



APPENDIX U: CONSULTATION REPORT



Consultation outcomes report

Deep Creek Quarry
project



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTY

We are in the Country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We recognise their connection to the land and water of this beautiful and vibrant place. We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS AND TERMS

ACRONYMS/TERMS	DESCRIPTION
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
ASR	Age-standardised rate
DA	Development application
DPIE	NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
FTE	Full-time equivalent
IAIA	International Association for Impact Assessment
MCC	MidCoast Council
Ha	Hectares
Km	Kilometres
LEP	Local Environment Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
Regional community	Residents from MidCoast Council
SEARs	Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
SEIFA	Social-Economic Indexes for Areas
SIA	Social impact assessment
SIMP	Social Impact Management Plan
SCC	Suburb
SSD	State Significant Development
tpa	Tonnes per annum
UCL	Urban Centre/Locality (ABS ASGS)



1. Introduction

This consultation outcomes report has been prepared by Mara Consulting (Mara) on behalf of Kleinfelder Australia to provide an overview of the consultation activities carried out during the development of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Deep Creek Quarry project at Limeburners Creek. It also outlines key issues and opportunities raised by the local community, stakeholders and public authorities and how they are addressed in the EIS.

The engagement approach for the project has been guided by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum of public participation, delivered at an 'inform' and 'consult' level. The focus of this report is consultation that occurred during the development of the technical studies and the EIS. It should be noted the proponent, Ironstone Developments, has been liaising with the community and key stakeholders prior to this. This liaison has informed the design of the project and changed the location of key infrastructure to minimise impacts on the community.

Consultation activities included:

- proponent-led one-on-one stakeholder meetings
- dedicated project email address
- letterbox drops to nearby residents
- emails to Councils
- emails to key stakeholders
- mailout of information and invitation to get in touch and complete survey
- online survey
- online information sessions
- phone interviews with stakeholders
- digital feedback collected through a consultation platform.

The following report outlines the feedback received.

1.1 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

This consultation outcomes report has been prepared to summarise the consultation undertaken to support the development of the Environmental Impact Statement between September 2020 and August 2021, to satisfy the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued 19 February 2021. The SEARs set out the consultation requirements for the project, including consultation with relevant authorities and groups prior to the lodgement of the SSD application.

Table 1: Consultation approach provides a summary of the requirements, consultation activities undertaken and where the information is contained in the report. For the purposes of this report, affected landowners have been identified as 'directly impacted stakeholders' and/or 'interested stakeholders'.

The consultation process was designed to give the community and stakeholders information about the project as well as the opportunity to provide feedback prior to the submission of the State Significant Development application that will be provided to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Table 1: Consultation approach

SEARs requirement	How the consultation met the requirements	Where in report
describe the consultation process used and demonstrate that effective consultation has occurred	Numerous consultation tools were implemented and distributed to stakeholders throughout the EIS process. This provided numerous opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback and input and for proponents to identify opportunities and challenges linked to the project.	Table 3: Consultation objectives Table 4: Consultation tools
describe the issues raised	Summary of issues raised is contained in this report	Table 7: Summary of issues and responses Section 3.2 Key themes that emerged
- identify where the design of the development has been amended and/or mitigation proposed to address issues raised - otherwise demonstrate that issues raised have been appropriately addressed in the assessment	The design of the development has been amended and/or mitigation proposed to address the issues raised or appropriately addressed in the assessment. During early consultation (prior to SEARs being issued), it was identified that noise and traffic from the access road were two major concerns. This delayed the application for SEARs to secure an alternative access point to the proposed quarry. The design of the quarry also changed. Since SEARs were issued, the project team has further refined elements of the design.	Table 7: Summary of issues and responses Section 3.3 Project changes in response to stakeholder and community feedback



1.2 Background

Ironstone Developments Pty Ltd is seeking to develop a new hard rock quarry called Deep Creek Quarry, located off The Bucketts Way north of Limeburners Creek in New South Wales.

If approved, the quarry will produce up to 500,000 tonnes per annum of hard rock products and will be a source of quarry materials such as road base, high grip aggregates and decorative landscape products. The quarry will service local construction and landscape industries, predominantly across the Hunter, Mid-Coast and Central Coast regions, and further afield for high grip and decorative materials.

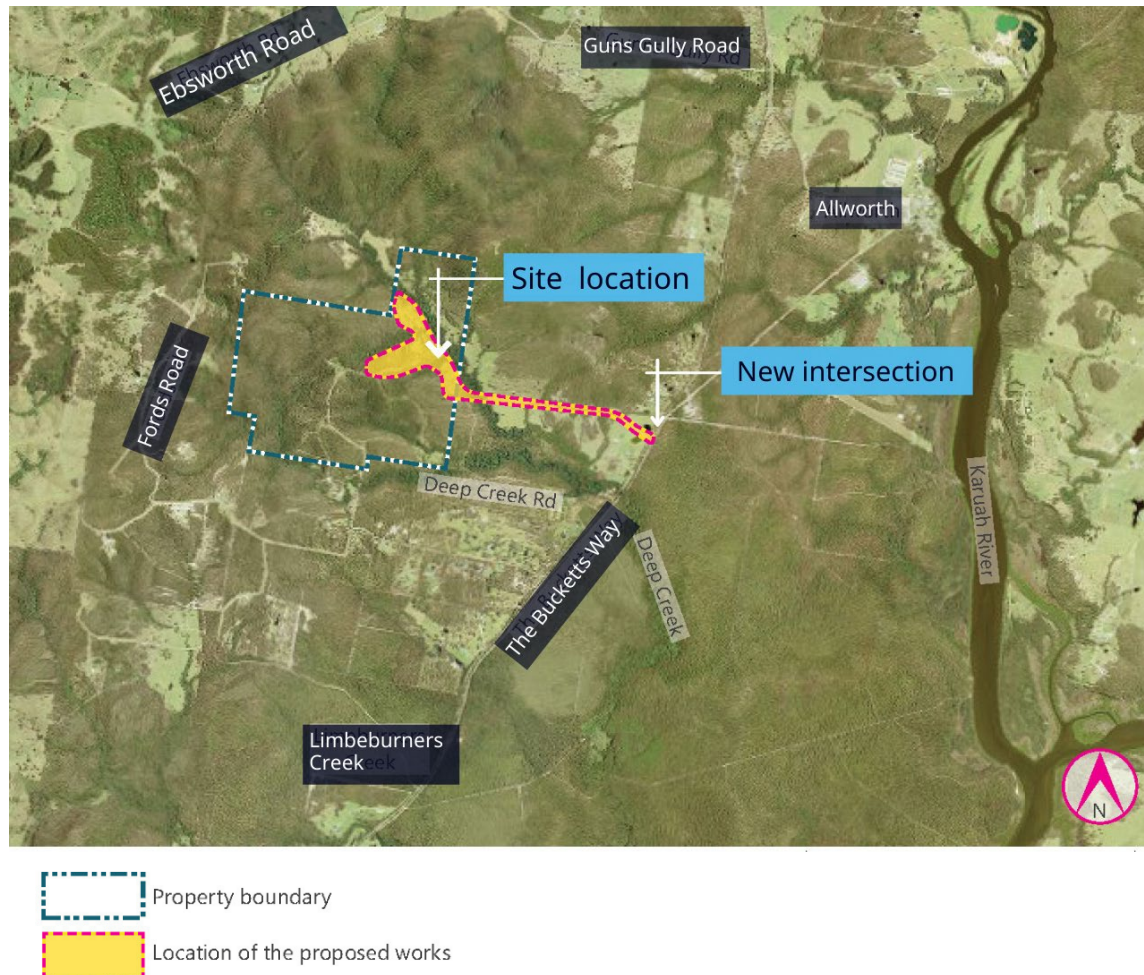
Project location

Ironstone Developments owns Lot 472 DP 1162208 and Lot 48 DP 753178, 279 Deep Creek Road, Limeburners Creek NSW 2324. Prior to Ironstone Developments purchasing the property in 2000, a sawmill operated on the 343-hectare property, a portion of the property was subsequently sold leaving the 308-hectare property owned by Ironstone Developments today. The land is currently used for grazing of beef cattle, under agistment.

The project is located within Ironstone Developments land and two lots east of this land proposed to be used for access.

The proposed quarry is located off Deep Creek Road, Limeburners Creek. The site is approximately 10km northeast of Clarence Town and 11km northwest of Karuah, within the Mid-Coast Local Government Area (LGA). Access to the site would be from The Bucketts Way via a new private access road with a new intersection on The Bucketts Way.

Image 1: Existing aerial view of the site (Mara Consulting Visual Impact Assessment 2021)



Project description

The proposed facility, if approved will include:

- construction of a site new access road and intersection off The Bucketts Way
- site preparation and development of the quarry area
- construction of infrastructure such as a weighbridge, office, and workshop
- stockpile and water management facilities
- extraction and crushing of quarry material
- transportation of the extracted material from the site
- ongoing site maintenance and progressive site rehabilitation completed at the end of the project life.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Summary of consultation activities

Community and stakeholder feedback was invited on the proposed development between September 2020 and August 2021. The approach to consultation for this stage of the project was developed in mid-2020, when COVID-19 measures and health orders were in place. As a result, all feasible channels were used to reach as many people as possible to inform them of the project, explain how they could participate and how feedback would be included in the project. This was prior to SEARs being issued and was an attempt to provide adequate time for stakeholders to participate in the project.

Key stakeholders were identified and included individuals, special interest groups (e.g. ICAG, oyster farmers, business groups), local governments (MidCoast and Port Stephens), and those with an interest in or likely to be affected by the project. Community consultation included:

- a project website using Social Pinpoint as the platform for sharing information. Since the site went live 07 September 2021, there have been more than 2988 visitors to the site (as of 24 September 2021) and 435 unique visitors with 149 document downloads
- project flyers and factsheets letterbox dropped to around 84 residents and businesses (twice)
- social media via Mara Consulting's Facebook page and LinkedIn page
- online project survey – *Have your say* on the Deep Creek Quarry project. This was promoted on the consultation platform website developed for the project, Mara Consulting website. The survey opened on 10 May 2021 and was initially scheduled to close on 30 May 2021. After stakeholder feedback, the online survey remained open until 4 August 2021
- 20 printed project surveys sent to stakeholders with return to sender envelopes
- express post letter and factsheet inviting stakeholders to provide feedback and take the survey, sent to around 84 residents and businesses
- phone in-depth interviews with affected, interested and agency stakeholders
- the proponent engaged in 33 one-on-one liaisons, and just under 100 phone, email, and text contacts with directly impacted and interested stakeholders to discuss noise, traffic and transport, environmental impacts, visual impacts, and air quality.
- online community information sessions were held on 4 August 2021: In total, 12 participants attended the hour-long sessions that included an overview of the project, a video presentation and a facilitated Q&A session. The video presentation and summary of Q&A were both available on the website for those who could not attend the presentation.



In addition, a range of channels were established to provide stakeholders an opportunity to give feedback or get in contact at any point during the consultation. Some are ongoing, others through the duration of the EIS and will be available through the public exhibition stage of the project.

Table 2: Contact information

Communication channel	Details
Community information email (ongoing)	community@deepcreekquarry.com.au
Project information email	projects@maraconsulting.com.au
Project website	Deepcreekquarry.com.au
Address	Deep Creek Quarry project PO Box 167 Stockton NSW 2295

2.2 Approach to consultation

The consultation plan was designed to meet the requirements of the SEARs. Most of the communication and engagement activities for the proposal were to inform and consult. This is taken from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) principles of engagement. The IAP2 spectrum of engagement aims to provide a values-based framework to effectively engage with stakeholders. The participation goals were:

INFORM - Provide balanced and objective information, to assist with understanding problems, alternatives/ options, solutions and opportunities.

CONSULT - To obtain feedback from stakeholders on the engagement.

Consultation objectives

Like the approach, consultation aimed to meet the objectives set out in **Table 3: Consultation objectives**. This report summarises the activities undertaken to provide stakeholders and the community genuine opportunities to participate in the project.

Table 3: Consultation objectives

Objective	How this was done
Make the community and stakeholders aware of the project	Preparation of project information including developing a project specific website, images and maps, fact sheets, emails, letterbox drop, letters, emails, phone calls, social media promotion.
Distribute information to stakeholders, residents, and local businesses	Distribution of project information via one-on-one meetings, letterbox drops and mail outs, online consultation platform web pages, phone calls, online community consultation sessions, in-depth interviews, emails.
Identify and define potential issues and opportunities arising from the proposed development	Used feedback provided through the various feedback channels to identify and define potential issues and update project information, fact sheets, and FAQs.
Provide an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to provide feedback	Gathered feedback via one-on-one meetings with directly impacted and interested stakeholders, project-based contact channels including email address and mailbox, printed and online surveys, online consultation platform, phone interviews and online community consultation sessions.
Recommend mitigation, management measures regarding the potential impacts of the quarry, through construction and operation	Developed mitigation and management plans and altered construction and access road designs as a direct outcome of one-on-one meetings with directly impacted stakeholders.

2.3 Stakeholder identification

The simple definition of a stakeholder is anyone who has an interest in or is affected by the proposed development or ongoing operations or anyone who can affect the proposal. Stakeholders can include individuals, communities, government agencies, non-government organisations, not for profit associations, private organisations, small and large businesses, customers, staff, and contractors.

Affected stakeholders are groups or people that will be affected by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the facility. Interested stakeholders are those who are not directly affected but have an interest in the project.

Stakeholders can have varying levels of interest in and influence over a project. Interest is the extent to which a stakeholder is invested in and/or impacted by the proposal. While influence is the extent to which a stakeholder can affect the outcomes or operations (positively or negatively). In general, the greater the interest or influence in the proposal, the greater the level of effort required to manage the engagement with the stakeholder/s.

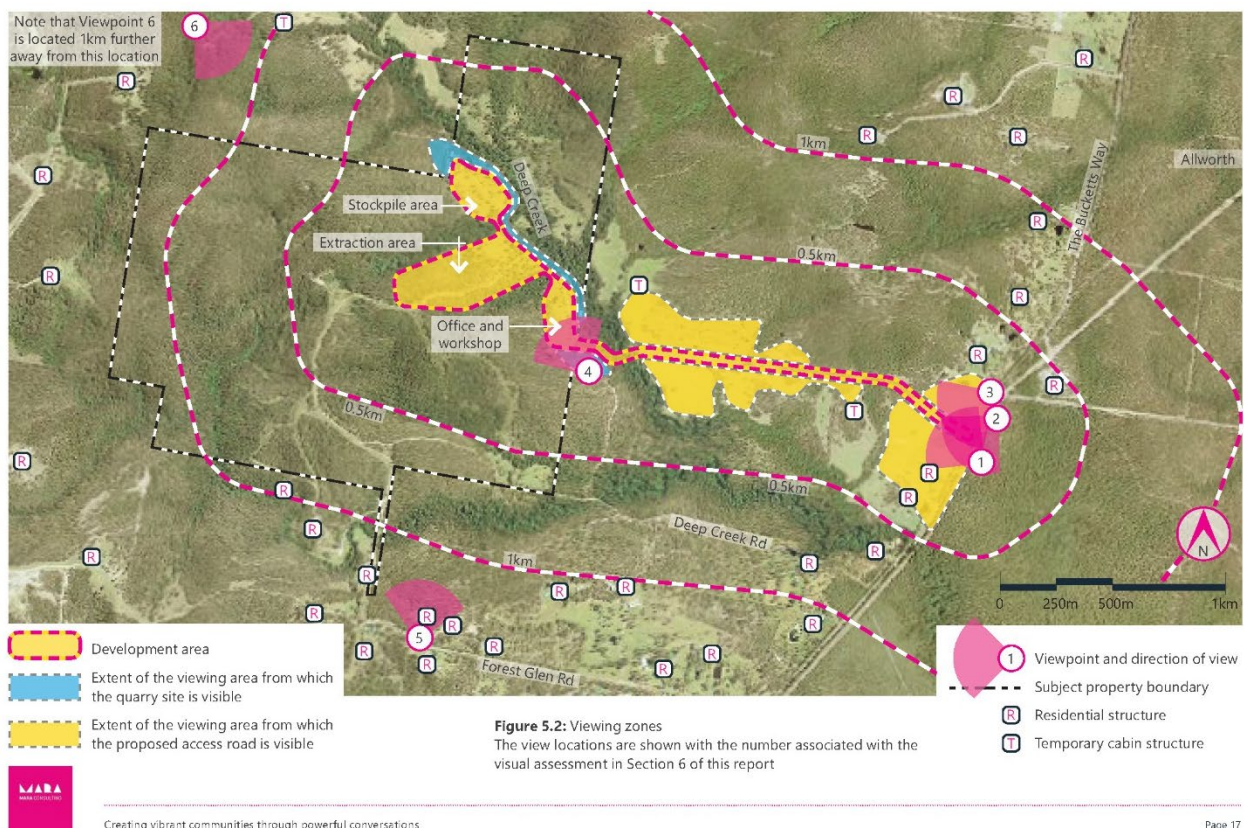
People and groups who may have an interest in or affected by the proposal have been included in the consultation. Priority was given to including stakeholders near the project as well as those who may be

affected by potential impacts including but not limited to, potential noise and vibration, air quality, visual, environmental and traffic impacts of the proposed development.

Consultation activities occurred with:

- approximately 84 landowners, residents, businesses within 3 km radius of the proposed quarry were included in the consultation.
- key stakeholders such as businesses and industry groups including oyster farmers, retailers, wineries and tourism venues, communities around Allworth and Limeburners Creek
- agencies, authorities and local governments
- anyone registered for communication updates about the project.

Figure 1: Quarry footprint with residential dwellings (Source: Mara Consulting - Visual Impact Assessment)



2.4 What tools were used

Table 4: Consultation tools provides a description of the consultation tools and materials that were prepared and developed, and who they were distributed to between September 2020 and August 2021.

Table 4: Consultation tools

Tools	Description	Stakeholder groups
Online community information session	Provided an opportunity for online (face-to-face) engagement between interested and impacted stakeholders and the Deep Creek Quarry project team. To open discussion on construction and operation and possible social and environmental impact of the proposed quarry and gather feedback and input from the community.	Directly impacted stakeholders Interested stakeholders
Online consultation platform (Social Pinpoint)	Provided project information to community and stakeholders and gather feedback on issues, and opportunities regarding the project.	Directly impacted stakeholders Interested stakeholders Neighbouring businesses
Online surveys	Easy to access community survey gathered feedback from on the proposed Deep Creek Quarry Project and ensured that stakeholder group's interests and concerns about the proposal were understood.	Directly impacted stakeholders Interested stakeholders
Contact mechanisms	A variety of contact mechanisms were established including project email, dedicated post box and consultation platform. Contact details have been included on all project-related communication materials.	Directly impacted stakeholders Interested stakeholders Neighbouring businesses Government agencies
Communications (emails, factsheets, frequently asked questions)	Distribution of project information to community and stakeholders via letterbox drops, mail outs, web pages, and social media platforms.	Directly impacted stakeholders Interested stakeholders Neighbouring businesses Government agencies
Phone interviews	In-depth, one-on-one interviews provided an opportunity for stakeholders to deliver feedback about the project and raise any issues or concerns.	Directly impacted stakeholders
Briefings	Briefings/forums with key agency and government stakeholders to seek feedback on a specific issue or range of issues. Both online and in-person	Mid-Coast Council Port Stephens Council Government agencies
One-on-one meetings	Meetings with stakeholders to discuss concerns and opportunities.	Impacted stakeholders Community

2.5 How and when consultation occurred

The consultation process has provided opportunity for stakeholders and members of the community to learn about the project and for the proponent to capture and respond to the matters being raised. **Table 4:** Consultation tools provides a description of the consultation tools and materials that were developed, and their schedule of delivery. Consultation activities focused on the lodgement of the EIS. It should be noted that prior to the Mara being engaged to conduct the project, the proponent had liaised with landowners.

Table 5: Contact statistics between September 2020 and August 2021

Activity	Number of contacts
Website visitors	2988
Document downloads (factsheets, FAQs)	136
Emails (in and out)	123
Online survey	21
Online community information session	2
Video presentation	18 views
Letterbox drop (properties) within 2 km of project site	164
Letters mailed (Express post)	84
Phone calls	66
Meetings	33
In-depth interviews	12

Survey

A survey was open to the community between 10 May 2021 and 4 August 2021. The survey was available on Social Pinpoint (website) and promoted via:

- email to stakeholders, which included residents, community groups, industry groups, local government representatives, government departments
- letterbox dropped to around 84 residents and businesses
- express post letter and factsheet explaining the project and how to get involved, how to take the survey and provide feedback. This was sent to around 84 residents and businesses
- social media promotion via Mara Consulting's Facebook page and LinkedIn page
- 20 printed project surveys were sent to Ironstone Community Action Group Inc (ICAG Inc) with return to sender express post envelopes for community members who may not have access to a computer or internet. At the time of writing the report, no printed surveys had been completed.

A total of 21 responses were completed. Survey responses identified the following:

- More than 50% relied on family, friends or neighbours, or 23% from a community group for information about the project. Only six had visited the project website
- Most believed they had a good understanding of the project
- Noise, dust, traffic and impacts on environment were most raised in the open-ended comments
- In general respondents were not supportive of quarrying in the area or the proposal

- Most believe the proposal would have a negative impact on their daily lives.

Stakeholder interviews

A series of in-depth interviews with key stakeholders were held. The interviews aimed to understand what the perceived impacts and opportunities arising from the proposal. Stakeholder interviews were held with:

- MidCoast Council – Social Planner
- MidCoast Council – Senior Ecologist
- MidCoast Water – Water Planning and Assets
- Port Stephen – Environmental Planner
- Hunter Water – Water Quality Planning team, and Property Manager
- Transport for NSW – Development Services representatives
- Nearby residents – Five nearby residents
 - Marie-Jean Richmond
 - Amanda and Stephen Albury (also representatives of ICAG community group)
 - Jann Jeffries
 - Mark and Debbie Lancaster
 - Stephen Gibberd.

Interviews with the MidCoast Council Senior Ecologist revealed that Council and the community are concerned with environmental impacts in the area. Specifically, loss of biodiversity was raised and suggestions were made to provide a vegetation buffer around the Project. The Senior Ecologist also recommended that offsets be provided locally to sustain the local biodiversity.

The Community Development Officer from MidCoast Council identified potential impacts to the community including: noise from blasting and trucks, traffic along The Bucketts Way, increases in dust and effects on health, and the condition of local roads. The suggestion was made to mitigate the concerns by providing contributions to the community for upgrades to community facilities and infrastructure.

The Environmental Planner at Port Stephens Council was interviewed to identify downstream impacts on roadways and waterways. The main concerns raised included the traffic delays at the intersection of The Bucketts Way with the Pacific Highway (upgrades to intersection are needed). Biodiversity was also raised as a concern, specifically protection of the Rusty Green Orchid that is found in the region.

The TfNSW representative identified the intersection of The Bucketts Way and Pacific Highway as the primary concern. There are existing traffic delays at the intersection and adding more traffic may cause drivers to perform dangerous actions to enter the highway.



Online community information sessions

Two online community information sessions were held on 4 August 2021. A mid-morning session from 10-11am, and an evening session from 6pm – 7pm. The event was structured to provide opportunities to ask questions and gather detailed information about the proposal. Interested stakeholders were encouraged to submit questions prior to the session to make sure detailed responses were provided. There were 12 participants across the two sessions. It included

- introduction of the project
- video presentation – 15minute overview of the proposed project
- questions raised prior to the meeting and answered in the online sessions
- facilitated Q&A

The sessions were initially to be held in-person at the community hall, however, with the quick escalation of COVID-19, the sessions were held online to ensure the safety of participants and the project team. While there were concerns over internet connection for some participants, all efforts were made to provide opportunities to participate in the session or access the presentation after the sessions. Measures included:

- accessing the video presentation via the project website
- a factsheet with questions and answers available on the project website. This was available for download
- the feedback period was extended by a week to provide extra time to submit questions or request for further information.

As at the 13 August 2021, two emails had been received and responded to by the project team.

Table 6: Consultation timetable

Timeline	Description	Consultation tools and activities
February 2015	Early engagement	Pre-DA meeting with Mid-Coast Council (Great Lakes Council at the time). Engagement led by proponent.
2017 - 2020	Early engagement by proponent	- Proponent liaised with stakeholders - Proponent delivered preliminary scope of potential issues. This includes with neighbouring properties, community members and government agencies - Meetings with agencies, Mid-Coast Council, landowners - Investigated alternative access road and secured arrangement
Up to request for SEARS – November 2020	Throughout preparation of Scoping Report to accompany lodgement of Request for SEARs	- Department of Planning Industry and Environment - Mid-Coast Council - Port Stephens Council - Transport for NSW - Resources Regulator - Landowners located along the proposed new access corridor - Landowners of the dwelling immediately north of the proposed access road - Property owners immediately east and north of the quarry pit - A copy of the first DCQ newsletter distributed to local properties - Launch consultation platform (website) - Created dedicated project contact channels
November to February 2021	Awaiting issue of SEARs	- Maintaining website - Responding to stakeholder inquiries (phone / email)
19 February 2021 to August 2021	Following issue of SSEARs	- Updated project information materials - Sent notification letter and information packs to stakeholders - Prepared Community and Engagement Plan - Survey live May to August 2021 - Respond to stakeholder inquiries (phone / email) - Letterbox drop to approx. 84 stakeholders (as per receiver map) - Letter and flyer sent advising of community consultation for development of EIS. Included information about the survey, website details, contacts and updated project factsheet approximately 84 stakeholders (as per receiver map) - Email invitation to registered stakeholder for community information session - Phone interviews with key stakeholders and agencies - Two online community information sessions 10am – 11am and 6pm–7pm. Included video presentation, FAQs and facilitated Q&A session. - Video presentation of project showed at information session and downloadable list of questions raised at information session available on website.

3. Stakeholder and community feedback

During the consultation process, stakeholders identified a range of impacts of the project. Although feedback has differed based on individual stakeholder interests. Several consistent issues emerged and included in **section 3.2** Key themes that emerged.

3.1 Summary of feedback and issues raised

Table 7: Summary of issues and responses provides a summary of these issues and opportunities as raised by the stakeholders, together with a response and or/reference to where these issues are addressed in this EIS. The themes and issues are not presented in priority order. It is, however, noted that the most raised issues by stakeholders related to noise, traffic, the access road, and vibration.

Table 7: Summary of issues and responses

Feedback and issues raised	Proponent response
Who is Ironstone Developments?	Ironstone Developments Pty Ltd is a locally owned family company, whose owners have a long history in quarrying and civil construction works in the Hunter region (through Woodbury Civil Pty Limited).
What's the structure of the company?	The proponent for the Deep Creek Quarry project is Ironstone Developments Pty Ltd.
Do the quarry developers have enough financial backing?	There are several measures to make sure the quarry has adequate financial backing to develop the project effectively and is generally included in the conditions of an approval. The quarry must operate to the conditions of approval, if it cannot meet the conditions of approval, regulatory authorities can close the quarry down. Prior to commencing the project, a rehabilitation bond will be submitted to the State government. The bond is calculated by an approved quantity surveyor and normally covers the costs needed to rehabilitate the first three years of the quarry disturbance. This is then reviewed and updated as the quarry continues. If rehabilitation was not performed as agreed under the conditions of approval, the bond would allow rehabilitation to be performed and costs to be covered .
Where is the access road to the quarry?	Stakeholders highlighted concerns about using Forest Glen Road and Deep Creek Road as the haul road. Based on this feedback, the project team investigated alternatives and secured an agreement to create a new private access road, directly from The Bucketts Way to the quarry. The access road will be approximately 1.6km north of the Forest Glen Road intersection. It will be a two-lane sealed access road, with a new intersection to be constructed on The Bucketts Way which will include acceleration and deceleration lanes.
What impacts will there be on The Bucketts Way?	A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) has been completed to review the potential impacts of the quarry operation on The Bucketts Way. This assessment used vehicle traffic data from 21 February 2019. An accredited road safety auditor has completed a road safety audit of the existing conditions of the Limeburners Creek Bridge, The Bucketts Way, the Pacific Highway intersection, and consideration of the proposed

Feedback and issues raised	Proponent response
	new intersection onto The Bucketts Way. TheTIA concludes that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on the local and state road network in the vicinity of the site and that the network is suitably safe for use by quarry traffic, meeting all the minimum requirements of MidCoast Council, Austroads and NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).
Can the Limeburners Creek Bridge cater to the extra number of trucks needed to service the quarry?	Yes. A Road Safety Auditor has reviewed the bridge and determined that it does meet the standard requirements, though noted minor maintenance of existing bridge delineation was required. The results of this audit have been supplied to Mid Coast Council.
What is the timeline for construction on the access road and the associated road works of The Bucketts Way?	It is expected that progressive construction of the road and intersection will take approximately 12 weeks, pending weather.
When was the survey done on The Bucketts Way?	Traffic counts on The Bucketts Way were completed on 21 February 2019.
What are the expected truck movements per day?	At peak operation there will be an average of 55 laden trucks per day leaving the site. There will be a further 10 light vehicles and 6 other vehicles for deliveries, visitors, and services that access and leave the site each day.
How will the project manage truck movements and speed?	All drivers will go through a driver safety induction and Driver Code of Conduct that encourages safe driving practices. All drivers will be required to undertake the induction before coming onsite or on their first site arrival. This will specify the expected safe driving behaviours both within the site and when on public roads. The induction and code of conduct will include, but will not be limited to: • speed management • avoiding excessive throttle use • avoiding the use of exhaust brakes near dwellings • quarry opening times • being aware that animals may occasionally be crossing the road. If a driver does not adhere to the Code of Conduct, they will be suspended from undertaking further haulage from the quarry.
What would be the landscaping arrangements along the haul road?	A mix of native trees and shrubs will be positioned along portions of the haul road to improve visual screening from adjoining property. In some locations, where feasible, the vegetation will be planted into an earthen bund intended to reduce noise and increase the visual screening effect.
How would complaints be managed through the operation of the quarry?	As part of ongoing community liaison, the quarry will be required to have a complaints management system. This will include a phone number for community inquiries and complaints. All complaints will be required to be recorded on the quarry's website and reported to DPIE within each annual review. If the quarry is approved, it is expected that a Community Liaison Group will be formed. This group would meet on a regular basis to keep the communication open between the quarry

Feedback and issues raised	Proponent response
	and the community and ensure that the quarry is operating in line with its commitments.
Will there be any compensation?	Any conversations about compensation will be held directly with those stakeholders. This project will be subject to the requirements of the Voluntary Land Acquisition Policy. This includes compensation through to voluntary property acquisition where criteria are exceeded.
How would dust be managed?	If the project is approved, an Air Quality Management Plan will be put in place to help meet the strict environmental conditions that are likely to be placed on the operation. Minimising dust has been a priority through the design of the quarry. This includes positioning the quarry below the ridgeline, sealing the main access road, and crushing to take place on the quarry floor. The air quality management plan is likely to include: • setting limits to the speed of vehicles travelling on access roads • dampening internal unsealed roads with water carts and using water sprays on the crushing plant during production • keeping quarry stockpiles as low as possible • avoiding high dust generating activities such as crushing, blasting, or even driving on unsealed roads during dry weather with high winds when working in exposed areas, dust suppression • measures and monitoring will be in place to ensure that dust emissions are kept within acceptable specified levels • A program to monitor the dust levels surrounding the quarry operations to ensure emissions meet regulatory requirements.
How will the silica dust be managed during the quarry's construction and operation?	The quarry manager will be responsible for ensuring that the silica dust levels are in line with the WHS regulations. The mandatory limit for silica dust exposure in Australia is 0.05mg/m ³ averaged over an eight-hour day (except in Tasmania where it is 0.1mg/m ³). Under WHS regulations, employers must provide health monitoring for workers if they carry out ongoing work using, handling, generating, and storing crystalline silica. The quarry will also have a duty to ensure the workplace exposure standard for crystalline silica is not exceeded and to provide health monitoring and air monitoring to workers.
What's the economic benefit for the Lower Hunter?	For a small operation, the quarry will have a positive economic impact on the surrounding area. Through construction, approximately \$5.8 million will be injected into the community. During operations, the project is estimated to generate \$7.6 million per year, creating 10 full-time equivalent jobs through the expected life of the quarry of up to 30 years. As the project is in the early stages of seeking approval, there are no plans to fill these positions currently. Employment will be based on experience and the ability to fill the role.
What area was included in the economic assessment?	The study area used in the economic assessment is defined as the aggregation of the Statistical Analysis areas of Great Lakes (the project is located within the Mid

Feedback and issues raised	Proponent response
	Coast Local Government Area (LGA), Taree-Gloucester, Lower Hunter, Port Stephens, Maitland, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie – East, Lake Macquarie –West. This catchment was chosen as it encompasses the project location as well as the key source markets for goods and labour that are represented by a 100-kilometre radius.
What are the environmental impacts?	The environmental studies show that the project can operate within the expected guidelines and health and amenity criteria for surrounding dwellings. As part of the Environmental Impact Statement, extensive surveys have been done to identify the different animals and plants found on the site and understand the potential impacts on them by the proposed quarry. No serious and irreversible impacts, as defined within the legislation, have been identified within the development site. The full studies for each of those listed in the presentation will be available on the DPIE website once it is lodged.
Will there be an impact on koala habitat?	Extensive surveys have been done to identify the different animals and plants found on the site and understand the potential impacts on them by the proposed quarry. This includes koalas. The assessment determined that the quarry would impact on 29.02 hectares of koala habitat (within the 308 ha property). There will be specific management measures during construction and operations in addition to the retirement of 736 Koala species credits to offset quarry impacts. Measures are likely to include preclearing surveys, supervised clearing, vehicle speed management and inductions for all staff, truck drivers and contractors. Offsets will include both long term protection of adjacent quarry-owned land and purchase of offset credits from the local area. The assessment concluded that the impacts are manageable and will not result in serious or irreversible impacts on Koalas.
Will there be any visual impacts?	The visual impact assessment shows the quarry would not be visible from any resident and will be completely shielded by existing vegetation or ridgelines. There are some impacts from the new access road intersection to The Bucketts Way.
Are there any plans for further expansions to the quarry for the future?	There are no current plans to expand the footprint of the proposed Deep Creek Quarry.
Who monitors the tonnage of product extracted over quarry life?	The NSW EPA and the NSW DPIE monitor the extraction levels from the quarry. As the proposal is seeking to extract 500,000 tonnes of hard rock products per annum, the operators need to apply for an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) issued by the NSW EPA. An annual extraction limit will likely be a condition of any approval issued by DPIE. Annual reports regarding the quarries production are provided to DPIE and the EPA and are available on the website for public access. Breaches of EPL licence conditions or the conditions of consent are subject to regulatory disciplinary actions. Disciplinary actions can vary from improvement programs, fines, and enforceable undertakings, through to suspension of the EPL and right to operate the quarry.

3.2 Key themes that emerged

Traffic and truck movements

Stakeholders representing the broader community and nearby residents, raised concerns with traffic, the state of The Bucketts Way and truck movements via the proposed access road. Residents feel that an increase in vehicles would create a bigger risk to road users. Other comments related to the lack of maintenance of the road with greater degradation of the road surface with the increase in heavy vehicles. Comments relating to what respondent's value least in Limeburners Creek, about 40 per cent related to the current traffic and condition of The Bucketts Way.

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) raised issues with the intersection of the Bucketts Way with the Pacific Highway which causes a line-up of traffic in peak times. Additional vehicles using the intersection could put more pressure on the intersection. Drivers are more likely to take risky decisions in these circumstances. This sentiment was also raised by stakeholders. Council is responsible for the Bucketts Way Council. TfNSW noted the road had recently been resurfaced in the proximity of the potential access road.

The traffic assessment specifies at peak operation there will be an average of 55 laden trucks per day leaving the site. There will be a further 10 light vehicles and 6 other vehicles for deliveries, visitors, and services that access and leave the site each day.

Access road including landscaping

Stakeholders highlighted concerns about using Forest Glen Road and Deep Creek Road as the access road. Based on this feedback, the project team investigated alternatives and secured an agreement to create a new private access road, directly from The Bucketts Way to the quarry. The access road will be approximately 1.6km north of the Forest Glen Road intersection. The plan is for a two-lane sealed road, with a new intersection to be constructed on The Bucketts Way which will include acceleration and deceleration lanes.

Stakeholders living in close proximity to the access road asked about visual screening of the access road. There will be a mix of native trees and shrubs along portions of the access road. Vegetation will be planted into an earthen bund intended to reduce noise and increase the visual screening effect.

Compensation and property value

There was a perception from some stakeholders that a quarry in the vicinity would devalue property prices. Compensation was also asked about in relation to potential property damage and acquisition. This project will be subject to the requirements of the Voluntary Land Acquisition Policy. This includes compensation through to voluntary property acquisition where criteria are exceeded.

Noise management, vibration, and blasting

Noise, vibration and blasting were the overwhelmingly the most common concerns raised by stakeholders. People value the quiet way of life in Limeburners Creek. A high proportion of comments showed that it was quiet and a peaceful way of life in Limeburners Creek. Substantial and enforceable



noise mitigation would be needed to reduce the impacts on residents. Additionally, the noise assessment should consider the nearby residents. A request for detailed information about how blasting is to be managed was detailed in feedback received.

Air quality and dust management

Stakeholders considered air quality as a major concern for the project. Some noted health concerns of a nearby resident. Stakeholders said that substantial and enforceable dust mitigation would be required to reduce the impacts on the local community. There was a request for automated dust monitors as part of the project.

Impact on flora and fauna

Respondents noted environmental impacts as an issue and are concerned wildlife habitat would be removed. Some stakeholders wanted more information about the impacts on koala habitat and raised concerns about impacts on koalas in the area. Comments also related to vegetation, particularly as it provides a corridor for native fauna. One suggestion submitted calls for relocating wildlife from the proposal footprint prior to any work occurring. There was also a request to protect trees, particularly on the ridgeline as well as offsets for bushland that will be impacted.

Visual amenity impacts

Some respondents and local residents were concerned that having a quarry nearby would spoil the rural, bushland landscape. Similarly, stakeholders did not believe the quarry could be shielded from sight.

Impact on livelihood and ability to use land for tourism

The potential change to the way people work and use their land in the Limeburners Creek area were seen as negatives. Stakeholders value the rural setting for living and recreating in a peaceful setting. One stakeholder was concerned about the impact to future business or tourism opportunities.

Broad concerns about other projects in the area

Local government stakeholders and community members were concerned about cumulative impacts from other similar projects in the Port Stephens and MidCoast LGAs.

Water management

Multiple stakeholders noted concerns about potential discharge into waterways. Port Stephens Council stated any water discharge from the site would need to meet NORBY or higher water quality targets and a maintenance of the current water quality and quantity discharging to the Karuah River system. It was also expected that all discharge water would be treated and discharged from site in accordance with EPA requirements. Stakeholders also referenced Deep Creek and the proximity to the proposal and were concerned with spills and runoff.



Effective sharing of project information

Community members and nearby residents indicated they relied on “word of mouth” information to find out about the project. Many noted they had a high or extremely high level of knowledge about the detailed proposal. Many stated they had never visited the project website and wanted more information about the proposal.

Feedback from stakeholders show there is a confusion about the EIS process stages, how and when to provide feedback. Concerns were raised about the ability to access project information or attend online information sessions due to the limited internet access in the area. Additionally, stakeholders questioned how inquiries and complaints would be managed if the project was approved.

Return and benefit for the community

Respondents said there would be little value or return for the local community. Few indicated they supported the project. The estimate of ten jobs was seen as not enough to balance the change in the community resulting from the proposal.

3.3 Project changes in response to stakeholder and community feedback

Based on feedback provided by stakeholders, there have been several amendments and mitigation measures applied to the project to address the issues raised. These changes are detailed in **Table 8: Project changes based on feedback**.

Table 8: Project changes based on feedback

Issue	Proponent response
Noise and dust impacts on community in particular on Forest Glen Road	The need to minimise and avoid noise and dust impacts on dwellings were raised during early discussions with Council and regulators. This need to avoid impacts shaped the location and design of the quarry extraction area and the quarry access road. The quarry extraction area and extraction direction is aimed at minimising noise propagation from the quarry to the west and south.
Access road	Originally, Forest Glen Road was reviewed for access to the quarry . When it was established that this would not be feasible, the proponent investigated the Deep Creek Road to operate as the access road. The proponent contacted affected landowners via face-to-face meetings, phone and email (a total of 47 contacts) between February 2018 and November 2020. Affected landowners highlighted their concerns about these plans and based on this feedback, the project team investigated an alternative option for an access road. The proponent secured an agreement to create a new private access road, directly from The Bucketts Way to the quarry. The final design of the access road will be approximately 1.6 km north of the Forest Glen Road intersection. It will be a two-lane sealed access road, with a new intersection to be constructed on The Bucketts Way which will include acceleration and deceleration lanes.
Visual screening and landscaping along the new access road	From August 2020 to August 2021 the proponent met directly impacted stakeholders a visual barrier along the new access road was discussed. The affected landowner suggested a bund be constructed along the access road corridor in the open paddock adjacent to The Bucketts Way to provide additional height which would then be planted with trees and shrubs provided by the project. If the proposal is approved, the proponent has committed to creation of a soil bund with stable slope with tree planting and ongoing consultation with the affected landowner.
Amenity - noise and diesel fumes along the new access road	Since August 2020 the proponent has met with stakeholders who have raised concerns about the effect of truck movements on their health. After consultation with the Air Quality Consultant to the project, while air quality impacts are within allowable criteria, truck movement plans have been suggested to offset the issue. This includes driver induction management plans and speed reductions to 40kms along the access road.



4. Outcomes report summary

This outcomes report is a summary of the activities completed and feedback received through the consultation program to support the lodgement of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) application for the Deep Creek Quarry.

Mara was engaged to conduct consultation to meet the environment approval requirements for the proposed development. The SEARs state that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must address specific matters including community and stakeholder engagement. Specifically, a detailed community and stakeholder engagement strategy was developed, identifying who has been consulted and why. Additionally, this outcomes report details the issues raised and how they have been addressed including any changes to the proposed development.

The consultation program was designed to meet the requirements of the SEARs and other NSW Government policies that guide consultation and engagement. Consultation with Aboriginal and first nations stakeholders is covered by work completed by specialist consultants, Insite Heritage, who were commissioned to conduct a cultural heritage assessment for the project.

4.1 Next steps

In preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for the Deep Creek Quarry project, the project team has met the consultation requirements prescribed by the SEARs.

It has demonstrated in this report how it has engaged with stakeholders and how feedback has informed the designs and studies lodged with the SSDA.

Once the EIS is exhibited the community will be invited to make a submission in relation to the proposal. The exhibition period will a minimum of 28 days. DPIE is responsible for notifying surrounding neighbours and will advertise the exhibition period. Community members will have the ability to make a formal submission on the proposal to DPIE and will be considered as part of the EIS determination.

The Deep Creek Quarry team will continue to engage with stakeholders and communities during the statutory exhibition of the SSDA, and if the project is approved, through the construction and operation of the quarry. The project team will continue to provide information to the community and stakeholders about ongoing activities including project updates at key stages.



Appendices

Appendix 1 – Example Factsheet

Appendix 2 – Sample community information session

Appendix 3 – Community information session presentation

Appendix 4 - YouTube video

Appendix 5 – Sample of website

**“ Creating vibrant communities through
powerful conversations**

