



Our Ref: DOC21/803704

Your Ref: SSD-7293

Planning and Assessment Group
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Attention: Ms Melissa Anderson

Dear Ms Anderson

RE: Clarification of BCD advice - Sancrox Quarry Expansion Project (SSD-7293)

Thank you for meeting with the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on 8 September 2021. The meeting was useful to discuss the recommendations stated in our letter to the Planning and Assessment Group (PAG) dated 23 June 2021 and the teleconference that we had with representatives from Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd (Hanson) on 3 September 2021.

As discussed with you and Hanson, the current proposal for the Sancrox quarry to expand would impact on a large area of land with high biodiversity values. The proposed impact area includes known habitat for the koala, and several other threatened species, and has biodiversity value as part of a broader wildlife corridor.

We have been involved with the assessment of this proposal since 2015 and during this time, we have consistently advised that more avoidance of biodiversity impacts needs to be incorporated. Whilst we understand that the latest version of the quarry expansion proposal has reduced the development footprint by a few hectares, the impact area is still approximately 40 hectares.

This reduction does not satisfactorily address our recommendations for adequate avoidance to be incorporated. A substantial reduction of the development footprint is required with justification to demonstrate that the proposal has sufficiently avoided impacts on biodiversity and habitat connectivity consistent with the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment.

We would be happy for you to provide this letter to the proponent as further clarification of our position. If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Krister Waern, Senior Operations Officer, at krister.waern@environment.nsw.gov.au or 6640 2503.

Yours sincerely

16 September 2021

DIMITRI YOUNG
Senior Team Leader Planning, North East Branch
Biodiversity and Conservation