Report states that the proponent has developed an Air Quality (Dust) Management Plan (AQMP). The EPA recommends that a robust TARP be developed to support the AQMP and identify a relationship between dust emissions, management controls and stopping work.



Response

Collector Resources has drafted an updated Air Quality (Dust) Management Plan (AQMP) for the Quarry which includes a TARP (refer to **Appendix 9**).

4.3.4 Waste Management

The NSW EPA Wrote:

The EPA recommends that the proponent develop a robust system for accounting for any waste that is brought into the premises. The accounting system should be able to accurately record the volume of waste, type of waste, source of waste and quarry destination location for any waste that is received at the premises.

Response

Section 3.3.4 of the Modification Report outlines the approach to managing the receipt and application of waste materials through:

- Chain of Custody Controls
- Delivery Controls
- Procedures controlling application to land, and
- Documentation and public access commitments.

To provide further detail on the implementation of these controls, Collector Resources will prepare and enforce a Waste Management Plan, which will include the recommended accounting system for waste received and disposed.

4.4 DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

4.4.1 Heritage NSW

Heritage NSW, a division of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE), requested additional information on matters relating to Aboriginal heritage impact and management.

The request for additional information was provided to OzArk Environment & Heritage (OzArk) for review. **Table 4.4** identifies the information requests of Heritage NSW and responses provided by OzArk. An updated Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) accounting for these responses is included as **Appendix 6**.

Table 4.4 Heritage NSW RFI and Responses

Heritage NSW Comment	OzArk Response
1. Heritage NSW notes that the last recorded consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) was in December 2024. Heritage NSW requires that consultation with RAPs is continuous and under our guidelines, breaks in consultation of over six months may not constitute continuous consultation. Please ensure that future consultation is kept continuous throughout the assessment of the application.	OzArk sent an email to RAPs on 17 October 2025 providing an update on the status of the ACHAR. This has been included as Appendix 1 Figure 16 (of the ACHAR).
2. In accordance with the Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines for Proponents 2010 (Consultation Guidelines), please provide all consultation records (including all letters and email correspondence) undertaken for the project. Specifically, please provide evidence that emails/letters have been issued to all RAPs.	A package of all correspondence with the RAPs has been provided.
3. Please append a copy of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) search to the ACHAR.	The AHIMS search has been included as Appendix 3 (of the ACHAR). An updated AHIMS search dated 17 October 2025 has also been included which returned the same number of sites as the initial AHIMS search completed 3 October 2024.

Heritage NSW Comment	OzArk Response
4. Heritage NSW note that the survey tracks shown in Figure 6-1 of the ACHAR do not provide full coverage of the project area. ... In particular, we note that the small secondary project area (situated to the east of the main project boundary), proposed for overburden access was not surveyed. Given the proximity of this area to AHIMS site 51-5-0073 (both AHIMS mapped location and likely correct location), this area should be assessed for potential to contain Aboriginal objects. In consideration of this: a. additional survey is required to cover currently unsurveyed areas. Please update the ACHAR to include additional survey tracks, discussion of additional survey areas and any updates to the predictive model and conclusions.	The landforms present across the study area were comprehensively sampled during the survey in accordance with Requirement 5a of the Code of Practice and therefore no additional survey is warranted. Requirement 5a states sampling must: “include all landforms that will potentially be impacted. Where there is more than one instance of similar or the same landforms that have the potential to be impacted each individual landform must be sampled” (DECCW 2010: 12). Section 6.1 of the ACHAR has been updated to include a figure showing the areas covered based on the number of surveyors present during the survey. The small secondary project area (situated between Pit 2 and the Overburden Emplacement to the east of the main study area) was not subject to survey as the landform is an existing access road which has been subject to high levels of disturbance. All impacts will be restricted to the disturbed land and the Proposed Modification seeks only to incorporate this road into the approved layout of the Quarry.
5. Please update the archaeological assessment to include photographs of the project area, with descriptors of the various identified landforms.	Photos of the landforms across the project area have been included in Section 6.2 of the ACHAR.

4.4.2 Conservation Programs Heritage and Regulation

Conservation Programs Heritage and Regulation (CPHR), a division of DCCEE, noted the proposed development demonstrated adherence to the Avoid, Minimise and Offset hierarchy and that the BDAR is generally compliant with the Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM). CPHR nominated two matters where additional information is required.

- The indicative timing for the commencement of each proposed stage of development.
- Justification for deviation from the requirements of the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection (TBDC) for assessment of *Aprasia prapuchella* (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard) deviates from and is not adequately justified in the BDAR.

The request for additional information was provided to OzArk, author of the BDAR, for review.

Table 4.5 identifies the specific request for further information from CPHR on the above and other minor matters and responses provided by OzArk. An updated BDAR accounting for these responses is in preparation and will be supplied to CPHR once finalised.

Table 4.5 CPHR RFI and Responses

CPHR Comment	OzArk Response																																																																																																																																																																								
Staging of biodiversity offsets																																																																																																																																																																									
The BDAR appropriately identifies the credit class and number for each development stage, and the credit obligation for each stage correlates with its respective biodiversity impacts. However, while the sequencing of the stages has been described, indicative timing has not been identified. CPHR recommends the BDAR be updated to include this information so the quantum and timing of the retirement of the credits, relative to the various stages of development, can be documented as conditions of consent in the instrument of approval.	As noted by CPHR, there is no formal process for setting out a staged development assessment in a BDAR and the Biodiversity Assessment Method Calculator (BAM-C). As noted by CPHR, the calculation of credit class has been completed correctly and this correlates to the biodiversity impact of each stage. Indicative timing for the commencement of the development stages is below. <table><tr><th colspan="2" rowspan="2">Year</th><th colspan="8">Stage</th></tr><tr><th>1a</th><th>1b</th><th>2a</th><th>2b</th><th>2c</th><th>2d</th><th>3a</th><th>3b</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2026</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>2027</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>2028</td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>2029</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>2030</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>2031</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>2032</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>2033</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>2034</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>2035</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>2036</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>2037</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>2038</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>2039</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>2040</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> The Applicant reiterates that actual sequence and timing for disturbance will be subject to a variety of factors and should only be viewed as indicative. The Applicant has designed the development stages with conditioning of disturbance in mind. The Applicant rejects any condition which imposes timing requirements on disturbance and offsetting. This is considered contrary to the objective of the staging of disturbance and offsetting which aims to align future disturbance against development needs, with offsetting undertaken accordingly. This approach also ensures the value applied to offsetting is contemporary, i.e. reflective of supply/demand market forces of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme.	Year		Stage								1a	1b	2a	2b	2c	2d	3a	3b	1	2026	X	X						X	2	2027									3	2028			X						4	2029									5	2030						X			6	2031					X				7	2032									8	2033				X					9	2034									10	2035							X		11	2036									12	2037									13	2038									14	2039									15	2040								
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CPHR Comment	OzArk Response
Assessment of <i>Aprasia parapulchella</i> (Pink-tailed Legless Lizard)	
Rock-turning transect surveys for <i>Aprasia parapulchella</i> were conducted from 4 to 7 November 2024. However, prior to this, on 24 October 2024, the BAM-C and TBDC were updated to recommend that the species be assessed by expert report only, due to the difficulty of detecting it with confidence through survey methods. The BDAR does not provide adequate justification for this deviation from the TBDC. Given the proposed development site is situated within the species' modelled distribution, CPHR has low confidence that the survey effort to date can accurately determine if the species occurs within the subject land. It is recommended that an assessment of <i>Aprasia parapulchella</i> is completed via expert report to demonstrate compliance with the BAM.	The BAM accredited consultant provided an initial response, forwarded to CPHR on 17 November 2025, justifying the reliance on field survey referencing the following. ▪ Advice on the updated requirements of the Threatened Biodiversity Data Collection was only received 10 days prior to field survey (which had already been scheduled for completion). ▪ The field survey was completed by BAM-accredited Assessor (Dr Crystal Graham née Kelehear), who has specific expertise in Herpetology. ▪ The field survey completed in 2024 far exceeded the Threatened Reptiles Biodiversity Assessment Method Survey Guide (DPE, 2022) which were the previous survey requirements. ▪ There is strong evidence for detection of the species under the rock-turning rate completed by the OzArk. The above notwithstanding, the Applicant has subsequently engaged Mr Robert Spiers (Capital Ecology), an accredited expert on Pink-tailed Legless Lizard to determine whether habitat suitable for Pink-tailed Legless Lizard is present. On the basis of the field survey and analysis of the BAM vegetation plots completed for the BDAR, it is the expert's opinion that of habitat suitable for Pink-tailed Legless Lizard is present. Appendix 8 presents the areas mapped as suitable habitat and the BDAR will be updated to reflect the presence of this habitat.

CPHR Comment	OzArk Response
Proposed mitigation measures	
Measures to minimise impacts on hollow-bearing trees (HBTs) should include a clear commitment to demarcate all retained HBTs. Additionally, we note the suggestion of using nest boxes support habitat for <i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> (Squirrel Glider), nest boxes are not considered to be a long-term mitigation measure due to the ongoing maintenance and replacement. CPHR consider alternative to nest boxes such as mounting hollows from the cleared area, or the use of hollow creation devices should also be investigated. We request that the eventual Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) is developed in consultation with CPHR.	The BDAR is currently being re-written to explicitly state a requirement to demarcate retained trees (refer to <i>Table 24</i> of the modified BDAR). These measures also now emphasise methods of hollow creation (Hollowhog) or retention (remounting of existing hollows) ahead of the use of nest boxes. Nest boxes are retained as an option but must be monitored, maintained, and replaced. The Applicant has drafted a Biodiversity Management Plan and will consult with CPHR in the refinement of this.
BAM plot locations do not represent the final development area	
While we acknowledge that the proposed stockpile area has been significantly reduced as part of the project's avoidance measures, and that the plot locations largely fall within the original extent, there appears to be insufficient justification for how the current vegetation zones within the subject land have been delineated. For example, vegetation zones 3747_Acacia and 3747_Moderate do not contain a BAM plot. The assessor may wish to include broader vegetation mapping, derived from the completed set of plots, to support and justify the identification of vegetation zones within the subject land.	Figure 8 in the BDAR has been modified to show the original extent of PCT mapping completed after the initial fieldwork. This mapping gives the locations of each BAM plot. Plot BA08 falls within zone 3747_Acacia and plot BA10 falls within zone 3747_Moderate. These plots have been used to derive offset calculations. In the case of zone 3747_Acacia, patches within the eventual footprint do not easily accommodate BAM plots owing to their size and shape.

CPHR Comment	OzArk Response
Minor technical error in the BDAR	
The area calculations for impacted vegetation zones presented in Table 21 (totalling 5.71 ha) are inconsistent with the spatial data and figures entered into BAM-C, which indicate a total of 4.94 ha.	Area values in Table 21 should now total to 4.94 ha.

4.4.3 Water Group

The Water Group of DCCEE has provided has made has requested some clarification regarding water take and water supply for the project and made recommendations regarding groundwater monitoring and management.

Table 4.6 identifies the recommendations of the Water Group and responses.

Table 4.6 Water Group RFI and Responses

Water Group Comment	Response
1.0 Water supply, take and licensing	
... requests the proponent to clarify the potential for groundwater take in Pits 1 and 2. If groundwater take is to occur, the proponent should quantify the maximum annual volume of water take due to aquifer interference activities and demonstrate the ability to obtain sufficient entitlement unless an exemption applies.	No inflow of groundwater is expected in either Pit 1 or Pit 2. This is supported by groundwater monitoring which, since monitoring was recommenced in November 2024, consistently recorded standing water levels of between 697 and 700 mAHD. The maximum depth of extraction in either pit is 714 mAHD, i.e. between 14 and 17 m above the measured groundwater.

Water Group Comment	Response
... requests the proponent to confirm the requirement for a bore to supplement water supplies for the project. If a bore is required, it is recommended the proponent confirm the proposed yields and quality and complete an impact assessment on the water source and users.	At this time no bore is proposed for water supply purposes. In the event of low rainfall and reduced surface water harvesting, Collector Resources will reduce production to account for reduced water availability. A hierarchy of water4 availability triggers and actions will be documented in a Soil and Water Management Plan to be prepared for the Quarry operations with triggered actions including: ▪ Reduced washing / Cessation of washing ▪ Reduced crushing / Cessation of crushing ▪ Import of water for dust suppression. Collector Resources will investigate the feasibility of extracting groundwater via an appropriately approved and licensed bore to supplement operational demands. If initiated, investigations would be undertaken by a qualified hydrogeologist with assessment of sustainable yield and
... requests the proponent to obtain a water access licence (WAL) to account for the maximum predicted water take unless an exemption applies under the Water Management (General) Regulation 2025.	No water take is proposed. As noted above, the measured water table is between 14 and 17 m below the maximum depth of extraction. In the event the installation of a water bore is initiated, Collector Resources will ensure a WAL and adequate entitlement is obtained.
2.0 Groundwater monitoring and management	
That DPHI requests the proponent to review and update the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan in consultation with NSW DCCEE Water.	Collector Resources agrees to review and update the Soil and Water Management Plan, which will include a Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan in consultation with the Water Group.

4.5 TRANSPORT FOR NSW

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) requested additional information on matters relating to the TIA and Traffic Management Plan (TMP).



Table 4.7 identifies the information requests of TfNSW and responses provided by Pavey Consulting. An updated TIA and TMP accounting for these responses are included as **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4** respectively.

Table 4.7 Transport for NSW RFI and Responses

TfNSW Comment	Response
1. Traffic Impact Assessment	
The TIA should address the following:	
a) Traffic analysis of the current and future (15 year) operational performance of the Federal Highway / Collector Road intersection.	Traffic analysis of the future operational performance of the Federal Highway / Collector Road intersection has been provided at 10 years. On the basis this demonstrates Level of Service A is retained, Pavey Consulting believes this satisfactory to demonstrate the suitability of the intersection for future traffic environments based on the assumed 1 % level of traffic growth.
b) Observational survey of vehicle delays for all turn movements at the Federal Highway / Collector Road intersection should be documented and provided to support the traffic analysis.	Appendix A of the TIA supplies the detailed intersection counts for the Federal Highway / Collector Road intersection. These counts are based on video camera analysis of the intersections and Pavey Consulting considers these as sufficient for the purpose of analysing intersection performance (LOS A).
c) SIDRA intersection analysis that includes the observational survey data to project the future year (2040) scenario.	SIDRA analysis is included as Appendix B (for current and 2035). As noted above, 10 year forecasting of background traffic is considered sufficient for the purpose of analysing intersection performance, especially noting the LOS (A) does not change between existing and existing + 10 years.
Traffic Management Plan	
a) The Traffic Management Plan (TMP) proposed to be prepared by Collector Resources must be submitted to TfNSW for review. The TMP should include a Driver Code of Conduct and expected haulage routes between the site and the classified road network.	The Barina Quarry Traffic Management Plan has been updated to reflect the Proposed Modification. While generally, a TMP is prepared or updated following approval of a development or modification to development, the TMP is provided for TfNSW review.

On 3 November 2025, TfNSW provided a final submission noting no objection to the Proposed Modification.

4.6 NSW RESOURCES

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - NSW Resources (NSWR), provided a response to the Modification Report requesting additional information on matters relating to the proposed extraction of dimension stone. It was subsequently identified that in making an

application for mining lease, the Applicant's titles consultant incorrectly identified dimension stone, as opposed to quartzite, as the mineral to be mined. The Applicant has now resolved the matter with NSWRR who do not require any further information with respect to the mineral resource.

The submission of NSWRR also included a request for additional information from the NSW Resources Regulator in relation to:

- Land Use Rehabilitation Objectives
- Post Mining Landform, and
- Timing of Rehabilitation and Closure.

4.6.1 Land Use Rehabilitation Objectives

The NSW Resources Regulator notes that biodiversity conservation and grazing are identified as being part of the final land uses in *Section 6.9.4.2* of the Modification Report. The NSW Resources Regulator requests further refinement of the rehabilitation objectives.

In responding, it is noted that as per standard mining lease conditions of Division 1 of Schedule 8A of the *Mining Regulation 2016*, rehabilitation outcomes documents are to be prepared and submitted to the Secretary for approval including:

- a) the **rehabilitation objectives statement**, which sets out the rehabilitation objectives required to achieve the final land use for the mining area,
- b) the **rehabilitation completion criteria statement**, which sets out criteria, the completion of which will demonstrate the achievement of the rehabilitation objectives,
- c) for a large mine, the **final landform and rehabilitation plan**, showing a spatial depiction of the final land use.

The additional detail is provided as a pre-cursor to the development of these documents on approval of the modification and issue of mining lease.

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Additional information is required to demonstrate the grazing land use will be effective and functional post-closure, including (but not limited to):
 - Assess the capacity of the final landform to sustain grazing, including the apparent isolation of grazing areas at the base of the Pit 2 void.
 - Outline measures that may be integrated into the final landform to support a functional grazing land use. Issues to address include accessibility to water (e.g. do dams need to be constructed), shelter for domestic stock and whether infrastructure may be required (e.g. fencing etc.) to support sustainable grazing practices.



Response

Following an update to the Water Balance Model by Engeny (Item 6 of **Appendix 7**), the Applicant has re-evaluated the intended final land use of the Pit 2 void. In the event of high rainfall conditions the floor of the Pit 2 Void could be covered by up to 0.8 m of water. The WBM also identified the potential for an accumulation of a lower volume of water under median conditions, however, the Applicant proposes to construct and retain a sump / water storage to collect and store the volume of water predicted to accumulate under media conditions (refer to **Section 4.6.2** for further discussion on the WBM of the final landform complete by Engeny).

Due to the potential for inundation and pooling of water under wet (high rainfall conditions), the primary land use proposed for the pit floor will native grassland with occasional grazing. Under dry and median rainfall conditions, the floor of Pit 2 is anticipated to remain dry, allowing for opportunistic grazing of livestock to manage grass cover in the pit floor, with access via a retained pit ramp. In order to support sustainable grass cover, the Applicant proposes placement of at least 500 mm of subsoil covered by up to 300 mm of topsoil or other growth media to allow for the establishment of root growth. The target groundcover species will be the native grasses associated with PCT 3474 - Southern Tableland Western Hills Scribbly Gum Forest. The retention of a water storage within the Pit 2 Void will provide a watering point for livestock in support of occasional grazing.

In the event of high rainfall conditions the floor of the Pit 2 Void could be covered by up to 0.8 m of water (refer to Item 6 of **Appendix 7**), however, as the water recedes the opportunity for re-establishment of grassland would present.

Access to the Pit 2 Void would be fenced to ensure any grazing is undertaken in a controlled manner.

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Specify the type of vegetation or target vegetation communities to be established within the rehabilitated areas targeted for biodiversity conservation.

Response

Vegetation Type:	Open Woodland
Target Vegetation Community:	PCT 3474 - Southern Tableland Western Hills Scribbly Gum Forest
Key Species:	▪ Tree / canopy: <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>, <i>E. rossii</i>, <i>E. mannifera</i> ▪ Shrub (sub-canopy) (sparse): <i>Hibbertia obtusifolia</i>, <i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>, <i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i> and <i>Acacia gunnii</i> ▪ Groundcover: <i>Rytidosperma pallidum</i>, <i>Lomandra filiformis</i>, <i>Poa sieberiana</i>, <i>Dianella revoluta</i>, <i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i> and <i>Goodenia hederacea</i>

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Provide clarification on the establishment of vegetation and habitat on void walls. Sections 6.9.2.2 and 6.9.4.2 note that void walls have the potential to provide habitat. Further clarification is required how this will be achieved whilst not compromising long term stability post closure (noting the additional information requested regarding long term stability and options assessments for voids below).

Response

The threatened Squirrel Glider and several species of microbats which use fissures in rock walls as roosting and potentially breeding habitat are known to occur on the Quarry Site and in the locality. Fractures which form in the walls of Pit 1 and Pit 2 have the potential to provide additional habitat and the Applicant is cognisant of maximising opportunities for re-establishment of native bat populations in the final landform.

If carefully planned and managed, as benches are formed in the outer perimeter walls of Pit 2, growth media may be left on the final bench which will promote natural regeneration of native species. The Applicant does not intend on applying seed to the final benches, however, by leaving growth media and providing for a shallow slope back towards the face, the natural revegetation of these benches will be promoted which may provide supplementary habitat for local bird and arboreal mammal species.

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Provide consideration of other final land use options that will ensure the sustainability of the rehabilitated landform in the long term.

Response

The Overburden Emplacement, North Stockpile Area, outer batter of the South Stockpile Area and Pit 1 have been assigned biodiversity conservation as a final land use option (refer to **Figure 6.5 (Modified) – Appendix 2**). This is considered a sustainable final land use. As discussed above, careful planning of open cut development will allow for the establishment of native vegetation on the final benches of the Pit 2 Void which will provide habitat for native fauna. Naturally occurring cracks and fissures in the final rock faces will also provide habitat for bat and bird species.

The South Stockpile Area has been assigned an agricultural final land use given it adjoins cleared areas of the property which are periodically grazed. The Pit 2 floor has been re-assigned as combined biodiversity management / agricultural grazing final land use. Agriculture is considered a sustainable final land use with careful consideration given to the choice of these areas for this land use.

Future development options for the final pit voids will be considered should modification be approved. The potential for the voids to be used for the disposal of clean fills like Virgin Excavated Natural Material (VENM) and Excavated Natural Material (ENM) could be considered given the potential shortfall in available landfill space for these materials identified in the Clean Fill Market Analysis (MRA, 2025) appended to the Modification Report (IEM, 2025).



The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- In addition to obtaining the required licenses for dams post mining, include an objective to obtain appropriate licenses the for the final voids as required.

Response

This is addressed in **Section 4.6.2 (Table 4.8)**

4.6.2 Post Mining Landform

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Provide measurable commitments regarding the geotechnical stability of the final voids, such as a specific Factor of Safety that will be achieved. Noting that Section 6.9.2.2 commits to laying back the walls of Pit 1 where practical, there is no trigger specified as to when this will be required.

Response

While subject to future review as part of rehabilitation outcomes document preparation and revision over the life of the Quarry, the following preliminary rehabilitation objectives (**Table 4.8**) are provided with respect to the geotechnical stability of the final voids.

Table 4.8 Preliminary Rehabilitation Objectives

Category	Objective	Preliminary Criteria
Bushfire	The risk of bushfire and impacts to the community, environment and infrastructure has been addressed as part of rehabilitation.	Bushfire Management Plan prepared and implemented
Land contamination	There is no residual soil contamination on site that is incompatible with the final land use or that poses a threat of environmental harm.	Soil sampling and analysis completed prior to closure
Landform stability	Established final landform is safe, geotechnically stable and non-polluting.	Factor of Safety (FoS) of 1.2 – 1.5 confirmed by geotechnical engineer
Revegetation	Establish soil / growing medium suitable for establishment of grassland vegetation community.	Replacement of subsoil with depth of > 500 mm and soil / growth medium with depth > 200 mm
	Maintenance of self-sustaining vegetation communities capable of light intensity grazing.	Ground cover of > 70%
Waste Management	No residual waste material stored within the void.	Final inspection to be completed by independent assessor
Infrastructure	All infrastructure that is not to be used as part of the final land use is removed to ensure the site is safe and free of hazardous materials.	
Surface water	Water quality from mine site is similar to, or better than the pre disturbance runoff water	pH 6.0 – 8.0

	quality.	EC < 1,500 uS/cm
Water approvals	Structures that take or divert water such as final voids, dams, levees etc. are appropriately licensed (e.g. under the Water Management Act 2000) and where required ensure sufficient licence shares are held in the water source(s) to account for water take.	Licences obtained

With respect to timing, this will be nominated in the Forward Programs required for the Quarry following issued of mining lease.

Until sufficient area is created within Pit 2 to allow for safe placement and operation of crushing and washing infrastructure, Pit 1 will be required for these activities. As such, the timing for any layback of the pit walls to achieve the nominated FoS has not been scheduled but is anticipated will be complete within 5 years of recommencement.

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Provide clarification of the potential for a pit lake to develop in Pit 2 void. Whilst groundwater is not predicted to be intercepted, the surface water assessment does not provide enough information on the surface water flows. In particular, whether water management infrastructure such as diversion drains are required in the final landform to prevent inundation (both short and long term) of the Pit 2 void and how this would impact the proposed final land use of grazing.

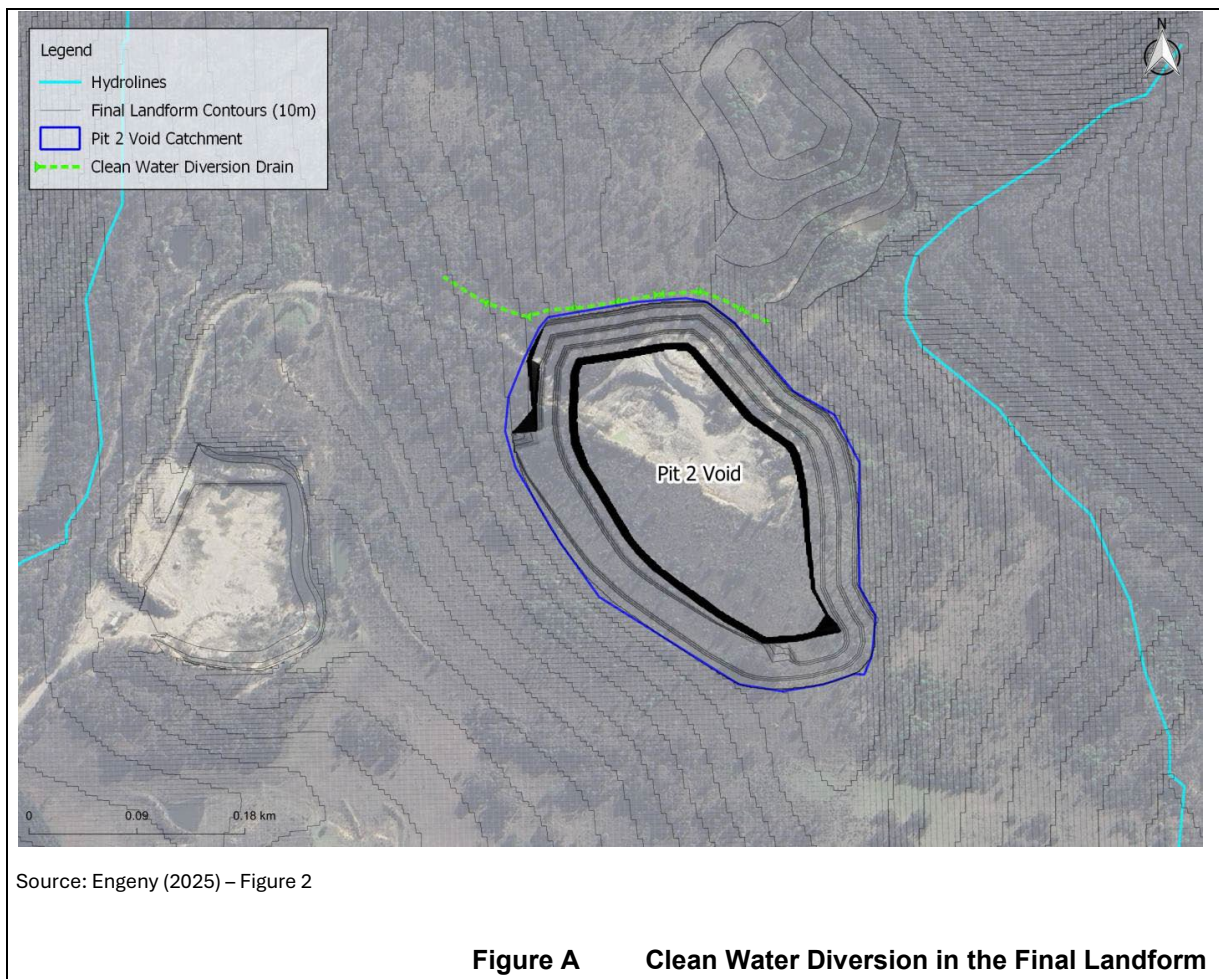
Response

Engeny Pty Ltd was engaged to update the Water Balance Model for the Quarry operations to consider the potential accumulation of water within the Pit 2 void. The results of the updated WBM is included as **Item 6** in a consolidated letter report of Engeny which is included in full as **Appendix 7**.

In summary, a clean water drain would be required to prevent any incidental runoff from entering the pit void from the north (refer to **Figure A**). Based on a 100-year simulation, the WBM identifies that water may accumulate in the pit void as follows under the simulated conditions.

- Under high rainfall / wet conditions, up to 38.7 ML at a depth of 0.8 m may accumulate.
- Under dry conditions, the pit floor would remain dry.
- Under median conditions, up to 7.9 ML at a depth of 0.2 m may accumulate.





The WBM indicates that there is potential for an accumulation of water across the pit floor in wetter periods with the pit floor to remain dry during lower rainfall periods. During median climate conditions there is potential for intermittent wetting and drying in the void to occur.

The Applicant proposes to account for the accumulation of water under median conditions by constructing a final sump / water storage in the floor of the pit in the final landform (to which any accumulating water would drain and collect). The final dimensions of the sump, along with any internal drainage features will be included in *Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan* for the Quarry, however, preliminary dimension of 20m x 60m x 6.5 m would provide for collection and storage of 7.8 ML.

As noted in the responses of **Section 4.6.1**, the proposed grazing land use has been reviewed and while the revegetation would target establishment of grasses which would be available for grazing, this is only likely on an ad hoc basis. The installation of a sump / water storage would also provide an additional watering location for any stock maintained on the property post-mining.

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- The final landform design cross sections presented in Figures 3.3 and 6.7 indicates that Pit 1 and Southern Emplacement Areas do not integrate well with the surrounding area. The

Northern Emplacement area has not been included in these figures. In addition, Section 6.9.2.2 of the Modification report does not address ensuring long-term erosion and landform stability risks. Geomorphic design principles should be adopted (where practicable) to achieve natural landforms and improvements to long-term final landform stability and visual amenity.

Response

The Applicant has considered the comments of the NSW Resources Regulator and made modifications to the outer banks of the South Stockpile Area which reduce the slope to 30 degrees (2H:1V). **Figure 3.3** and **6.7** have been modified to illustrate this change which provides for a more sympathetic landform (refer to **Appendix 2**).

The landform presented for Pit 1 does not vary materially from that approved by DA 2000-1-01. Furthermore, the Quarry will not generate sufficient volumes of overburden to allow for the backfill of the void. While options for backfill of the void will be considered in the future, there are limited options available to the Applicant to vary the landform for Pit 1 as illustrated on *Figures 3.3* and *6.7* of the Modification Report.

The South Stockpile Area landform will be established within the first 4 to 5 years of recommenced and modified operations. Once constructed, the outer slope will be immediately revegetated with native woodland grass, shrub and tree species to prevent surface erosion. The outer embankment will be regularly inspected thereafter and remedial works undertaken in the event surface erosion is observed. Prior to ML relinquishment, the Applicant will commission a geotechnical inspection and report on the final landform slopes with FoS criteria of >1.2 to be confirmed.

The Applicant will implement geomorphic design principles on the final landform which will include:

- Profiling of the final surface to create small variations in elevation which provide for diversion of runoff to defined points, and
- Placement of larger rocks or rock clusters to mimic the outcropping nature of rock in the local landform.

Further analysis of geomorphic design options, with reference to local analogue sites, will be undertaken over the life of the Quarry and updated in the Rehabilitation Management Plan and Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan required by mining lease conditions..

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Update Figure 6.6 of the Modification Report to include contour labels and reduce contour density in order to provide greater clarity of the final landform design.

Response

Appendix 2 includes an updated **Figure 6.6**.



It is noted that the figures presented in the Modification Report have been prepared to provide sufficient detail to consider the proposed modified operations. The Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan (FLRP) required by standard conditions of the mining lease will be prepared following approval of the modification and issue of the mining lease.

4.6.3 Timing of Rehabilitation and Closure

The NSW Resources Regulator Wrote:

- Provide a life of mine progressive rehabilitation schedule that demonstrates that opportunities to rehabilitate the operation as soon as reasonably practical have been maximised. Include all activities until rehabilitation completion, including post cessation of mining. Ideally this can be in the form of figures showing snap shots of the operation at key intervals (e.g. 5 yearly).

Response

Unlike open cut coal mining operations which progress laterally across the environment and generate large volumes of overburden, open cut hard rock quarries like the Barina Quarry generate little overburden, remain largely static in terms of operational areas and present limited opportunity for progressive rehabilitation. Examples of hard rock quarries operating under mining leases which demonstrate this are the Wallerawang Quarry and Marrangaroo Quarry near Lithgow.

The potential progressive rehabilitation of the open cut voids of the Quarry is also complicated by the fact that the quartzite resource extends both vertically and laterally and as such any rehabilitation risks sterilising access to this resource.

The above notwithstanding, the following opportunities for progressive rehabilitation and indicative timeline for implementation are provided in **Table 4.9**.

Table 4.9 Progressive Rehabilitation Schedule

Area	Planned Rehabilitation	Constraints	Indicative Timing
Pit 2 Overburden Emplacement (780, 785 & 790 m AHD batters)	Profiling and geotechnical assessment of stability Application of soil / growth media to pit floor and revegetation with native woodland species mix	Development schedule for Pit 2 (and production of overburden) Co-disposal of imported clean fill	Year 3-4
South Stockpile Arae – Outer Batter	Profiling and geotechnical assessment of stability Application of soil / growth media to pit floor and revegetation with native woodland species mix	Schedule for importation of clean fill.	Year 3-5
Pit 1	Removal of processing infrastructure	Development schedule for Pit 2 (and relocation of	Year 5-6

Area	Planned Rehabilitation	Constraints	Indicative Timing
	Final profiling of pit walls and geotechnical assessment of stability Application of soil / growth media to pit floor and revegetation with native woodland species mix	processing infrastructure)	
Pit 2 Overburden Emplacement (790, 795, 800 & 805 m AHD batters)	Installation of final drainage Profiling and geotechnical assessment of stability Application of soil / growth media to pit floor and revegetation with native woodland species mix	Development schedule for Pit 2 (and production of overburden) Co-disposal of imported clean fill	Year 10-15

The Rehabilitation Management Plan, and Forward Programs, will provide more detail on rehabilitation schedules following approval of the modification and issue of the mining lease.



5. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

29 public submissions were received via the NSW Major Project Planning Portal. Of the 29:

- Four supported the Proposed Modification²,
- One provided a general comment, and
- 25 objected.

Analysis of the submissions has been conducted using a structured methodology to systematically identify and categorize key concerns raised by the public. Each matter raised in the submissions has been categorised against an environmental, social and/or planning parameter, which were then organized into distinct sub-issues. This approach allows for a consistent and comprehensive assessment, highlighting specific trends and common issues across all feedback received.

A copy of the analysis of community submissions is provided in **Appendix 1**.

It is noted that within each category, there is likely to be some variation in the specific matters raised which reflects the particular circumstance or values of the author of each submission. The response concentrates on the common matters which are the basis for the objections, with a focus on the proposed approach to managing and mitigating the issues which are the source of the objection(s).

5.1 ROAD AND TRAFFIC MATTERS

The matter of Quarry related impacts on local roads and traffic was raised by 22 of the 29 submissions. The specific issues of concern have been categorised as follows and addressed in the following sub-sections.

- 1.1. Errors in the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) (refer to **Section 5.1.1**).
- 1.2. Collector Road and the Federal Highway intersection design and safety concerns (refer to **Section 5.1.2**).
- 1.3. The condition and maintenance of Collector Road (refer to **Section 5.1.3**).

² Analysis of the submissions suggests that three of these submissions maybe referencing a different project.

5.1.1 Issue 1.1: Errors

The following errors identified in the TIA are listed below, along with a response to each.

- Incorrect speed limited identified – the TIA identified the speed limit as 100 km/hr. The correct speed limit on the Federal Highway in near proximity (both north and south bound) to Collector Road is 110 km/hr.

The Applicant acknowledges the speed zone of the Federal Highway was incorrectly identified and a design speed of 110 km/hr referenced in the TIA.

This error has been corrected and a revised TIA (refer to **Appendix 3**), responding to this and other comments / requirements of TfNSW (refer to **Section 4.5**), prepared which consider the design speed of 120km/hr. The TIA confirms sight distance in excess of 700 m is available in both directions. This exceeds the SISD for a 120 km/hr design speed for a 2.5 second reaction time of 341 m.

- Figure 3, 4, 5 & 6 incorrectly labelled the photographs of the Collector Road / Federal Highway Intersection as the Monaro Highway.

This is confirmed as a typographical error and has been corrected in the updated TIA (refer to **Appendix 3**).

- In the summary the TIA identified ... *The additional traffic generated by the quarry of less than 10 vehicle per hour would not impact the current a Level of Service along the either Federal Highway and Collector Rd and both would continue to operate satisfactorily.*

The reference to 10 vehicles per hour is incorrect. As noted throughout the TIA, the Proposed Modification does not propose any additional heavy vehicle traffic to that approved. This volume of traffic, being a maximum of 20 vehicle per hour, is captured and assessed throughout the TIA.

A number of submissions query the daily volume of traffic proposed. As clarified in Section 2.2, the Proposed Modification does not propose any increase to the maximum number of hourly and daily truck movements (20 and 134 respectively). The proposed change is to allow for laden vehicles to travel in both directions.

5.1.2 Issue 1.2: Intersection Suitability Design, Traffic Volumes and Collision Risks

Representative Comments

The fundamental impact of the recommencement of quarry operations is the establishment of up to 134 fully laden transits on the Collector Road. Although the report discusses basic compliance with sight lines for transit of trucks and trailers, the Federal Highway measurement was

conducted at one of the lowest density traffic times. The measurement does not include traffic density during holiday, snow period and Christmas time periods.

In addition the report does not consider the build up of truck exits at the Collector/Federal highway intersection. Given the size and length of a fully laden truck trailer combination only one can rest at the highway layby waiting for north bound traffic to allow insertion into the traffic flow. Any following trucks will be required to wait on Collector Road therefore blocking residential traffic accessing the highway. While this is most important for the uphill northern exit it remains an issue for the southern exit.

Submission SE-93825228

There is also the issue of slow moving laden B-Doubles and Semis getting off and onto the Federal highway. A highway that has got a lot busier over the last 16 years. The danger and increased risk of fatalities is massive as these laden trucks would take 2 Km's to get up to speed as it is an uphill climb from the Collector Road E intersection within the Federal Highway.

Submission SE-94057476

... The number of trucks in the proposal is extremely alarming, the Federal Highway is a major road with significant daily traffic, the slip lanes are not designed for a constant stream of large trucks merging into heavy traffic

Submission SE-944475225

The proposal will increase heavy truck movements, likely by more than 100 per day. These trucks will be forced to access the already very busy Federal Highway, which has over 10,000 vehicle movements daily. This volume of additional heavy vehicles will dramatically increase the risk of accidents, congestion, and fatalities, particularly at intersections already known to be dangerous. The local road network is not designed to absorb this industrial-scale traffic despite what the proponents say.

Submission SE- 94234514

The number of heavy vehicles leaving the quarry via Collector Road stated by Alex Irwin are actually doubled hourly as they have to ENTER the site also?

Based on Community info sheet stating "trucks FROM the quarry" being 20 an hour, this would be more like 40 or more an hour or 240 a day instead of 134 as stated. As trucks that go in must come out.

Submission SE- 92554207

Response

A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), addressing the proposed recommencement of Quarry operations and transport against the key intersection and road performance parameters of the

Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 3: Geometric Design, *Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4A: Unsignalised and Signalised Intersections*, and *TfNSW Guide to Transport Impact Assessments 2024* has been completed.

The TIA determined that the intersection operates within acceptable performance and safety parameters under both existing and predicted traffic volumes, including quarry-related heavy vehicles. A review of crash data did not identify any elevated safety risk or pattern of collisions requiring intersection upgrades, and available sight distances meet the minimum standards for the 110 km/h speed limit on the Federal Highway.

Noting minor revisions have been made and included in Version 3 of the TIA (refer to **Appendix 3**), the TIA demonstrates:

- Level of Service A (average delay < 28 seconds) and no decrease in level of service and no deterioration of average delay, level of service, or queue length, under any modelled (peak) scenario
- Sight distances significantly greater than recommended are maintained in both directions, and
- Sweep paths adequate for the nominated heavy vehicles

With Level of Service A, a delay of less than 28 seconds at the intersection (even under leak traffic conditions) is expected. Trucks will not enter or leave the Quarry Site at anything approaching this frequency and as such the occurrence of two Quarry trucks at the intersection at any one time is extremely unlikely.

Comments relating to the density of traffic at the time of survey are not supported by evidence to suggest the 24-hour survey conducted by Pavey Consulting was not representative. Pavey Consulting considered traffic survey data collected by TfNSW and QPRC, and commissioned their own 24-hour survey, to confirm traffic volumes.

With respect to comments regarding the entry of heavy vehicles onto the Federal Highway, an acceleration lane of 340 m is available for trucks merging into the northbound lane. Given the sight distance > 700 m, dual lane status of the Federal Highway and Level of Service A of the intersection, the risk of incident as a result of merging traffic is considered very low.

It is also noted that the only noted incident at the Collector Road – Federal Highway intersection related to a single vehicle leaving the road and hitting an animal. The claim that the intersection is ‘known to be dangerous’ is not supported by road data.

The concerns of those making submissions are understandable, however, not supported by the TIA. To address community concerns and ensure ongoing road safety, the Applicant commits to.

- Monitoring heavy-vehicle operations and intersection performance, particularly during the initial recommencement of operations.



- Requiring all drivers to comply with a Driver Code of Conduct and Transport Code of Conduct.
- Preparing and implementing a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to incorporate consent-condition requirements and mitigation measures for any traffic-related impacts.
- Ongoing consultation with TfNSW to ensure intersection performance and road safety are maintained.
- Maintaining Collector Road in accordance with an agreement with ULSC (such as a Voluntary Planning Agreement) to ensure road condition and safety standards are upheld.

The Applicant will proactively manage road safety through implementation of the Traffic Management Plan and ongoing Collector Road upgrade and maintenance commitments.

The Applicant also notes that TfNSW has reviewed the TIA (Rev 3) as resubmitted on 10 October 2025 and confirmed no objections to the proposed operation of the Quarry and includes no requirements for additional works at the Collector Road – Federal Highway intersection.

5.1.3 Issue 1.3: Condition and Maintenance of Collector Road

Representative Comments

Having experienced driving on it, most people would agree the first 1.4km of Collector Road (in the Upper Lachlan Shire) is in very poor condition. I have lived in the area for a number of years and the road has been in a very poor condition the entire time. I believe the road would degrade even more with the indicated number of trucks using the road daily.

Submission SE-94473798

The road could not cope with the extremely high volume of trucks proposed, and the commitment to repair the road is not realistic – even if the road was in good repair it would not be possible to keep up with the damage from the constant heavy vehicle traffic, the road would be in a permanent state of semi repair further impacting locals who need the road to access essential services.

Submission SE-94475225

Response

The Applicant acknowledges the poor to moderate condition of the road pavement on Collector Road. As discussed in the Modification Report, the Applicant has proactively consulted with both ULSC and QPRC in relation to upgrading the road. As identified in *Section 6.8.4* of the Modification Report, the Applicant has drafted and offered a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with ULSC³ for the upgrade and ongoing maintenance of Collector Road (refer to *Appendix 4* of the Modification Report).

Notably, the Applicant has made the following commitments for inclusion in the VPA.

1. The Applicant will provide for the upgrade in accordance with Austroads Guide to Road Design (2021), namely, 7.2 m wide sealed surface, comprising two 3.1 m wide travel lanes and two 0.5 m wide shoulders, with 1.0 m unsealed shoulder each side.
2. The upgrade works are to commence within 6 months of modification of DA 1-01-2000.
3. The works are to be completed within 24 months of commencement (unless delays outside of the control of the Applicant occur).
4. Following road upgrade, the Applicant will make an ongoing contribution of \$0.1076/t/km as per the ULSC Contributions Plan (offset by costs to upgrade the road).

The Applicant has requested the commencement of transport whilst road works are ongoing. The Applicant proposes the imposition of special (restricting) conditions to reduce heavy vehicle traffic volumes (70 truck movements per day and 10 truck movements per hour) until the completion of road works to the satisfaction of the road authority.

This will further be strengthened by a *Driver Code of Conduct* and *Traffic Management Plan*.

5.2 AIR QUALITY MATTERS

The matter of Quarry related impacts on air quality was raised by 14 of the 29 submissions. The specific issues of concern have been categorised as follows and addressed in the following sub-sections.

- 2.1. Dust impacts on human health (including Silica Dust) (refer to **Section 5.2.1**).
- 2.2. Contamination of rainwater tanks from dust (refer to **Section 5.2.2**).

³ A separate agreement between ULSC and QPRC has been discussed such that ULSC manages and maintains the short 200 m section of Collector Road within the QPRC LGA.

5.2.1 Issue 2.1: Dust Impact on Health (including Silica)

Representative Comments

The proposal creates unacceptable health risks to residents from airborne silica dust. The number of wind turbines in the area clearly demonstrates that it is a high-wind area. The increasing rates of silica dust related respiratory disease has been the topic of medical conventions, it's been labelled the new asbestos, with national strategies developed to try and address the potentially fatal impacts. I have been diagnosed with an incurable respiratory disease, working from home most days, living in a rural environment removed from urban pollution is critical to my wellbeing. The quarry would be a risk to all residents, but particularly for myself because of my reduced lung capacity and compromised immunity system.

Submission SE-94475225

Dust and fine particles generated by quarrying pose significant respiratory hazards to nearby residents, increasing the risk of asthma, chronic lung disease, and other serious health conditions.

Submission SE-94364771

Silica dust is of a major concern to locals.

Submission SE-94057476

I am also concerned about airborne silica particles, given collector and surrounding localities are on tank water. Silica dust settling on roofs or buildings or potential for airborne particles- unsure that the water suppression mitigation is adequate to address this.

Submission SE-92492709

Response

Recognising the potential for the Proposed Modification to generate additional air emissions beyond that previously approved and currently experienced, the Applicant commissioned Airen Consulting to conduct an Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment (AQGHGA) for the Proposed Modification.

On the basis that the proposed dust suppression measures nominated in Section 6.3.4 of the Modification Report are applied, the results of the AQGHGA (which are summarised in Section 6.3 of the Modification Report), demonstrate that the annual emission rate of all particulate matter would be compliant, based on modelling, with air quality assessment criteria at all sensitive receptors.

With specific reference to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS):

- The air quality modelling took a conservative approach by assuming 100% of all emissions of Particulate Matter <2.5µm (PM_{2.5}) was RCS.
- The modelling confirms compliance with the NSW EPA's interim 24 hours assessment criterion of 24 µg/m³ and annual average criteria of 3 µg/m³ at any private dwelling.
- The modelled concentrations, even under these conservative parameters, returned results which, at the closest residential dwelling, were:
 - 12.5% the 24 hours assessment criterion, and
 - < 7% annual average criteria.

To ensure air quality and dust is effectively managed at Barina Quarry, an Air Quality (Dust) Management Plan (AQMP) has been prepared and will be implemented by the Applicant. As noted in **Section 2.1**, the Applicant has now committed to installation of real-time airborne particulate matter monitoring stations to allow the finer fractions of dust to be monitored. The AQMP will be reviewed and approved (if deemed appropriate) by the DPHI prior to being implemented.

5.2.2 Issue 2.2: Contamination of rainwater tanks from dust

Representative Comments

Airborne particulates will have a cumulative detrimental impact on local tank water, used by all residents, as there is no reticulated water supply in the area. Particulates will settle on roof tops, wash into tanks and be ingested by residents. In addition, wildlife and stock will ingest particulates that settle broadly on vegetative food and water sources in the area.

Submission SE-92299709

These same air borne hazardous particulates would have a detrimental impact on local tank, bore water used by some of the residents (air borne particulates settle on surrounding roofs then into the tanks, water troughs, ponds, dams etc..) being ingested daily. The contaminated water/ dust is then used and or ingested by not only people but animals alike. It will settle on the vegetation that wildlife and farm animals ingest daily. The impacts of which are unknown as livestock produced for human consumption could possibly be contaminated because of ingestion over time. So, eating and drinking dust.

Submission SE-92554207

Response

Quartzite is a compound of silica and oxygen and is not associated with mineralisation with elevated metals content. When ingested (as distinct from inhaled), silica is not harmful.



As such the only contaminant of note is the dust itself. The air quality modelling demonstrates that deposition rates fall well below the EPA's assessment criteria, even under conservative worst-case operating and meteorological conditions. These criteria (for deposited dust) are set by the EPA to protect against nuisance amenity impacts.

Given that the modelled dust deposition at the nearest dwellings is below the adopted criteria, any potential for roof or rainwater tank contamination is considered negligible. It is also noted that residents relying on harvested rainwater as a drinking water supply, should have installed and maintain a first flush system fitted with an automatic resetting valve so that initial run-off (containing dust and organic material) bypasses the tank.

An AQMP has been prepared for the Quarry which details the operational controls, safeguards, management measures and monitoring for air quality at the Quarry. Monitoring includes dust deposition at locations surrounding the operations which will be used to assess performance against dust deposition criteria.

5.3 NOISE AND VIBRATION MATTERS

12 submissions objected to the Proposed Modification on the basis of the potential noise and vibration impacts associated with the modified Quarry operations. The objections have been categorized as follows.

- 3.1. Concerns from noise directly from operations (refer to **Section 5.3.1**).
- 3.2. An increase in traffic noise (refer to **Section 5.3.2**).
- 3.3. Blasting impacts (including noise and vibrations from blasting) (refer to **Section 5.3.3**).

The following sub-sections respond to these objections and comments, with reference to the results of Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) summarised in *Section 6.2* of the Modification Report (appended in full in *Appendix 6* of the Modification Report).

5.3.1 Issue 3.1 – Operational Noise

Representative Comments

Continuous heavy vehicle movements and quarry operations will generate significant noise, vibration, and dust. The rural residential character of the area will be irreparably damaged, leading to a sharp decline in property values and quality of life for nearby residents. Families who have invested in the region for peace and amenity will suffer financial loss and the erosion of their way of life.

Submission SE-94234514

As we live on the top of an escarpment, we will have noise carry clearly to our property, despite noise testing not being undertaken at our property or the report considering impacts at our property

Submission SE-93436206

It is obvious that the amount of machinery being used will generate much more than the minimal estimated decibel rating as stated above. A standard vacuum emits a decibel rating between 61db(A) and 70db(A) in no way conceivable could all the equipment being used in the pits/ on-site equate to less than the companies predicted noise levels, the notion simply defies common logic. As we live on the top of an escarpment, we will have noise carry clearly to our property, despite noise testing not being undertaken at our property or the report considering impacts at our property.

Submission SE- 92554207

Response

The Applicant acknowledges that in a quiet rural setting, any new noise source could be noticeable. The regulatory framework (NPfI) accounts for this and the NVIA specifically address potential impacts on both intrusiveness (when the noise is noticeable) and amenity (ongoing impact on the surrounding area), which will remain below the adopted criteria for the Proposed Modification.

It is noted that the noise modelling considers factors such as wind and other meteorological factors, topography and ground conditions. Therefore, we are confident that the noise modelling presents an accurate prediction of noise to be received at all residential locations, including those in more elevated locations. It is reiterated, that the predicted noise level at a receiver location is representative of the received noise level contribution from the site only, and does not consider existing ambient noise levels. This methodology is consistent with the relevant NSW noise guidelines and policies.

As a point of note, MAC have commented that the NVIA does not conclude that the sound power level (SWL) (noise level at the source) from heavy equipment is less than that of an average vacuum cleaner. Section 6.1.4 of the Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) report provides SWLs for each of the noise generating items of plant and equipment, sourced from manufacturer's specifications.

The received noise level (sound pressure level (SPL)), is primarily a function of the SWL and the distance between the source and the receiver. The received noise level for someone standing 1m from a vacuum cleaner with an SWL of 70 dBA would be significantly higher than the received noise level for someone standing 500 m away from a D8 bulldozer with a SWL of 111 dBA. Alternatively, if you had a vacuum cleaner operating in the quarry pit, it would not be audible at the nearest receivers, with received noise levels likely to be less than 10 dBA.



In regard to lawn mowers (mentioned in the submissions), typical noise levels for the person using the lawn mower can be upwards of 90 dBA. That is because the lawn mower, with a SWL of about 102dBA, is located about 1.5m away from the operator's ear. While the plant and equipment SWLs are much higher than a lawn mower, they are located at least hundreds of metres to kilometres from the receiver locations. Hence, while the levels from the quarry are higher at the source, they are lower at the receiver due to the much greater separation distances.

Acknowledging the concerns of those surrounding the Quarry Site, a Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared and will be updated following the determination of the Proposed Modification to reflect the commitments made in the Modification Report and this Submissions Report. Notably this will include regular monitoring of equipment SWLs and noise levels received at surrounding receivers. Importantly, the NMP will be treated as a live document and updated as and when opportunities to implement improvements to noise management are identified.

With regard to the noise generated by equipment (such as crushers, mobile plant and equipment) to be utilised by the quarry (measured in decibels – A weighted), each item of quarry equipment produces a measurable sound power level (SWL). The SWL represents the total acoustic energy emitted by the equipment, measured at the source (the actual equipment itself). It is an inherent property of the equipment, similar to how a light globe has a fixed brightness rating (e.g. watts).

5.3.2 Issue 3.2: Traffic Noise

Representative Comments

Continuous heavy vehicle movements and quarry operations will generate significant noise, vibration, and dust.

Submission SE - 94234514

Response

To understand the impact of traffic noise to be generated from the Proposed Modification, the scope of the NVIA was expanded to include any noise related traffic impacts associated with the Proposed Modification (that being beyond that already approved due to no change from the traffic movements that are currently approved). The NVIA evaluated noise generated by quarry-related heavy vehicle movements on the public road network for the Proposed Modification, in accordance with the NSW EPA's *Road Noise Policy* (RNP, 2011).

Although traffic noise levels are within acceptable limits, and noting the dominant local noise source identified by noise monitoring was traffic from the Federal Highway, the Applicant will maintain a proactive approach to managing potential amenity impacts by:

- implementing a Driver Code of Conduct to ensure all heavy vehicle operators minimise engine braking, unnecessary acceleration, or gear changing near residences
- scheduling truck movements within approved operating hours only

- continuing engagement with ULSC and local residents to address any traffic-related concerns
- repairing Collector Road to a compliant condition to minimise road surface noise and vibration, and
- compliance with the conditions of consent and the NMP.

5.3.3 Issue 3.3: Blasting Impacts

Representative Comments

The Modification Report claims that blasting and operational noise will comply with “relevant performance criteria” and have “minimal environmental impacts” however, compliance with technical thresholds does not equate to protection of community amenity.

The sharp and sudden impacts of blasting, and the ongoing background noise from crushing, screening, and heavy vehicle operations, will drastically disturb the peace and tranquillity of the area for the life of the quarry operations if it were to be approved. As someone who has chosen to live in a quiet rural setting, I find it unacceptable that this noise – which does not currently exist – will be imposed on residents.

Submission SE-93523957

The blasting and heavy machinery noise will destroy the stillness that makes this area so special. More importantly, it will frighten and disrupt the local wildlife. I have spent decades observing the birds, kangaroos, and other native creatures that live here. They are easily disturbed, and repeated blasting and industrial activity will drive them away from the native bushland surrounding the quarry site.

Submission SE- 93366457

Response

The Applicant understands that some submissions expressed concern that blasting activities associated with quarry operations may cause excessive noise, ground vibration, and may impact wildlife and livestock.

The NVIA (MAC, 2025) included an assessment of the potential impacts from blasting, including the key parameters of airblast overpressure and ground vibration. To complete this assessment, an estimation of air-blast overpressure and ground-borne vibration levels was conducted in accordance with methods in AS2187.2. The estimation adopted a Maximum Instantaneous Charge (MIC) of 100kg for blasting within Pit 2 to nearby sensitive receivers.



As discussed in Section 6.2.4 of the Modification Report, and Section 7.4 of the NVIA, there was no exceedance of the adopted criteria for air-blast overpressure or ground vibration.

Blasting will be monitored through the implementation of a Blast and Vibration Management Plan (BVMP), ensuring that community amenity and safety are maintained at all times. Under the BVMP, the following measures will be adhered to:

- Blasting at the Quarry will be limited to 1 blast per day and no more than three blasts per month.
- Operational hours for blasting will be limited to 10:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday to Friday inclusive, with no blasting to occur on weekends or public holidays.

Note: Blasting outside these hours may be undertaken in the event of a misfire or where blasting is required to ensure the safety of the Quarry or Quarry personnel and visitors.

- The Applicant will provide written notification to any property owner⁴ who makes a request of:
 - the proposed blasting timetable and duration on a monthly basis (or as otherwise agreed with the landowner / resident)
 - the procedure available to residents for reporting possible blasting related damage to a residence or other vibration infrastructure (such as water supply or underground irrigation mains), and
 - the entitlement of any landowner within 1 km of the proposed blasting activities to an investigation of the damage claims.
- Where individual landowners register an interest in being notified about the blasting schedule at the Quarry, Collector Resources will provide:
 - an email notification the day prior to the blast event, nominating the planned blast date and time, and/or
 - a telephone call (if requested) during the morning of the blast to confirm the blast will proceed at the nominated (or varied) time.
- A blast notification board, detailing the date and time of the next blast will be maintained at the Quarry entrance on Collector Road and will be updated at least 24 hours before each blast.
- In the event that unfavourable meteorological conditions (such as fog or frost conditions, or inversions conditions are high) are identified, the shot-firer and Quarry Manager will determine whether it is safe to postpone the blast.

⁴ An invitation to register interest in notification will be provide to the eight residential receivers within 1.5 km of the Quarry

5.4 BIODIVERSITY MATTERS

The matter of Quarry related impacts on biodiversity was raised by 9 of the 29 submissions. The specific issues of concern have been categorised as follows and addressed in the following sub-sections.

- 4.1. Wildlife directly impacted by Quarry Development (including Wildlife Corridors) (refer to Section 5.4.1).
- 4.2. Traffic impacts to wildlife (refer to Section 5.4.2).

5.4.1 Issue 4.1: Wildlife Directly Impacted by Quarry Development (including Wildlife Corridors)

Representative Comments

The removal of the local wildlife and trees will have a huge impact to endangered species both above and below the ground.

Submission SE- 94382708

The quarry expansion will directly clear native vegetation and habitat, including Southern Tablelands Scribbly Gum Forest and habitat for threatened species such as the Squirrel Glider.

Submission SE- 93436206

The report asserts that impacts on biodiversity will be “minimised” and contained within already disturbed areas.

This does not reflect the lived reality. The land surrounding the quarry supports native woodland and agricultural areas that provide important habitat for wildlife. Quarry noise, blasting vibrations, and increased heavy vehicle traffic will displace and disturb these species, fragmenting habitat and eroding the biodiversity values of the area. Once lost, these values cannot easily be restored.

Submission SE- 93523957

Response

To understand the additional impacts to biodiversity from the Proposed Modification, the Applicant engaged Ozark to prepare a BDAR. OzArk assessed the additional impacts to both flora and fauna (wildlife) from the Proposed Modification in accordance with the NSW *Biodiversity Assessment Methodology* (BAM).

The BDAR identified, and the Applicant acknowledges, that the additional disturbance associated with the Proposed Modification will result in a direct impact to 4.94 ha of native vegetation in



generally poor to moderate condition. The proposed disturbance has been minimised as far as practical by:

- Reducing the total footprint of the proposed additional stockpiling areas
- Prioritizing those areas of the Quarry Site with the poorest quality vegetation for new disturbance
- Avoiding vegetation which could provide habitat to specific threatened species, e.g. Striped Legless Lizard, and
- re-purposing of the approved disturbance area of the Pit 2 Overburden Emplacement as a stockpile area.

Notably, the BDAR:

- did not identify any entity considered to be at risk of Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAIL), and
- identifies biodiversity credits to be retired for the vegetation to be disturbed (ecosystem credits) and Squirrel Glider (species credits) under the NSW Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme (BOS) prior to commencement of disturbance.

Importantly, the Applicant has prepared a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for the Quarry (which will be reviewed and updated following approval of the Proposed Modification). The BMP details the principles to be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate and offset the impacts to biodiversity, including wildlife at the Quarry.

The BMP includes a vegetation clearing protocol, which details the steps to be taken when clearing vegetation to further ensure that any vegetation clearing is conducted in accordance with the conditions of consent and the biodiversity offsetting requirements under the NSW BOS. By implementing the vegetation clearance protocol, the direct physical impact to wildlife, regardless of threatened status, will be minimised to the greatest extent possible.

Progressive clearing (no greater than 2 ha per annum) and rehabilitation following completion of quarry activities in areas will ensure disturbance is undertaken in a planned manner and impacts to biodiversity values are progressively mitigated. Furthermore, tree clearing will be scheduled to minimise impact on breeding birds and other arboreal fauna. The implementation of the Quarry BOS will ensure that impacts to biodiversity are offset prior to disturbance and during rehabilitation establishment.

As acknowledge by the Applicant, there will be some direct impacts to native vegetation and threatened species, but through the implementation of a rigorous BMP, Biodiversity Offset Strategy and Rehabilitation Management Plan, these will minimised to the greatest extent possible.

5.4.2 Issue 4.2: Traffic Impact on Wildlife

Representative Comments

The Collector Road from the Federal Highway to just before the quarry has a significant number of kangaroos that cross the road morning and afternoon as part of a pattern of life, cars often need to stop quickly to avoid hitting kangaroos, trucks laden will not be able to stop quickly, which will result in the injury of wildlife, injury to truck drivers/vehicles, risk to residents who stop to remove or assisted injured or dead wildlife.

Submission SE- 93436206

Another traffic issue that has not been addressed is the wildlife corridor between BQ and the Federal Highway. Apart from disrupting the wildlife corridor which includes Kangaroos, Wallabies, Echidnas, Wombats and Shingleback, Blue Tongue, Jacky Jacky lizards etc the increased number of vehicles using Collector Rd (East) heightens the risk of wildlife impact. The presence of a range of animals across the road will inevitably lead to sudden braking and swerving that is not conducive to safe travel along Collector Rd. There has been no detail as to how this risk might be removed or mitigated.

Submission SE - 92299709

Response

The Applicant acknowledges that where roads traverse habitat for native species there may be occasional interaction between these. The Applicant would implement and enforce a *Driver Code of Conduct* with procedures to ensure that truck drivers adhere to the designated transport routes and implement safe driving practices, particularly when driving on rural roads and onto the Federal Highway (including awareness of wildlife).

With respect to impacts on wildlife corridors, the BDAR confirms that the Quarry Site is:

“... positioned between a well-timbered ridge and a road with a partially timbered corridor. Vegetation The landscape in the south is dominated by pastures, with trees sparse and frequently non-native. Vegetation on the subject land bridges the ridge and the road corridor and may therefore contribute to overall landscape continuity. However, as the vegetation along the road corridor is frequently interrupted by areas of derived grassland or non-native vegetation, this contribution is likely to be limited.”

The BDAR confirms connectivity would be unaffected by the Proposed Modification (refer to Section 8.3.3.1 of the BDAR).



5.5 SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER MATTERS

The matter of impacts on both surface water and groundwater was raised by 7 of the 29 submissions. Of these, the main issues of concern included:

- 5.1. contamination of both groundwater and surface water resources due to the quarry (refer to **Section 5.5.1**)
- 5.2. the quarry containing sufficient water to meet operational dust mitigation measures (refer to **Section 5.5.2**), and
- 5.3. the draw down or overuse of groundwater (refer to **Section 5.5.3**).

A response to these issues is discussed below.

5.5.1 Issue 5.1: Groundwater and Surface Contamination

Representative Comments

Groundwater depletion and contamination: Digging to depths of 60–70 metres threatens to permanently alter the water table and deplete groundwater resources essential to the region. The potential for contaminated runoff into local waterways is a further, unacceptable risk.

Submission SE- 94234514

The environment is clearly a loser in this proposal. At a depth of 60-70m the water table will be impacted with ground water contamination a certainty.

Submission SE- 93530206

Response

A SWIA was completed for the Proposed Modification by Engeny. The SWIA recommends some changes to the Quarry WMS, which will be adopted, to ensure water collected from disturbed (sediment laden water) and undisturbed surfaces (clean water) is captured and managed in a responsible manner.

The principal contaminant generated by Quarry operations would be elevated sediment from disturbed areas of the Site. Notably, the Quarry WMS would operate in compliance with *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volumes 1* (Landcom, 2004) and 2E (DECCW, 2011), the EPA endorsed guideline for managing erosion and sediment control. The potential for contamination as a result of fuel spillage or leaks would be managed by storage of these materials within AS 1940 compliant areas and adoption and implementation of a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

Water would preferentially be retained on the Quarry Site for re-use, however, under high rainfall conditions a discharge may be required. The Applicant proposes to control any discharge by licensing a single discharge point (amended from three discharge points originally nominated – refer to **Sections 2.1** and **4.3.2**).

As the Quarry would not intersect the groundwater table, with hydrocarbons to be appropriately managed, and any imported clean fill to meet Resource Recovery Order requirements, there is no realistic pathway for contamination of groundwater.

The above notwithstanding, the Applicant has committed to continuing a water monitoring program to confirm ongoing compliance with water quality criteria. The monitoring will include (refer also to modified **Figure 6.1 (Modified) – Appendix 2**):

- quarterly monitoring of groundwater levels and quality
- quarterly monitoring of local watercourses upstream and downstream of the Quarry Site, and
- monitoring of any discharge from the Quarry Site.

5.5.2 Issue 5.2: Water Availability to Meet Operational Dust Mitigation Measures

Representative Comments

To attempt to lessen the risk of silica dust requires a large amount of water use, while recently there has been regular rainfall there are long periods with little rainfall. Redirecting the volume of water required would impact the natural environment, made worse by contaminated run-off.

Submission SE- 94475225

Excessive water use: The proposal requires an extraordinarily high volume of water, sourced from an incredibly important local groundwater supply.

Submission SE- 94234514

Response

It is noted that the Quarry does not propose to draw water from groundwater supplies. As discussed in *Section 4* of the SWIA and *Section 6.6.2.2* of the Modification Report, the Quarry proposes to source water for operational activities (processing, washing, dust suppression) from water captured and stored within the WMS. As far as practical, the Applicant would retain and reuse water captured on-site, with water collected within the Harvestable Right of the landholding, i.e. no greater than the entitlement of any other landholder.



To confirm water security for the Proposed Modification, an operational WBM was completed by Engeny as party of the SWIA. The WBM predicts that under high and median rainfall scenarios, the Quarry Site will harvest sufficient water to meet operational requirements. Under low rainfall (10th percentile) a deficit of 4.9 ML was predicted, increasing to 8.1 ML under a conservative climate change scenario.

As discussed in *Section 4.2.4* of the SWIA, if there is insufficient water to meet demands, operations will be scaled to match the available water supply while maintaining environmental controls (i.e. dust suppression) as a priority.

As noted in **Section 4.3.2**, the Applicant will include a robust TARP to guide management of water shortages in the SWMP to be developed for the Project. **Section 4.1.3.7** also reviews additional options (presented in order of preference) to manage reduced water availability

5.5.3 Issue 5.3: Groundwater Drawdown

Representative Comments

Groundwater depletion and contamination: Digging to depths of 60–70 metres threatens to permanently alter the water table and deplete groundwater resources essential to the region.

Submission SE- 94234514

Response

As discussed in *Section 6.7* of the Modification Report, the Proposed Modification will not result in groundwater drawdown as the Quarry's excavation depths will remain unmodified and above the groundwater table (which is monitored quarterly).

The Applicant does not intend on sourcing / extracting groundwater to supplement harvested surface water supplies. Should this change, as discussed in **Section 4.1.3.7** the Applicant would complete the required assessment and application for a Water Supply Work and Use approval under Section 89 and 90 of the *Water Management Act 2000*.

No groundwater will be extracted unless the Quarry is legally able to do so.

5.6 SOCIO-ECONOMIC MATTERS

15 of the 29 submissions raised socio-economic issues, including:

- 6.1. Incompatibility with local area due to increase in residential properties since Quarry originally approved (refer to **Section 5.6.1**)
- 6.2. Impact to Property Values (refer to **Section 5.6.2**)

6.3. Livestock disturbance (refer to **Section 5.6.3**)

6.4. Impact to lifestyle / quiet enjoyment (refer to **Section 5.6.4**), and

6.5. Cumulative Impacts (associated with other developments in the region) (refer to **Section 5.6.5**).

A response to these issues is discussed below.

5.6.1 Issue 6.1: Incompatibility with local area due to increase in residential properties since Quarry originally approved

Representative Comments

This project is not in keeping with the rural residential area that it is being proposed in. This is not an appropriate development for a growing rural residential area. The Quarry part of the site has not operated for approx 15-17 years now and the amenity of the region has totally changed in that period. Being so close to Canberra has lead to an ongoing growth in rural residential in this area.

Submission SE- 94057476

This development is wholly inappropriate for a rural residential area and presents serious environmental, economic, infrastructure, and public health concerns that cannot be ignored.

Submission SE- 94234514

The Quarry DA expired 15yrs ago. The area has changed dramatically. There is a submission in for a sub division on the property neighboring.

Submission SE - 94482968

Response

Both extractive industry and open cut mining are permissible with consent is permitted within the RU1 zone subject to consideration of the land use objectives. **Table 4.2** and **Section 4.1.3.8** of this Submissions Report reviews and confirms the Proposed Modification against these objectives.

In predicting compliance with key environmental emissions such as air quality, noise and water, along with analysis of minimal and mitigated impacts on biodiversity, heritage and visibility, the Modification Report has demonstrated the Quarry could recommence and operate in a manner which has minimal impact on the surrounding land uses and amenity. The recommencement of transport on Collector Road would be a noticeable change to local conditions, however, given the Applicant has committed to the upgrade and maintenance of Collector Road, this impact would be offset by the improved road conditions.



In order to ensure that the Quarry does operate in a manner which avoids and minimises impacts on the land use and amenity of surrounding land, the Applicant has committed to operating in accordance with a number of management plans.

- Environmental Management Strategy (EMS)
- Noise Management Plan
- Air Quality (Dust) Management Plan
- Blast and Vibration Management Plan
- Biodiversity Management Plan
- Bushfire Management Plan
- Rehabilitation Management Plan
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Soil and Water Management Plan, including an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- Traffic Management Plan, inclusive of a Driver Code of Conduct
- Waste Management Plan, and
- Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

Through the implementation of these management plans, the Quarry will comply with the modified conditions of consent, and ensure the impact to the surrounding community will be minimised and following recommencement of operations.

5.6.2 Issue 6.2: Impact to Property Values

Representative Comments

Property values will be impacted which represents a significant loss in real terms to the current approved residents of the area.

Submission SE- 93530206

I strongly object to the proposal for the following reasons...Impact to property values.

Submission SE- 94475225

This development will significantly devalue properties within a 5km radius. My aunty lives near a quarry in the Port Stephens area and she has had constant issues with the quarry in terms of



noise, dust, trucks etc. and her property has decreased significantly in value compared to similar properties located a bit further away from the quarry.

Submission SE- 94319230

Response

Analysis of property values is outside the scope of an environmental impact assessment.

The above notwithstanding, on the basis of compliance with all environmental criteria, minimal visibility, best practice management of transport and an improvement in local road conditions, the potential impact on property values is likely to be minor. It is also noted that in generating employment for 10 to 15 on-site personnel plus truck drivers, the demand for housing, either ownership or rental may increase which would have a positive effect on land values.

5.6.3 Issue 6.3: Livestock disturbance

Representative Comments

Many of us have livestock, and with horses, loud explosions can cause them startle which risks injury to people if you're near the horse. Other livestock such as alpacas, sheep and cattle are located within 1km of the quarry.

Submission SE- 94319230

Response

Appropriate and compliant site operations would control noise and vibration (including from blasts) such that impacts on livestock is considered highly unlikely.

As noted in **Section 5.3.3**, the Applicant would provide notification to local landholders prior to each blast.

5.6.4 Issue 6.4: Impact to lifestyle / quiet enjoyment

Representative Comments

Loss of Peaceful Rural Life

I chose to live here because of the tranquillity and the close connection to nature. At my age, I do not want to spend my days listening to trucks, blasting, and quarry machinery. I want to spend my remaining years surrounded by peace and the sounds of the natural world, not industrial noise. This modification threatens to take that away, not just from me, but from everyone who values this area for its quiet beauty.



Submission SE- 93366457

Right to a Peaceful Rural Lifestyle

I purchased my property in 2014 due to the quiet and peaceful surroundings that would allow my husband and me to establish our forever home. We have invested significant effort into improving our sustainability by living off-grid and cultivating our own produce. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact while enjoying a tranquil rural lifestyle. Since purchasing our property, the quarry has not been in active operation.

Submission SE-93436206

Response

The Applicant acknowledges the Community's concerns regarding the potential impact to the amenity of the local area. As discussed in the Modification Report, the Applicant has completed a comprehensive environmental assessment which demonstrate that the Quarry (as modified) is able to operate in a manner that minimises impacts and meets the relevant criteria for each environmental area assessed. Most notably:

- Operations will be restricted to daytime only (7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday and 7:00am to 1:00pm Saturday)
- Noise criteria will be complied with
- Air quality criteria will be complied with
- Water harvesting will be within the harvestable rights of the landholding and any water discharged will be water quality objectives
- Groundwater will remain unaffected
- The Quarry will not be visible from most residential vantage points
- Wildlife corridors will be maintained and disturbance to native vegetation minimized largely restricted to poorer condition and previously disturbed vegetation, and
- Local road conditions will be improved.

As discussed previously, the Applicant will be bound by conditions of consent and will prepare a suite of management plans to ensure environmental compliance at the Quarry is conducted in accordance with the modified conditions of consent and to industry best practice.

Further, a Community Consultative Committee will be established (in accordance with DPHI Guidelines) which will provide a direct link between the Applicant and local community representation. This will ensure that community concerns are able to be raised, considered and addressed in an independently managed forum.



5.6.5 Issue 6.5: Cumulative Impacts (associated with other developments in the region)

Representative Comments

The safety and lifestyle risk to residents and wildlife is too high. With this and the Tarago Incinerator, it feels our area is completely abandoned by our government.

Submission SE- 92427708

It seems that our small community is a constant target. We've recently had a wind farm put in, had to fight against a high risk shooting range (also on Collector Rd East), currently fighting the Tarago waste incinerator which will take Sydney's rubbish, and now this. We've copped our fair share. Honestly, please leave our small community alone and let us live in peace!

Submission SE - 94319230

Response

As discussed in Section 2.3.4 of the Modification Report (Other Industry and Development), the Applicant is aware that other State Significant Developments (SSD) have been approved and are operational in the broader area including wind farms (nearest turbine is 5.8 km to the northwest of the Quarry), the nearby Federal Highway, and the Woodlawn Eco Precinct (20km top the southwest of the Quarry).

Given the relatively small scale of the Quarry operation, and the distance to the nearest major development, the cumulative impacts, including from noise and air quality were not considered to be close enough for the accumulation of air and noise impacts.

It is noted that Collector Road runs between the Quarry and the Woodlawn Eco Precinct, however, the Eco Precinct does not rely on Collector Road to the north for delivery of waste materials and there is no overlap in operation or impact.

As discussed in Section 2.4 of the Modification Report, the Proposed Modification is not considered likely to generate cumulative impacts with any other existing or future projects in the area.

5.7 GOVERNANCE, COMPLIANCE AND CLOSURE MATTERS

11 of the 29 submissions raised the Quarry's governance, compliance history and closure impacts, including:

7.1. Company / Applicant Environmental Performance History (refer to **Section 5.7.1**)



7.2. Adequacy of Consultation (refer to **Section 5.7.2**)

7.3. Disagreement with the increase in the size of the Quarry (refer to **Section 5.7.3**), and

7.4. Risk of future waste facility / Future Expansion (refer to **Section 5.7.4**).

A response to these issues is discussed below.

5.7.1 Issue 7.1: Company / Applicant Environmental Performance History

Representative Comments

Is the proponent Chris Eveston the same Chris Eveston who has been fined by the EPA for operating unauthorised waste facilities in Goulburn (NSW) and Hume (ACT)? In the event that they are the same individual that should disqualify the applicant from operating any facility requiring an EPA license as they've demonstrated repeated failures to comply with the appropriate laws and regulations and couldn't reasonably be trusted to only import clean fill to the site.

Submission SE- 92492709

The company had their licence revoked due to multiple breaches previously eg. clean fill was contaminated. Process and procedures were not followed and resulted in multiple fines.

I have no faith in this company and strongly object the quarry reopening as I don't believe they will comply with legislation as previously demonstrated and don't believe they should be given the opportunity again.

Submission SE- 92545959

The proponent has a very poor safety history and has failed to adhere to many regulations set by governing bodies. Regulations which are essential for protecting water quality, wildlife, air quality, and the health and wellbeing of community. The principle of Collector Resources Christopher James Everson (CJE) has a long history of EPA transgressions and has been fined and had the licence to manage waste revoked.

Submission SE - 92299709

This company also has a poor track record with the EPA so I question how they can even be considered as being responsible enough to operate this quarry as good corporate citizen. They have been given notices, fines and had their license revoked.

Submission SE - 94319230

The proponent has a long and troubling history of environmental breaches, EPA notices, fines, and even licence revocation. A company with such a track record should not be entrusted with an

operation of this scale and risk. Their poor compliance history demonstrates a lack of good faith, responsible management, and community respect.

Submission SE - 94234514

Response

Collector Resources has not been the subject to prosecution or other legal proceedings against it.

In the interest of transparency and full disclosure, it is noted that Collector Resources has been subject to the following notices by the EPA.

- 31 January 2019. A Penalty Notice was issued for failure to supply an Annual Return.
- 26 April 2018. A Penalty Notice was issued for failure to supply an Annual Return.

The quarry was on care and maintenance at the time and the failure to submit annual returns has been acknowledge as an oversight. Notably, while remaining under care and maintenance, Collector Resources has submitted all annual returns subsequently.

- 2 December 2016. A Clean-up Notice was issued for the removal of concrete and tile waste material exported from the Act under beneficial use provisions.

The Licensee did not understand this did not meet NSW requirements and immediately complied with directions.

The NSW EPA has made regular inspections of the Barina Quarry Site (under EPL 5554) since these notices were issued. No concerning issues or notices have been identified in that time.

It is important to note that Mr Chris Eveston is neither a director nor shareholder of Collector Resources. With respect to submissions made with respect to Mr Eveston and associated business', in each case Mr Eveston can point to extenuating circumstances for the relevant incident. It is noted that Mr Eveston complied with all orders provided in each case. Furthermore, the noted breaches and actions relate to events pre-dating 2019 and no further breaches or actions have been taken since.

5.7.2 Issue 7.2: Adequacy of Consultation

Representative Comments

The company's consultation with nearby residents and the local community has been absolutely pitiful, with only 2 letterbox drops. In this there was a very poorly printed map that you couldn't even read with your glasses on, with very high level fluff and no detail. Their community consultation at Collector Hall was a very poorly chosen time for most people to be able to attend, which was obviously a deliberate attempt to avoid questions and face up to a very concerned community. With training and experience in community engagement, this for me, has not hit the mark and cannot be classed as consultation. On the public participation (IAP2) spectrum it



probably reached 'informed', with no attempt to reach 'consult' or 'collaborate'. If they were half serious they would be inviting residents to the site to show us the layout, the blast site, provide the detail, and allow us to ask questions.

Submission SE- 94319230

The proponent and their consultant claim that community consultation was undertaken but it was not a genuine attempt at consultation being performed on a Wednesday from 4-6pm when a significant proportion of the local community were unavailable due to work commitments.

Submission SE- 92492709

Response

The Applicant prepared and implemented a Community Engagement Strategy (CES) as described in Section 5.1 of the Modification Report. The documentation prepared and issued to the community was also included in Appendix 3 of the Modification Report. It is noted that Irwin Environmental Management offered a follow-up consultation meeting in May 2025, however, the attendance at the April 2025 meeting was considered (by consulted community representatives) as very representative of the Collector / Currawang communities). Individual consultations were also offered and taken up by two residents.

IREM also notes that all community representatives who supplied contact details were notified directly when the Modification Report was placed on exhibition.

IREM stands by the quality and transparency of consultation with the issues raised addressed comprehensively in the Modification Report.

The Applicant is comfortable the level of consultation provided fair and transparent opportunities for the local community to raise issue of importance and concern. The Applicant was not in control of the exhibition period, however, by notifying residents of its commencement was proactive in ensuring sufficient time was available to consider the Proposed Modification.

5.7.3 Issue 7.3: Risk of future Waste Facility / Future Expansion

Representative Comments

In 2018 the owners put forward their desire to have a waste recycling facility on the site. I feel if they get the approval to import waste fill onto the site it is only one step away from the original proposal which was rejected by the community.

Submission SE- 94057476

The proponent has no declared plan for post mining. It is my view that they will try to use the excavation as a waste repository as they proposed to a community meeting in I think 2017.

Submission SE- 93530206

Why are we here now reviewing a third modification application? The time has passed, this should have ended on 2 November 2023. How clear is the applicant on their business direction and ability to implement their proposed model? How do we know there isn't going to be another modification with expansion of the business and for another extended period of time? Once the door is opened for this and expiration dates continue to be ignored – who knows where this may land.

Submission SE - 93369459

Response

This Proposed Modification represents only the second modification to DA 1-01-2000. An original application to modify was withdrawn and replaced by Mod 2 (for a short-term extension).

Approval is sought for the recommencement of Quarry operations with the value-adding and low impact modifications nominated in the Modification Report.

It is acknowledged that the approved resource of the Quarry exceeds that which can be extracted within the proposed 15 year extension. It is considered likely that the future of the Quarry will be reconsidered at some point over the extended life of the Quarry. Notably, this would be subject to the planning requirements of that time (which could prohibit further development).

With respect to concerns over the development of a waste disposal facility, this does not form part of the Proposed Modification. Should this be considered in the future, it would be the subject of a separate development application.

5.7.4 Issue 7.4: Quarry Increase is Considered Significant

Representative Comments

- proponents have tried to understate the size and impact of the expanded quarry on the community. However, the expansion is a massive 5 to 9 times the existing excavation...

Submission SE - 93530206

An increase in the total area of disturbance more than 3 times the original proposal!

Submission SE - 93369459

Irwin Environmental state that the Barina Quarry proposal is for an expansion of five to nine times the size of the current quarry and is proposed to produce 5 to 9 million tonnes of material.



This is a much larger proposition than the old quarry operations and presents a much greater threat to accepted local land use than the old quarry ever did. The proposal is not to reopen the BQ of old. An increase in the total area of disturbance more than 3 times the original proposal!

Submission SE - 92299709

Response

The Applicant acknowledges the potential ambiguity surrounding the increase of the Proposed Modification's disturbance footprint area compared to that originally approved.

The Modification Report (Section 3.2, Table 3.1) identified the 'existing quarry' (Pit 1 and ancillary disturbance only) as that was approved prior to 1999. Pit 2, Pit 2 Overburden Emplacement, Quarry and Emplacement Haul Roads were approved in 2000 as part of the current Development Consent (DA 1-01-2000). Interpretation of the figures presented in the EIS allows for the existing approved disturbance area to approximate 20 ha.

The proposed new disturbance area is associated with the following.

- South Stockpile Area: 3.68 ha
- North Stockpile extension: 0.61 ha
- Internal roads and Quarry Workshop Area: 0.65 ha

The total disturbance area of the modified Quarry Site would be approximately 25 ha.

As noted in the Modification Report, the modification does not propose any increase in the size of the extraction areas, nor any increase in extraction or production rates. Overall, the modified Quarry operations represent a modest 25% increase in disturbance area with no increase in overall scale. As discussed earlier (**Section 4.2.4**), the requirement for additional stockpiling areas, the driver behind the increase in disturbance area, is independent of extraction and production rate. The need for additional stockpiling areas is reflective of the increased diversity in products to be produced and sold, including but not limited to:

- Concrete aggregates
- Road base of various specifications
- Quartzite aggregates for exposed concrete (decorative) applications
- Decorative quartzite aggregates (for landscaping)
- washed sand for concrete manufacture
- high silica thermos-resistive sand for renewable energy applications, and
- high grade silica materials for smelting and/or industrial applications.



6. EVALUATION AND JUSTIFICATION (REVIEW)

The submissions received on the Proposed Modification has required some minor amendments (refer to **Section 2.1**), clarification of components (refer to **Section 2.2**), along with minor updates to the following assessments.

- Traffic Impact Assessment (provided as **Appendix 3**).
- The Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (provided as **Appendix 5**).
- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (provided as **Appendix 6**).
- A supplementary surface water report (refer to **Appendix 7**).
- Pink-tailed Legless Lizard Expert Report and BDAR (in preparation).

The submissions have not raised any matters altering the evaluation and justification provided in the Modification Report and the Proposed Modification represents a permissible, strategically important and ecologically sustainable development which is justifiable on the basis that:

- the majority of the approved resource remains to be extracted
- assessment of impacts has been based on comprehensive and contemporary environmental assessment demonstrates the Quarry may operate in accordance with current regulatory criteria and standards
- An extension of 15 years would also provide certainty to local communities, local suppliers and local and regional customers. A shorter term of extension raises the potential for a return to assessment and uncertainty within a shorter timeframe, and
- the capital cost required to re-commence operations requires longer term certainty.

The assessment remains that the recommencement of operations at the Quarry would provide for the supply of critical construction materials. As the Quarry has previously operated without significant adverse impacts on the local biophysical and socio-economic environment, continued exploitation of this resource is likely to result in less impact than the development of an extractive industry elsewhere in the region of State.



7. REFERENCES

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