

19 June 2025

Mr Jarrod Blane
NSW Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Re: Hillview Hard Rock Quarry Project – SSD-70557215

Dear Mr Blane,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hillview Hard Rock Quarry Project proposal to extract up to 45 million tonnes in total of rhyolite over a 30 year period for the creation of aggregate, building materials and road base.

Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) has reviewed the EIS concentrating on issues for which we are the regulator under the Public Health Act and Regulation. These include the following:

Drinking Water

It is understood that in the operational phase there will be approximately 30 employees on site requiring potable water for drinking, washing, and showering. The EIS notes that bottled water may be used for drinking purposes. However, it also notes that tankered water may be brought to site and stored in a dedicated water tank. In addition, there will be rainwater tanks harvesting water from the rooves of the site office and workshop and treated for use in these two buildings. The collection, storage, and use of tankered water and rainwater constitutes a private water supply.

Businesses or facilities that supply water from a private water supply (i.e. not town water) need to follow the NSW Health Private Water Supply Guidelines (2014). The Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health Regulation 2022 require drinking water suppliers, including private water suppliers, to develop and adhere to a Quality Assurance Program (or drinking water management system). The completed Quality Assurance Program needs to be submitted to HNELHD. Further information and templates can be found at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/private-supplies.aspx>

NSW Health recommends regular testing of drinking water at facilities with a private supply. If a private water supply is contaminated or is not monitored or not treated then consumers should be warned.

While the Quality Assurance Program does not form part of the SSD approval, it is required under the above legislation.

Air Quality and Noise

On matters relating to air quality and noise, HNELHD defer to the regulator, NSW EPA.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Jennifer MacDonald, Environmental Health Officer on (02) 4924 6477 or email to HNELHD-PHEnvironmentalHealth@health.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely,



Dr David Durrheim
Service Director - Health Protection
Hunter New England Population Health