



Mr David Kelly
Head of Development
Gunlake Quarries Pty Limited
53 Cross Street
Double Bay, New South Wales 2028

06/05/2021

Dear Mr Kelly

**Gunlake Quarry Continuation Project (SSD 12469087)
Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements**

Please find attached the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gunlake Quarry Continuation Project. These requirements have been prepared in consultation with relevant public authorities based on the information you have provided to date. The agencies' comments are attached for your information (Attachment 2). You must have regard to these comments in the preparation of the EIS.

As the Department has previously advised, the environmental impact assessment of extractive industry projects is fundamentally linked to the annual rate of extraction, production and product transportation which is proposed. Consequently, any EIS which does not specify an annual limit for the extraction, production and transport of quarry products is unlikely to meet the requirements of these SEARs.

Please note that the Planning Secretary may modify the SEARs at any time. If you do not submit a development application (DA) and EIS for the development within 2 years, you must consult further with the Planning Secretary in relation to the preparation of the EIS.

Prior to exhibiting the EIS, the Department will review the document in consultation with relevant authorities to determine if it addresses the SEARs. You may be required to submit an amended EIS if it does not adequately address the requirements.

Please contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit your DA and EIS. This will enable the Department to provide lodgement instructions and discuss potential exhibition periods.

The Department has developed a new environmental impact assessment guidance series for State significant developments in NSW, referred to as the Rapid Assessment Framework, which was on exhibition until 12 February 2021. This framework includes a specific guideline for preparing an EIS. It is recommended that Gunlake Quarries Pty Limited (Gunlake) have regard to this guidance series during preparation of the EIS.

The Department recognises that Gunlake has already commenced stakeholder engagement as part of its routine consultation program and to inform its social impact assessment for the development. The Department wishes to emphasise the importance of continued effective and genuine community consultation during the preparation of the EIS. This process should provide the community with a clear understanding of the proposal and its potential impacts and include active engagement with the community regarding key issues of concern.

If your development is likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance, it will also require approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation; however,

there may be opportunity to streamline the two assessment processes in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth governments. Please contact the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to determine if an approval under the EPBC Act is required (<http://www.environment.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Robert Hodgkins on 4904 2711 or via email (Robert.Hodgkins@planning.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Sprott', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Sprott
Director
Resource Assessments (Coal & Quarries)
as delegate for the Planning Secretary

Enclosed: Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements