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MP09_0175 MOD 1

Mr Anthony Barnes
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Dear Anthony

Karuah East Quarry – Modification 1 (MP 09_0175 MOD 1), Karuah – Mid-Coast Council – OEH Review of Environmental Assessment

I refer to your e-mail dated 8 February 2018, seeking comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Modification 1 to the Karuah East Quarry (MP 09_0175 MOD 1), near Karuah, in the Mid Coast local government area. OEH has reviewed the document titled '*Karuah East Quarry – Environmental Assessment, Section 75W Application (MOD 1) to amend Part 3A Project Approval 09_0175 – Minor Increase to Approved Disturbance Area*' (and relevant appendices) (prepared by ADW Johnson Pty Limited and dated January 2018) in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage, flood risk, and impacts on biodiversity.

OEH's recommendations are provided in **Attachment A** and detailed comments are provided in **Attachment B**. If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Steve Lewer, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer, on 4927 3158.

Yours sincerely

STEVEN COX
Senior Team Leader Planning
Hunter Central Coast Branch
Regional Operations Division

21 February 2018

Contact officer: STEVE LEWER
02 4927 3158

Enclosure: Attachments A and B

Attachment A**OEH's recommendations****Karuah East Quarry (MP 09_0175 MOD 1)**

1. OEH is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment provided and no further assessment is required.
2. The conservation agreement should include a ledger clearly showing the allocation of the offset credits to the impacts of the original project and this modification. This will ensure any future modifications do not utilise already allocated offset lands.
3. OEH is satisfied with the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and no further assessment is required.
4. OEH recommends that the current modification area be integrated into the approved Heritage Management Plan (RPS 2015).
5. OEH is satisfied with the surface water assessment provided and no further assessment is required.

OEH's detailed comments

Karuah East Quarry (MP 09_0175 MOD 1)

Biodiversity

1. OEH is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment

The proposal will impact on 0.25 ha of Smooth-barked Apple – Red Bloodwood Open Forest, including one hollow-bearing tree, a dead stag and 13 individuals of the threatened plant *Tetratheca juncea*. The EA and Appendix C conclude that the proposal will not significantly impact on threatened biodiversity. The established Biodiversity Offset Area, required under the Part 3A approval, contains residual vegetation, including surplus *Tetratheca juncea* clumps to offset the minimal vegetation to be cleared and the species credits that would be generated from the modification proposal. OEH is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment.

Recommendation 1

OEH is satisfied with the biodiversity assessment provided and no further assessment is required.

2. OEH recommends that the conservation agreement documents the offset allocations of the original project and this modification

OEH notes that the Biodiversity Offset Area is to be secured with a conservation agreement under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. OEH has agreed to the use of this mechanism. The biodiversity offset credit impact and credit calculations identified in the EA and Appendix C should be documented in the conservation agreement to clearly identify the offset allocations of the original project and this modification. This will ensure that there is a clear ledger of offset credit allocations for the offset site.

Recommendation 2

The conservation agreement should include a ledger clearly showing the allocation of the offset credits to the impacts of the original project and this modification. This will ensure any future modifications do not utilise already allocated offset lands.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

3. OEH is satisfied with the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment provided.

Due to the small scale of the proposed modification to the Karuah East Quarry Project, the Cultural Heritage Assessment supplied is considered adequate. The modification seeks to remove 2,500 square metres of vegetation to improve vehicle access and manoeuvring within the quarry site. The cultural heritage assessment supplied concludes that due to the level of disturbance and known Aboriginal occupation patterns of the area, that the works can proceed with caution. OEH considers that this assessment is reasonable and adequacy reflects the nature and scope of the proposed works.

Recommendation 3

OEH is satisfied with the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and no further assessment is required.

4. The approved Heritage Management Plan should be updated

OEH notes that the existing Heritage Management Plan is a comprehensive guiding document that provides a framework to manage all aspect of Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Karuah

East Quarry Project. This plan should be updated to reflect the inclusion of lands within the proposed modification footprint for the quarry.

Recommendation 4

OEH recommends that the current modification area be integrated into the approved Heritage Management Plan (RPS 2015).

Flooding

5. OEH is satisfied with the surface water assessment provided.

OEH is satisfied with the surface water assessment undertaken.

Recommendation 5

OEH is satisfied with the surface water assessment provided and no further assessment is required.