



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Our Ref: DOC18/395785
Your Ref: MP06-0030 MOD 2

Department of Planning & Environment
PO Box 75A
Armidale NSW 2350

Attention: Mr Anthony Barnes – Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

Dear Mr Barnes

Re: Dunloe Park Sands Quarry Major Project 06-0030 Modification 2

Thank you for your email dated 15 June 2018 providing additional information from the applicant about the proposed Dunloe Sands Quarry modification (MP06-0031 MOD 2) seeking comments from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). I appreciate the opportunity to provide further input.

The OEH has reviewed the new information and our previous letters in this matter dated 7 August 2017 and 25 May 2018.

We understand that GHD, on behalf of the applicant, has confirmed in its response to the Tweed Shire Council that the road improvement works, outlined in Section 1.1 – Item Traffic of the GHD letter, will avoid any direct impacts on native vegetation within the road reserve, resulting in no loss of biodiversity values, including koala habitat.

Although as GHD noted, the *Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management* (KPOM) has not been endorsed by the NSW government, and therefore has no effect under clause 13 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection* (SEPP 44), the Plan was adopted by the council, as stated in our letter of 25 May 2018. The OEH advocates the science and planning behind the Plan, and its contribution to the conservation of the *Endangered Koala Population*, as listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

In summary, the OEH concurs with the conclusions drawn by GHD and advises that we do not have any outstanding issues with the proposed modification. However, we request that the following recommendation be considered as part of the drafting of any future conditions of consent.

The OEH recommends:


1. The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) should be reviewed to ensure adequate mitigation measures are applied to avoid, or substantially minimise, all potential indirect impacts on the endangered population of koalas in this locality with respect to the Quarry operations. The *Tweed Coast Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management*, as adopted by the Tweed Shire Council, should be used to provide the necessary guidance in identifying

potential impacts and applying appropriate mitigation measures to protect koala habitat, sustain corridor (linkage) function, and reduce koala mortality. The EMP should include:

- a. monitoring and annual reporting associated with the identified koala impacts, such as vehicle strike.
- b. adaptive management options and their specific triggers associated with identified impacts, including consultation with the Tweed Shire Council.
- c. obtaining feedback via the community consultative committee on koala management issues.

If you have any further questions about this issue, Mr Rachel Binskin, Regional Operations Officer, Regional Operations, OEH, can be contacted on 6659 8247 or at rachel.binskin@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

 25 June 2018

DIMITRI YOUNG
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