



Department of Planning and Environment

Carl Dumpleton
Energy and Resource Industry Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: DOC22-148296
Senders ref: SSD-8804

Via Major Projects Portal: PAE-37382027

18 March 2022

Dear Carl

Subject: Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion (SSD 8804) - Response to Submissions

Thank you for the notification dated 22 February 2022 about the Response to Submissions (RTS) for the Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion (SSD-8804), seeking input from the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department).

We have reviewed the RTS against the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) provided by the Department to the proponent on 7 November 2017 and BCD's comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provided to Planning and Assessment on 22 May 2020.

We are satisfied with the responses provided in section 4.1.2 of the RTS. We acknowledge the commissioning of a second Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) in response to our submission of 22 May 2020 (EnviroKey 2021, Biodiversity Offset Agreement Management System (BOAMS) case no. 00021174).

We are satisfied that the second BDAR has been prepared consistent with the SEARs relating to biodiversity. The biodiversity credit obligation generated by the second BDAR provides an appropriate offset for the harm caused by the development.

All plans required as a Condition of Approval that relate to biodiversity should be developed in consultation with and to the satisfaction of BCD. We recommend Conditions of Approval in **Attachment A**.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Marcus Wright, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via rog.southwest@environment.nsw.gov.au or 02 6983 4917.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Fisher
Senior Team Leader Planning
South West Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation Division
Department of Planning and Environment

ATTACHMENT A – BCD comments on Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion (SSD 8804) - Response to Submissions

ATTACHMENT A BCD comments on Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion (SSD 8804) - Response to Submissions

We are satisfied that the second BDAR (EnviroKey 2021, Biodiversity Offset Agreement Management System (BOAMS) case no. 00021174) has been prepared consistent with the SEARs relating to biodiversity.

The biodiversity credit obligation generated by the second BDAR provides an appropriate offset for the harm caused by the development.

We recommend the following conditions of consent for Biodiversity. Amend numbering as required.

- A. Prior to issue of operational commencement, the class and number of ecosystem credits in Table [X] must be retired to offset the residual biodiversity impacts of the development.
- B. The requirement to retire credits in “Condition A” may be satisfied by payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund of an amount equivalent to the class and number of ecosystem credits, as calculated by the BAM Credit Calculator and established by the BDAR.
- C. Evidence of the retirement of credits or payment to the Biodiversity Conservation Fund in satisfaction of “Condition A” must be provided to the consent authority prior to operational commencement.

Table [X] Ecosystem credits required to be retired – like for like

Impacted plant community type	Number of ecosystem credits	IBRA subregion	Plant community type(s) that can be used to offset the impacts from development
PCT 5 - River Red Gum herbaceous-grassy very tall open forest wetland on inner floodplains in the lower slopes subregion of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and the eastern Riverina Bioregion.	1 (one)	Murray Fans, Inland Slopes, Lower Slopes, Murrumbidgee, Robinvale Plains, South Olary Plain and Robinvale Plains. Or any IBRA subregion that is within 100 kilometres of the outer edge of the impacted site.	PCTs 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 36, 78, 112, 233, 234, 249, 356, and 362