

James McDonough
Department of Planning and Environment
james.mcdonough@dpie.nsw.gov.au
via Major Projects Portal – PAE-123137243

Re: MP09-0175-Mod-11 - Modification 11 Karuah (East) Pit Consolidation Project - Advice on
Modification Report

Dear James,

Thank you for your referral of the above Major Project modification dated 18 May 2026 to DPIRD Fisheries, a division of NSW Department of Primary Industries.

DPIRD Fisheries is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, DPIRD Fisheries ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act* (FM Act) (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species conservation provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (2013)*. DPIRD Fisheries is also responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing, aquaculture, marine parks and aquatic reserves in NSW.

DPIRD Fisheries has reviewed the relevant documentation provided in the Major Projects Planning Portal and offers the following advice.

The proposed modification to the quarry footprint does not include, nor directly impact, any waterways or wetlands mapped by DPIRD Fisheries as key fish habitat. As a result, the risk to key fish habitat from the proposal is considered low.

However, as outlined in the Groundwater and Surface Water Assessments (Appendices J and K), the site is located within the catchment of the Karuah River and Port Stephens (via Bulga and Yalimbah Creeks). Therefore, a low risk of indirect impacts to key fish habitats remains. DPIRD Fisheries recommends the continued implementation of best-practice mitigation measures, including erosion

and sediment control, and appropriate servicing and refuelling procedures for equipment and machinery, to prevent contamination of ground and surface waters that may enter these waterways.

For any further information, please contact me on Peter.Gibson@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gibson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Gibson

Fisheries Manager, Aquatic Ecosystems Assessments

DPIRD Fisheries