



APPENDIX 1

SEARs Table

Appendix 1 – SEARs Table

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| General Requirements | |
| The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development must comply with the requirements in Clauses 6 and 7 of Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> . In particular, the EIS must include: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a stand-alone executive summary; | Summary |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a full description of the development, including: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the resource to be extracted, including the amount, type and composition; | Section 2.3 and Appendix 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the site layout and extraction plan, including cross-sectional plans; | Section 3.1 and 3.3, 6.13 and Appendix 4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the production process and processing activities, including the in-flow and out-flow of materials and points of discharge to the environment; | Sections 3.2, 6.5 and 6.9 Appendix 9 and Appendix 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ surface infrastructure and facilities (including any infrastructure that would be required for the development, but the subject of a separate approvals process); | Section 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a waste (overburden, rejects, tailings etc) management strategy; | Section 3.2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a water management strategy; | Section 6.5.1.2 and Appendix 9 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a rehabilitation strategy to apply during, and after completion of extraction operations, and proposed final use of site; and | Section 6.16 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the likely interactions between the development and any existing, approved or proposed development in the vicinity of the site; | Section 2.5 and Section 6.0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a strategic justification of the development focusing on site selection and the suitability of the proposed site; | Sections 2.1 and 7.0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a list of any approvals that must be obtained before the development may commence; | Section 4.0 and Appendix 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● an assessment of the likely impacts of the development on the environment, focussing on the key issues identified below, including: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a description of the existing environment likely to be affected by the development, using sufficient baseline data; | Section 2.4 and 6.0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an assessment of the likely impacts of all stages of the development, including any cumulative impacts, taking into consideration any relevant laws, environmental planning instruments, guidelines, policies, plans and industry codes of practice; | Section 2.5 and 6.0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or offset the likely impacts of the development, and an assessment of: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ whether these measures are consistent with industry best practice, and represent the full range of reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be implemented; | Section 6.0 and Relevant Technical Assessments |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the likely effectiveness of these measures; and | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ whether contingency measures would be necessary to manage any residual risks; and | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the development; | Section 6, Appendix 3 and Relevant Technical Assessments |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a consolidated summary of all the proposed environmental management and monitoring measures, identifying all the commitments in the EIS; | Appendix 3 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consideration of the development against all relevant environmental planning instruments (including Part 3 of the <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007</i>); | Section 4.0 and Appendix 2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the reasons why the development should be approved, having regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevant matters for consideration under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>, including the objects of the Act; the biophysical, economic and social impacts of the development, including the principles of ecologically sustainable development; the suitability of the site with respect to potential land use conflicts with existing and future surrounding land uses; feasible alternatives to the development (and its key components), including the consequences of not carrying out the development; | |
| | Section 4.0 |
| | Section 7.0 |
| | Section 2.0 and 7.0 |
| | Section 2.7 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a signed declaration from the author of the EIS, certifying that the information contained within the document is neither false nor misleading. | EIS Declaration |
| <p>In addition to the matters set out in Schedule 1 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>, the development application must be accompanied by a signed report from a suitably qualified expert that includes an accurate estimate of the capital investment value (as defined in Clause 3 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i>) of the development, including details of all the assumptions and components from which the capital investment value calculation is derived.</p> | Quantity Surveyors Report |
| Key Issues | |
| The EIS must address the following key issues: | |
| Noise & Blasting – including: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a detailed assessment of the likely construction, operational and off-site transport noise impacts of the development, including an assessment of cumulative impacts of any proposed, approved and existing developments in the vicinity of the site, prepared in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline, NSW Noise Policy for Industry and the NSW Road Noise Policy respectively, and having regard to the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy; | Section 6.2 and Appendix 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reasonable and feasible mitigation measures to minimise noise emissions; | Section 6.2.5 and Appendix 5 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring and management measures, in particular real-time and attended noise monitoring; | Section 6.2.5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed blasting hours, frequency and methods; and | Section 3.2.4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed assessment of the likely blasting impacts of the development (including ground vibrations, overpressure, flyrock, visual and fumes/odour), including an assessment of cumulative impacts of any proposed, approved and existing developments in the vicinity of the site, on people, animals, buildings/structures, infrastructure and significant natural features, having regard to the relevant ANZECC guidelines; and | Section 6.3 and Appendix 6 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed assessment of potential blasting impacts on the Balickera Channel, Balickera Tunnel and any related infrastructure | Section 6.2.3.5 and Appendix 7 |
| <p>Air Quality – including:</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed assessment of potential construction and operational air quality impacts of the development including an assessment of cumulative impacts of any proposed, approved and existing developments in the vicinity of the site, in accordance with the <i>Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i>, and with a particular focus on dust emissions including PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, and having regard to the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy; | Section 6.4 and Appendix 8 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an assessment of potential dust and other emissions generated from processing, operational activities and transportation of quarry products; | Section 6.4 and Appendix 8 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasonable and feasible mitigation measures to minimise dust and emissions; and | Section 6.4.6 and Appendix 8 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring and management measures, in particular, real-time air quality monitoring; | Section 6.4.6 and Appendix 8 |
| <p>Water – including:</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed site water balance, including a description of site water demands, water disposal methods (inclusive of volume and frequency of any water discharges), water supply infrastructure and water storage structures; | Section 6.5.1.3 and Appendix 9 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification of any licensing requirements or other approvals under the <i>Water Act 1912</i> and/or <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>; | Section 6.5.1.6 and Appendix 9 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstration that water for the construction and operation of the development can be obtained from an appropriately authorised and reliable supply in accordance with the operating rules of any relevant Water Sharing Plan (WSP); | Section 6.5.1.6 and Appendix 9 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of the measures proposed to ensure the development can operate in accordance with the requirements of any relevant WSP or water source embargo; | Sections 6.5.1.5, 6.5.2.3 and Appendix 9 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of any likely flooding impacts of the development; | Section 6.5.1.4 and Appendix 9 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of the likely impacts on the quality and quantity of existing surface and ground water resources, including a detailed assessment of proposed water discharge quantities and quality against receiving water quality and flow objectives; | Sections 6.5.1.4, 6.5.2.3, Appendix 9 and Appendix 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of the likely impacts of the development on aquifers, watercourses, riparian land, water-related infrastructure, the Grahamstown Dam drinking water catchment, Balickera Channel, Balickera Tunnel and any other related infrastructure, and other water users; and | Sections 6.5.1.4, 6.5.2.3, Appendix 9 and Appendix 10 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a detailed description of the proposed water management system (including sewage), water monitoring program and other measures to mitigate surface and groundwater impacts; | Sections 6.5.1.2, 6.5.2.4, Appendix 9 and Appendix 10 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| Biodiversity – including: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accurate predictions of any vegetation clearing on site; | Sections 6.6.3, 6.6.5 and Appendix 11 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a detailed assessment of the likely biodiversity impacts of the development, paying particular attention to threatened species, populations and ecological communities and groundwater dependent ecosystems, undertaken in accordance with the <i>Biodiversity Assessment Method</i> and documented in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report; and | Section 6.6.5 and Appendix 11 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a strategy to offset any residual impacts of the development in accordance with the <i>Biodiversity Offsets Scheme</i>; | Section 6.6.9 and Appendix 11 |
| Heritage – including: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of the potential impacts on Aboriginal heritage (cultural and archaeological), including evidence of appropriate consultation with relevant Aboriginal communities/parties and documentation of the views of these stakeholders regarding the likely impact of the development on their cultural heritage; and | Section 6.7 and Appendix 12 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification of historic heritage in the vicinity of the development and an assessment of the likelihood and significance of impacts on heritage items; | Section 6.8 |
| Traffic & Transport – including: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> current traffic counts for the Pacific Highway and Italia Road; | Section 6.9.1 and Appendix 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accurate predictions of the road traffic generated by the construction and operational stages of the development, including a description of the types of vehicles likely to be used for transportation of quarry products; | Section 6.9.2 and Appendix 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a detailed assessment of potential traffic impacts on the capacity, condition, safety and efficiency of the local and State road network (as identified above), including a road safety audit and having particular regard to the issues raised by agencies in Attachment 2; | Section 6.9.4 and Appendix 13 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an assessment of cumulative traffic impacts, having regard to any other approved, operating or proposed developments in the locality; and | Section 6.9.5 and Appendix 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of the measures that would be implemented to mitigate any impacts, including concept plans of any proposed upgrades, developed in consultation with the relevant road and rail authorities (if required); and | Section 6.9.6 and Appendix 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of existing and proposed access roads. | Sections 3.3.5, 6.9.1, 6.9.2 and Appendix 13 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Resources – including a detailed assessment of: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential impacts on soils and land capability (including potential erosion and land contamination) and the proposed mitigation, management and remedial measures (as appropriate); | Section 6.10.1 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential impacts on landforms (topography), paying particular attention to the long term geotechnical stability of any new landforms (such as overburden dumps, bunds etc); and | Section 6.10.2 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the compatibility of the development with other land uses in the vicinity of the development in accordance with the requirements in Clause 12 of <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007</i>, paying particular attention to the agricultural land use in the region; | Section 6.10.1 |
| <p>Waste – including estimates of the quantity and nature of the waste streams that would be generated or received by the development and any measures that would be implemented to minimise, manage or dispose of these waste streams;</p> | Section 6.11 |
| <p>Hazards – including an assessment of the likely risks to public safety, paying particular attention to potential bushfire risks and the transport, handling and use of any hazardous or dangerous goods;</p> | Section 6.12 |
| <p>Visual - a detailed assessment of the likely visual impacts of the development (before, during and post-extraction) on private landowners in the vicinity of the development and key vantage points in the public domain, paying particular attention to any new landforms and to minimising the lighting impacts of the development</p> | Section 6.13 |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <p>Social— including a detailed assessment of the potential social impacts of the development that builds on the findings of the Social Impact Assessment Scoping Report, in accordance with the <i>Social impact assessment guideline for State significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development</i>, paying particular consideration to how the development might affect people’s way of life, community, access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities, culture, health and wellbeing, surroundings, personal and property rights, decision-making systems, and fears and aspirations. The principles in Section 1.3 of the guideline and the review questions in Appendix D of the guideline</p> | <p>Section 6.14 and Appendix 15 NOTE: The SIA has been prepared in accordance with the Social Impact Assessment Guideline (DPIE, 2023)</p> |
| <p>Economic – including a detailed assessment of the likely economic impacts of the development, paying particular attention to:</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the significance of the resource; | <p>Sections 2.1, 2.3 and 6.15.1</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the costs and benefits of the development; identifying whether the development as a whole would result in a net benefit to NSW, including consideration of fluctuation in commodity markets and exchange rates; and | <p>Section 6.15.2 and Appendix 16</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the demand on local infrastructure and services; and | <p>Section 6.15.3 and Appendix 16 (see also Section 6.9 and Appendix 13)</p> |
| <p>Rehabilitation – including the proposed rehabilitation strategy for the site having regard to the key principles in the <i>Strategic Framework for Mine Closure</i>, including:</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rehabilitation objectives, methodology, monitoring programs, performance standards and proposed completion criteria; | <p>Section 6.16.2</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> nominated final land use, having regard to any relevant strategic land use planning or resource management plans or policies; and | <p>Section 6.16.2</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the potential for integrating this strategy with any other rehabilitation and/or offset strategies in the region. | Section 6.16.6 |
| Consultation | |
| <p>During the preparation of the EIS, you must consult with relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, Aboriginal stakeholders, community groups and affected landowners. In particular you must:</p> | Section 5.0 and Section 6.14 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> affected landowners; community groups; Port Stephens Council; Biodiversity and Conservation Division within the Department Heritage Council of NSW; Environment Protection Authority; Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration & Geoscience; Department of Primary Industries (including Agriculture and Fisheries); Forestry Corporation of NSW; Crown Lands and Water Division within the Department; Hunter Local Land Services; NSW Health; Hunter Water; NSW Rural Fire Service; and | |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements | Relevant EIS Section |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport for NSW. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● establish and operate a Community Consultative Committee for the project in accordance with the <i>Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects</i>, and consult with the committee during the preparation of the EIS; and | CCC established |
| The EIS must: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe the consultation process used and demonstrate that effective consultation has occurred; | Section 5.0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe the issues raised by public authorities, service providers, community groups and landowners; | Section 5.0 and 6.14 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● identify where the design of the development has been amended and/or mitigation proposed in response to issues raised; and | Section 2.0 and 6.0 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● otherwise demonstrate that issues raised have been appropriately addressed in the assessment. | Section 5.0 and 6.0 |

Table 2 – DCCEEW Assessment Requirements and where they have been addressed (note the outcomes of the MNES assessment are included in Section 6.6.6 of the EIS with detailed assessment in Appendix 11 (Biodiversity Development Assessment Report – Appendix B

| Recommendation | DCCEEW Comment | Section where addressed in Appendix 11 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report |
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| Survey results including details of the scope, timing and methodology for studies or surveys used and how they are consistent with (or justification for divergence from) published Commonwealth guidelines and policy statements | For ecological communities, this includes any condition thresholds provided in the listing advice or approved conservation advice. | Appendix B - Section 2 |
| A description and quantification of habitat in the Development Footprint (including suitable breeding habitat, suitable foraging habitat, important populations and habitat critical for survival). | For the ecological communities, assessments should be targeted to determine if the vegetation patches conform to the EPBC listed threatened ecological communities. | Appendix B - Appendix 1 and summary provided in Section 7.3.2 |

| Recommendation | DCCEEW Comment | Section where addressed in Appendix 11 – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report |
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| Information on proposed avoidance and mitigation measures to deal with the impacts of the Project, and a description of the predicted effectiveness and outcomes that the avoidance and mitigation measures will achieve. | - | Appendix B - Section 7.1 and Section 7.2 |
| A description of the nature, geographic extent, magnitude, timing and duration of any likely direct, indirect and consequential impacts on any relevant EPBC Act listed species and communities and listed migratory species. | It must clearly identify the location and quantify the extent of all impact areas to each relevant EPBC listed species and community. | Appendix B - Section 6.3 |
| Quantification of the offset liability for each species and community significantly impacted, and information on the proposed offset strategy, including discussion of the conservation benefit for each species and community, how offsets will be secured, and the timing. It is a requirement that offsets directly contribute to the ongoing viability of the specific protected matter impacted by a Project i.e. 'like-for-like'. | Like-for-like includes protection of native vegetation that is the same ecological community or habitat being impacted (preferably in the same region where the impact occurs), or funding to provide a direct benefit to the matter being impacted e.g. threat abatement, breeding and propagation programs or other relevant conservation measures. | Appendix B - Section 7.3 |
| Further analysis of the impacts of the 2019-2020 bushfires on EPBC Act listed threatened species and communities should be undertaken during the assessment. | Further assessment will determine whether the remaining habitat within the Project area is of substantially greater importance to the survival of the listed threatened species following the fires and/or whether the population of the species in the area is considered an important population. This information, once obtained, can be considered when determining avoidance, mitigation and offset measures for these species. | Appendix B - Section 6.4 |