



Department of Primary Industries

FE22/228
C22/146
07 February 2022

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Attention: Carl Dumpleton

RE: Advice on RTS – Howlong Sand and Gravel Quarry Expansion SSD-8804

DPI Fisheries are 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, the Department ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (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 (Update 2013)*. In addition, DPI Fisheries is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal cultural fishing within NSW.

DPI Fisheries provide the following comments. It is noted that under the proposal a 100m riparian vegetation buffer to the Murray River will be maintained/reinstated.

Waterway crossings

The design and construction of any waterway crossings (including temporary crossings to be used during construction) should be in accordance with the document *Why do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (NSW Fisheries 2003)* and the *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)*. To reinstate fish passage, temporary crossings need to be removed upon completion of works.

Riparian Buffer Zones

DPI Fisheries Policy advocates the use of terrestrial buffer zones as per the *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Habitat Conservation and Management (Update 2013)* which states that “NSW DPI will generally require riparian buffer zones to be established and maintained for developments or activities in or adjacent to TYPE 1 or 2 habitats or Class 1-3 waterways”. The department anticipates that adequate riparian buffer zones will be maintained adjacent to water courses that the proposal intersects with.

Stockpiling of Felled Timber

Consultation with DPI Fisheries should occur regarding stockpiling of felled trees from the footprint of the development for use as snags (large woody debris) to rehabilitate and improve the habitat quality of Key Fish Habitats.

Should you have any further queries regarding this correspondence please contact Alison McLean (Fisheries Manager) on 0484 907 343 or Alison.McLean@dpi.nsw.gov.au.