



DOC21/962558  
9 November 2021

The Director-General  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Nagindar Singh

Dear Ms Singh

**Re: New Request for Advice - The Gunlake Quarry Continuation Project (SSD-12469087)**

I refer to a Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) request for advice in relation to the Gunlake Quarry Continuation Project (the Project), received by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) via the Major Projects Planning Portal on 7 October 2021. I apologise for the delay in responding and appreciate the extension of time granted for the submission of the EPA's comments.

**General comments**

The EPA has conducted a review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal "*Gunlake Quarry Continuation Project (SSD-12469087) – Environmental Impact Statement*", prepared by EMM Consulting Pty Ltd and dated September 2021. It is noted that the primary driver for the Project is to increase the tonnage of saleable products dispatched from the Quarry, with a commensurate increase in truck movements along local roads. Table 3.1 of the EIS compares the current approval to that sought under the Project, and the EPA notes that the proposal does not seek to modify hours of operation, blasting frequency, processing infrastructure, disturbance area or general operations. With this in mind, the matters of concern for the EPA do not appear to be significantly impacted by the proposal and the EPA has no comment to make with regard to water management and air quality management other than to stress the importance of updating and maintaining adequate Air Quality and Water Quality Management Plans, should a decision be made to approve the Project.

**Noise**

With regard to noise, it is noted that operational noise levels are predicted to meet relevant noise limits at all assessment locations with the exception of R2, with negligible impact on the majority of assessment locations. The EPA acknowledges that R2 is an existing dwelling that is currently exposed to quarry noise and already qualifies for voluntary acquisition in accordance with the current Consent. The EPA supports the proposal that voluntary acquisition rights continue to apply at R2. The EPA also supports the updating of the Gunlake Quarry Noise and Blast Management Plan, should a decision be made to approve the Project.

**Cured concrete waste**

In Table 3.1 under the Project element of Management of Wastes, the EIS makes mention of a desire to increase the receipt of cured concrete products from 30,000 tonnes per calendar year up to 50,000 tonnes. Clause 43(3)(d) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) provides that a threshold value of 12,000 tonnes per year must not be exceeded to avoid the activity being defined as a Waste Storage facility. This threshold was reduced from 30,000 tonnes per year

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to 12,000 tonnes per year following amendments to the *Protection of the Environment (Waste) Regulation 2014* which came into effect on 1 August 2015. Whilst undertaking its assessment of the current proposal, the EPA has identified that the Gunlake Quarry environment protection licence does not correctly list the receipt of cured concrete as a scheduled activity and identify the premises as a waste storage facility. Notwithstanding, the EPA has discussed this matter with the licensee and will assist the licensee to ensure that the license is consistent with previous project approvals and EPA approvals to permit the receipt of 30,000 tonnes per calendar year of cured concrete products. If project approval is granted for the proposal, Gunlake Quarries will need to separately apply for a licence variation to be able to import up to 50,000 tonnes of cured concrete waste per year (2,500 tonnes at any one time).

With regard to the Project, the EPA recommends that the proponent provide more detail as to the capacity and suitability of the premises to receive and manage 50,000 tonnes of cured concrete waste per year, including detail on the storage location(s), tonnage verification and record keeping. Such details can be included in any Response to Submissions (RtS) required as part of the planning process.

Should the Project be approved, the applicant will need to apply to the EPA to vary the existing Environment Protection Licence (No. 13012) for the Gunlake Quarry. Licence conditions relating to the scale of the activity and waste acceptance would likely require modification, pending information provided in any RtS.

I trust these comments on this proposal are helpful. If you have any further questions about this submission, Michael Heinze can be contacted on 6229 7002 or at [Queanbeyan@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Queanbeyan@epa.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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