

16 August 2019

Contact: *Juri Jung*
Telephone: *98652503*
Our ref: *D2019/85259*

Anthony Barnes
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Energy and Resource Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Barnes

Thank you for your email received 8 July 2019 seeking WaterNSW's comments on Wallerawang Quarry Modification 3 (DA 344-11-2001 MOD 3). WaterNSW appreciates the opportunity to provide detailed comments on this proposal.

The Wallerawang Quarry is located within the declared Sydney Catchment area. A legislative function of Water NSW is to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of water in this catchment.

WaterNSW has adopted a set of principles that establish outcomes that it considers essential to protect the drinking water supplies of the Greater Sydney region from mining impacts. The principles relevant to this project and considered in the assessment include 'Protection of water quality', 'Protection of water quantity' and 'Sound and robust evidence regarding environmental impacts'.

WaterNSW has reviewed the Statement of Environmental Effects prepared by Umwelt (dated 20 June 2019) and undertaken a site visit on 13 August 2019. WaterNSW has the following concerns regarding the water quantity and quality impacts from this modification:

- Proximity of the proposed southern quarry extension area to Coxs River and impacts from earthworks on steep slopes
- Diversion of an ephemeral second/third order tributary of Coxs River for the proposed extension of stockpile areas
- Baseflow reduction of Coxs River (predicted 8-15% reduction based on the groundwater modelling), and
- Discharge of water from the void to Coxs River after quarry closure.

Notwithstanding the concerns listed above, WaterNSW considers that the project has the potential to achieve a neutral or beneficial effect (NorBE) on water quality, subject to the:

- provision of an updated quarry pit plan showing that the setback to the Coxs River from the quarry pit is consistent with the *Guidelines for controlled activities on waterfront land for riparian corridors (Natural Resources Access Regulator, 2018)*, and
- requirement for robust monitoring, reporting, and auditing programs and effective implementation of those programs.

In that regard, WaterNSW requests that the following documents be updated in consultation with WaterNSW:

- soil and water management plan and associated sub plans and monitoring programs shall also include:
 - detailed erosion and sediment controls for quarry extension near Coxs River to minimize risk to water quality
 - the detailed design of the diversion drainage channel to ensure that it has sufficient capacity to carry the flow and is stable in the long term, and
 - monitoring of Coxs River flow downstream of the extraction area, and
- the rehabilitation plan.

It is requested that WaterNSW remain as a stakeholder for the proposal and any updates to relevant plans. WaterNSW would also appreciate being notified when the application has been determined.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact Juri Jung on 9865 2503 or email at environmental.assessments@waterNSW.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Preshaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CLAY PRESRAW
Manager Catchment Protection