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Dear James

DPIE request for Advice – Pittman Quarry – SSD - 76210271

I refer to your request via the NSW Major Projects Planning Portal for advice from Singleton Council on the Request for SEARS for the Pittman Quarry. Council staff have undertaken a review of the Scoping Report and request the following matters be addressed within the SEARs and assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement to support the Project.

Strategic & Statutory Planning Instruments

The Environmental Impact Statement should include consideration and discussion on the following strategic planning documents relevant to both the Singleton local government area and the broader Hunter region

Statutory

- Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013
- Singleton Development Control Plan 2014
- Singleton Flood Risk Management Plan
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021; and
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Strategic:

- Hunter Regional Plan 2041
- Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement 2041
- Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan
- Upper Hunter Employment Lands Strategy

- Singleton Land Use Strategy 2008
- Singleton Sustainability Strategy 2019-2027
- Proposed Singleton Rural Land Use Strategy
- Proposed Singleton Aboriginal Heritage Study

We request the following matters be included within the SEARs and assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement to support the Project.

Impacts to the local road network

The Proposed Project should take into consideration the following matters:

- Impact to rural roads – particularly as these are not designed for continuous and numerous heavy vehicle movements.
- Transport routes of operation machinery and daily truck movement – identify routes of transport for all phases of operations particularly to the New England Highway.
- BN1661 Elderslie Bridge is Transport for NSW asset and is not currently capable of handling two lane traffic across the bridge.
- The current volume of traffic that uses Elderslie Road, Glendon Lane and other local transport routes is significant.
- Residential concerns regarding the increase in truck movements through Branxton.
- Consultation with Singleton Council's Local Traffic Committee and Transport for NSW.
- Cumulative impacts on rural road and communities of truck movements,
- Intersection issues at Springvale and Stanhope Roads, as well as Stanhope and Elderslie Roads.
- Whether the Proposed Project will use Lambs Valley Road, Glendon Road, Blind Creek Road, or Gresford Road for heavy vehicles.
- The proposed traffic routes are school bus routes during the morning and evening. The Proposed Project should be assessed such that no heavy vehicle traffic movements are undertaken during school bus operating hours.
- The inter-relationship between the traffic and transport linkage within the Singleton Local Government Area and neighbouring council areas, including Maitland, Cessnock and beyond.

These matters should be addressed in a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment and be underpinned by extensive consultation with Singleton council traffic engineers, Transport for NSW and the community.

Biodiversity

Council has an adopted Biodiversity Conservation Policy which outlines Council's approach to the management of biodiversity within the Singleton Local Government Area. The Proposed Project should consider this Policy in addressing the following matters in the Environmental Impact Statement:

- BioNet Koala Likelihood – High Confidence (NSW Environment and Heritage).
- The occurrence of several Threatened Ecological Communities on site listed at both State and Federal level and the extent to which the Proposed Project intends to impact these communities.
- How the proposed project will demonstrate the principles of ‘Avoid and Minimise’ before considering onsite stewardship sites or credit retirement as part of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

These matters should be considered in a detailed Biodiversity Development Assessment Report.

Noise, blasting and vibration Impacts

The Proposed Project should consider the following matters in preparing the relevant impact assessments:

- The location of, and impacts to, residential receivers (including the Hunter Pet Hotel) for noise, dust, blasting and vibration.
- The proposed process for the management of community complaints.
- How the Proposed Project will achieve the “*design of the pit and operations to ameliorate potential operational noise impact*”, how this will be effective at controlling and minimising noise impacts, and what measures will be taken to avoid, minimise and mitigate these impacts.
- The noise assessment must consider noise from operations and truck movements, particularly along rural roads early morning and evening.
- All impact assessment should be undertaken having regard to the AdaptNSW updated climate impacts and seasonal variations.

Air quality

The Proposed Project should consider the following matters in preparing the air quality and greenhouse gas impact assessment:

- The location of, and impacts to, residential receivers (including the Hunter Pet Hotel) for noise, dust, blasting and vibration.
- How the Proposed Project will operate to eliminate offsite dust impacts from on-site operations, truck movements on unsealed roads (internal and external) and management of dust on the loads (external).
- The proposed process for the management of community complaints.
- How to ensure PM2.5 and PM 10 levels are at a safe level for residential receivers and other businesses, having regard to the Adapt NSW updated climate impacts and seasonal variations.
- The extent to which the Proposed Project will support the delivery of the NSW government’s Net Zero Emissions Policy Framework.

The air quality assessment should include a cumulative impact assessment with other projects in the LGA.

Water resources

The Proposed Project should consider the following matters in preparing the surface and groundwater impact assessment:

- The impact of runoff and erosion on downstream receptors and water users.
- The sediment and erosion control measures to be implemented to avoid and mitigate on and offsite impacts and an assessment of the effectiveness of these controls.
- A water balance that includes the volume and licensing requirements for the proposed project, whether there is sufficient water supply available under the relevant Water Sharing Plan and the cumulative impact of taking supply from surrounding land uses. The water balance should include consideration of water needs during construction and operation, under a climate change scenario that is consistent with AdaptNSW.
- How the Proposed Project will ensure neighbouring forested areas are protected as essential water supply sources that recharge the surrounding landscape.

The surface and groundwater impact assessment should include a cumulative impact assessment with other projects in the LGA.

Heritage

The Proposed Project should consider the following matters in preparing an Aboriginal and European Heritage Assessment:

- Consideration of Aboriginal and European History
- Consultation with the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders, including the Singleton Council Aboriginal Reconciliation Committee.
- The extent to which the Proposed Project will impact matters listed in the Singleton Local Environmental Plan 2013 as being of both Aboriginal and European Heritage.

The following matters should also be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Statement:

- **Land resources**
 - Impacts to neighbouring agricultural and other non-agricultural land uses including how the Hunter Gas Pipeline, Elderslie Airport and parachute club, Hunter Pet Hotel and other preexisting development in the locality.
- **Hazards**
 - Address Bushfire risks in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019
 - Contamination and dangerous goods and material for the construction and operation to be considered

- **Waste Management**
 - Details of types of waste and method of disposal (including recycling and reuse)
 - Minimising impacts to neighbouring properties and water streams
 - Chemical storage and management
 - Sewage management – discussions with Council in particular Section 68 approvals.
- **Social**
 - The Scoping Report mentions the “*net benefits of the project outweigh the costs associated with residual environmental and/or social impacts*”. The social impact assessment should include a detailed understanding of community impacts and opportunities, how the Proposed Project has been modified to take into consideration community concerns and, where matters have not been addressed or amended, a full justification to support no change in project design.
- **Economic**
 - Benefits that the project will bring to the local and wider community as well as the opportunity costs of such a development, including the loss of high biodiversity land.
- **Rehabilitation**
 - The project is to ensure that the land can be rehabilitated, and a future land use is not constrained on the site due to any ongoing contamination or rehabilitation issues.
 - The Environmental Impact Assessment should be supported by a detailed closure plan that outlines viable, feasible and sustainable post quarry land uses that generate higher economic output.
- **Cumulative impact**
 - The cumulative impact of the development must be assessed, against other major development in the area (either proposed, underway or completed).
 - Cumulative impacts of all the assessment items must be considered from more than a local perspective, this includes, but is not limited to, biodiversity, traffic, accommodation or workers, water, land resourcing, agriculture, and social impacts.

Voluntary Planning Agreement

Council has an adopted Voluntary Planning Agreement Policy with supporting templates. The Proponent has indicated a desire to enter into a Planning Agreement with Council. Council would ask that the Project not be determined until such time as an agreement is reached and endorsed by Council in respect of a VPA.

Council and Community Consultation

Immediate and ongoing consultation with the community is a priority. This includes the local community, business, stakeholders and Councillors as well as Council staff. To date, no detailed consultation with Council has occurred and the community is yet to be informed of the Proposed Project.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Pittman Quarry Project. If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Boyton on telephone 02 6578 7290 or email sboyton@singleton.nsw.gov.au
Yours sincerely



Mary-Anne Crawford
Acting Director Infrastructure and Planning Services.