



17 March 2017

CR2017/000445
SF2012/041993
KAP

Department of Planning & Environment
Industry Assessments
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Michelle Kirkman,

PACIFIC HIGHWAY (A1): STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT SSD 7332 – EIS EXHIBITION,
EAGLETON HARD ROCK QUARRY, LOT: 2 DP: 1108702, KILLALOE LANE, EAGLETON

Reference is made to Department of Planning and Environment's ('DPE') email dated 2 February 2017, regarding the abovementioned application which was referred to Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) for comment.

Roads and Maritime understands the development involves:

- Constructing and operating a hard rock quarry for up to 30 years;
- Extracting and processing up to 600,000 tonnes per annum of gravel/aggregate;
- Clearing approximately 30 hectares of vegetation;
- Constructing associated on-site infrastructure, including internal roads, a bridge over Six Mile Creek, administration buildings, processing facilities and water management structures;
- Transporting processed material to market by truck;
- Improving public and private roads along the transport route; and,
- Progressively rehabilitating the site.

The Traffic Impact Assessment, prepared by GHD, and dated December 2016, reveals that the quarry is proposed to operate between 5am and 10pm weekdays and 7am and 4pm on Saturdays. Up to 192 trips (incoming and outgoing) are expected including 170 heavy truck movements (from quarry sales). The report identifies that 80% of total truck movements will be left-in from the Pacific Highway and right-out of Italia Road.

Roads and Maritime response

Roads and Maritime understands that in recent years Council and DPE have granted consent for a number of traffic-generating developments in the Eagleton / Balickera area which require access via the Pacific Highway / Italia Road intersection. Known development includes: Boral Quarry; a paintball facility; a motorcycle club and motorcycle raceway; car racing circuit and associated events; and a landscape / composting facility. Both the background growth in traffic volumes on the Pacific Highway and volumes attributable to the traffic-generating developments in the area, particularly the increase in volumes of heavy vehicles, has put greater pressure on the intersection.

The Road Safety Audit has been submitted with the Traffic Assessment. A review of the audit reveals that there are safety deficiencies in the intersection, specifically the right-turn movement by heavy vehicles, including the slow acceleration times from start to clear northbound carriageway and insufficient acceptable gaps in northbound traffic stream. The proposed increase in heavy vehicle movement generated by the subject development will result in additional demand on the intersection, exacerbating the potential safety risk and the potential crash occurrence and severity.

Roads and Maritime has reviewed the information provided and objects to the proposed development as it is considered the proposal will have an adverse impact on the safety and efficiency of the nearby classified (State) road network, specifically, the intersection of Pacific Highway and Italia Road.

Roads and Maritime provides the following further comments in response to the documents submitted for DPE consideration:

- The electronic SIDRA analysis has not identified the design vehicle in the relevant proposed intersection scenario. A standard “heavy vehicle” was used in the model (e.g. 12m long, 15 tonne vehicle), rather than the basic “large truck” being at least 25m long, 38 tonne heavy vehicle. When adjusted to reflect a number of “large trucks” in a sensitivity analysis, the model reveals a delay of between 2500-3600 seconds (i.e. up to 1 hour).
- The results from the analysis suggest that significant delays are likely to increase risky driver behaviour as drivers become frustrated and accept shorter gaps in the traffic stream. This increases the likelihood of crash occurrence and severity. As the background growth on the Pacific Highway increases, fewer acceptable gaps are expected to be available for right-turning vehicles from Italia Road.
- The proposed gap acceptance used for heavy vehicles is considered to be too short to accommodate a safe movement for the design vehicle. The gap acceptance used within the traffic assessment is based on a light vehicle movement rather than that of the design vehicle, being a heavy laden 25m large truck.
- The proposed recommendations within the Safety Audit do not adequately address the risks associated with the traffic generated by the proposed development.

Based on the abovementioned concerns and comments, it is likely that the subject intersection of Pacific Highway and Italia Road will be required to be upgraded to support the proposed quarry operations.

Should you require further information please contact Hunter Land Use on 4908 7688 or by email at development.hunter@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Marler', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Peter Marler
Manager Land Use Assessment
Hunter Region