



Allison Sharp  
Team Leader Assessments  
Dept Planning Housing & Infrastructure

Dear Allison,

**Subject: Advice on Response to Submissions - Holcim Salt Ash Sand Operations (SSD-9099356)**

Thank you for your Major Projects Portal request dated 22 September 2025 seeking advice from the Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group (CPHR) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on Response to Submissions (RTS) for the Holcim Salt Ash Sand Operations (SSD-9099356) project.

We have reviewed the RTS against the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) provided by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to the proponent on 23 December 2020 and CPHR's advice on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provided to you on 3 March 2023 (DOC23/78145-19).

CPHR is satisfied that the issues raised relating to flooding and biodiversity have been addressed. CPHR notes the use of a species expert assessment of *Diuris arenaria*. While CPHR accepts the assessment as presented, because Dr Stephen Bell is not the listed species expert for this entity, this is not considered an expert report as per Box 3 of the BAM (2020).

As per advice provided to you on 3 March 2023, CPHR has only assessed impacts associated with land identified as 'Areas requiring to be offset' within the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). CPHR has not assessed impacts associated with the 1980 or 1992 development consents.

All plans required as a Condition of Approval that relate to biodiversity, flooding or coastal management should be developed in consultation with, and to the satisfaction of, CPHR.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact the Hunter Central Coast planning team at [huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Joe Thompson

**Director Hunter Central Coast Branch**

**Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group (CPHR)**

22 October 2025