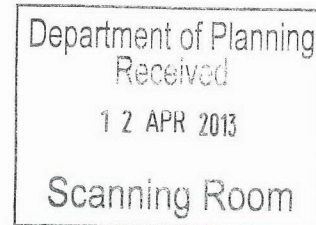




Our Reference (TRIM): OUT13/7965

9 April 2013

Ms Sophie Butcher
Planner – Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Ms Butcher,

Re: Karuah East Quarry Project (09_0175) – Environmental Assessment Exhibition

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the above major project proposal. This is a response from the NSW Department of Trade & Investment (DTIRIS) – Mineral Resources Branch (MRB). The Department of Primary Industries, incorporating advice from Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests NSW may respond separately.

MRB has no concerns to raise in regard to the above project however the following observations have been made.

- It is acknowledged that cross sections of the proposed quarry have been included as Figure 3 and 4 in Appendix C (as suggested by MRB's during the adequacy review) however these figures do not depict the geology of the resource. Cross sections showing the stages of the quarry development (illustrated in plan view in Appendix D) have also not been included.
- It is noted in *Section 2.3.1 - Exploration Program* that reference is made to **seven** cored boreholes being drilled over the site. Figure 2 from Appendix C shows the location of **nine** boreholes however the bore logs for only **four** of these holes have been provided. It is assumed that given there is an existing quarry immediately adjacent to the proposed quarry that the proponent would have a good understanding of the resource through prior extraction combined with geological mapping of the current quarry exposures and the bore hole information.
- MRB noted in the adequacy review that an extension to the existing quarry would be preferable to a standalone quarry to maximise the extraction of the resource however MRB acknowledges that a standalone quarry rather than an extension to the existing quarry is necessary in this instance due to access issues over Lot 11 DP 1024564.

- MRB has previously provided advice in relation to a proposal to convert a storage shed to a residence on Lot 11 DP 1024564. As a sensitive receiver is not listed in either Table 3 (p58) or shown in Figure 10 (p59), MRB assumes that the affected dwelling is project related and owned by either RMS or the quarry.

For further information regarding mineral issues please contact Malcolm Drummond, on (02) 4931 6704 or malcolm.drummond@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Francis', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Simon Francis
A/Team Leader Land Use



26 August 2013

Ms Sophie Butcher
Planner – Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Your Reference:09_0175
Our reference:OUT13/25096
Emailed

Dear Ms Butcher,

Re: Karuah East Quarry Project (09_0175) – Preferred Project Report and Submission Report

This is a response from the NSW Department of Trade & Investment (DTIRIS) – Mineral Resources Branch (MRB). The Department of Primary Industries, incorporating advice from Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests NSW may respond separately.

MRB would like to raise some issues regarding the above quarry project. MRB was not aware of the exhibition of the Response to Submissions Report in June 2013. MRB considers that information on geology of the resource, cross sections showing stages of the quarry development and missing bore logs for 5 of the 9 boreholes indicated on Figure 2 should be supplied well prior to approval rather than as a condition of consent as stated on P14 of the Response to Submissions Report. This would help to demonstrate that the proponent has adequately tested the resource.

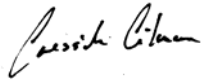
MRB has raised its preference for an extension to the existing quarry rather than a stand alone operation, but acknowledged that this was necessary due to the statement made in the Environmental Assessment (EA) on page 40 that *'Significant effort has been undertaken by Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd to secure access over Lot 11 however this has not been able to be achieved. As a consequence, Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd has no other option than to pursue a new stand alone quarry operation on Lots 12 and 13.* Recent concerns raised by the owner of Lot 11 with MRB indicate that this statement is not correct.

The Preferred Project Report states on p117 that the *'existing Karuah Quarry has an estimated remaining operation life of five years'* which was also indicated in the EA on p28. The EA stated that whilst the current operation on Lot 11 has *'approval to operate until 2027, the resource will be depleted in approximately 5 to 6 years dependant on annual volumes extracted. The proponent notes (and has verified by exploratory works) that there is very limited suitable, commercially viable rock extractable on its current properties'*. The owner of Lot 11 has indicated that a substantial resource remains within Lot 11, which is available in documentation that can be supplied by the owner on request.

MRB notes that the proponent has clarified that the existing sheds on Lot 11 are not related to the quarry operations and are not an existing sensitive receiver. The Preferred Project Report indicates that a sensitivity analysis however was undertaken in relation to Lot 11.

Queries regarding the above information, and future requests for advice in relation to this matter, should be directed to the MRB Land Use team at landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cressida Gilmore', written in a cursive style.

Cressida Gilmore
Team Leader Land Use