



Energy and Resources Assessments  
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
12 Darcy Street  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Att: carl.dumpleton@planning.nsw.gov.au

## Gerroa Sand Quarry – Major Project 05-0099 Modification 2

Thank you for your referral of the proposed modification to the Gerroa Sand Quarry Major Project 05\_0099 via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal. The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) appreciates this opportunity to comment, as land reserved under the NSW *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, known as Seven Mile Beach National Park, is adjacent.

NPWS acknowledges that the proponent, Regional Quarries & Concrete Pty Ltd, trading as Cleary Bros, is seeking to modify the Major Project 05\_0099 Approval for the Gerroa Sand Quarry to allow for an increase in:

- maximum rate of haulage or road transportation by 50% from the approved 80,000tpa to a proposed 120,000tpa, with permitted truck movements increasing from 19 to 38 per day, with no change to the approved routes.
- annual operational groundwater demand by 13.3ML annually, to a proposed use of about 26.1ML2. The increase includes water extraction for product from 1.7ML to 2.6ML (net increase 0.9ML), and aquifer inflow to occupy the void from 24.8ML to 37.2ML (net increase 12.4ML) annually.

On review of the *Modification Report (Modification 2) for the Gerroa sand Quarry, prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty Limited, dated August 2025* (as the MOD report), NPWS raises the following matters for consideration, with a focus on the protection of the national park's values and visitor safety. The agency acknowledges that, apart from the increased haulage and predicted groundwater demand, no other changes are proposed to the Quarry's operations or approval area.

### NPWS recommends

1. Ensuring up-to-date NPWS estate and boundary information is utilised using the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) All Managed Land – NSW SEED dataset* via <https://datasets.seed.nsw.gov.au/dataset/npws-all-managed-land>. NPWS advises on recent acquisitions in this general location.
2. Using the published **Guidelines for developments adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Service lands** (DPIE, 2020) <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/development-guidelines> as a guide when assessing potential impacts to the NPWS estate and its connected ecological and hydrological systems. NPWS would like to ensure that the assessment of the proposed modification has considered:
  - a. increased haulage and heavy vehicle movements and the likely risk of increased mobility of sediments distributed due to increased truck movements on the local road network, leading to increased turbid stormwater discharge onto the NPWS estate.

- b. increased haulage and heavy vehicle movements and the likely risk of escalating noise and vibration impacts, resulting in decreased visitor amenity of the day-use areas in the national park. Recognising that the NPWS estate is treated as a sensitive receiver, with adequate monitoring to detect adverse impacts.
  - c. increase in groundwater demand associated with the Quarry's operation will not adversely affect or modify hydrology in this locality, or affect groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) on the NPWS estate such as Commonderry swamp.
3. Revising the *Gerroa Sand Resource Quarry Environmental Management Plan, prepared by Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd, dated June 2023*, to include public road safety provisions and reporting, based on the likely increase in heavy vehicle movements. NPWS requests assurance on the protection of safe and secure egress to visitor day-use areas on the national park, which are accessed via Crooked River Road.
4. Revising the *Gerroa Sand Resource Quarry Water Management Plan – Appendix E of Quarry Environmental Management Plan (Version 2: Revision 3, prepared by Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd, dated February 2023 (WMP)* to include:
  - a. outcomes of the latest environmental audit for the quarry, utilising up-to-date data and a clear interpretation of performance linked to water quality, water levels, acid sulphate soil management and groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) condition.
  - b. justification on the adequacy of the existing surface and groundwater monitoring framework, confirming that it remains fit for purpose, and the bore array can detect variation in groundwater following the change in groundwater demand. Ensuring the Quarry's increased water demand does not adversely affect or modify local hydrology (Schedule 5, Condition 1 of the Approval).
  - c. nomination of key priority areas, downstream of the quarry operations within Blue Angle Creek, and within significant GDEs where maintenance flows are prescribed (Schedule 3, Conditions 11(d) and 14(c) of the Approval). Setting the monitoring criteria and standardised condition assessments for the GDE (Plant Community Type) as part of the monitoring framework for both standard and incident recovery monitoring. Consider impacts to GDEs on the adjacent NPWS estate, where applicable.
5. Notification to NPWS where discharge from the Quarry site, or exceedance of environmental performance criteria occurs, which is likely to affect the downstream or adjacent NPWS estate (Schedule 5, Conditions 3 of the Approval).
6. Ensuring the proponent has approval to access the NPWS estate to conduct all necessary environmental monitoring set under the Quarry's Quarry Environmental Management Plan. Discuss the matter with NPWS Shoalhaven Area via phone: 02 4428 6300 or email on [npws.shoalhaven@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.shoalhaven@environment.nsw.gov.au).

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Julieanne Doyle, Team Leader Rangers, NPWS Shoalhaven Area, on 02 4428 6321 or at [Julieanne.Doyle@dcceew.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Julieanne.Doyle@dcceew.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Julie Peterson  
**Director South Coast**  
**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

10 November 2025