



19 November 2021

Our Ref: 958

Jessie Evans
Director Resource Assessments
Department Planning, Infrastructure and Environment
Level 17, 4PSQ
12 Darcy Street
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Originally sent by email to:
jessie.evans@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jessie

Re: Karuah South Quarry Project (SSD 8795) – Request for Amendment

I refer to correspondence from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) dated 3 February 2021 requesting additional information regarding the Karuah South Quarry Project (the Project). Additional information was requested on the following matters.

1. Further discussion and consideration of alternatives to locating the quarry infrastructure area on uncleared land to the south of the quarry area, including detailed consideration of reasonable and feasible measures to avoid or reduce vegetation clearing in this area. In particular, consideration should be given to the potential to locate the infrastructure area within previously disturbed areas of the Karuah Quarry to the north of the proposed Karuah South quarrying areas.
2. Specialist consideration of the visual impacts of the quarry when viewed from the Pacific Motorway, including photomontages of views from both southbound and northbound lanes during representative worst case quarrying stages.
3. Further consideration of worst case blasting and flyrock-related impacts on the Pacific Motorway and adjacent landholdings, during all quarrying stages. This included details on any agreements with adjacent landowners relating to blasting risks.

The Applicant for the Project (Wedgerock) has reviewed this request and, as a result of the lengthy approvals process for the development, is now in a position to relocate the majority of infrastructure associated with the Project to land previously disturbed for development of the Karuah Quarry (under DA 265-10-2004). It is intended that the floor of the existing Karuah Quarry be used for processing and stockpiling activities as well as associated infrastructure. **Figure A** presents the layout presented in the EIS along with the indicative location of infrastructure under the amended Project. Note the indicative infrastructure area incorporates the current eastern highwall of the existing Karuah Quarry.

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In order to relocate this infrastructure for the application, it will be necessary to amend the Project. Therefore, in response to the request for information I am writing to request the agreement of the Planning Secretary (or their delegate) to an amendment to the development application in accordance with Clause 55AA of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*.

Wedgerock has commissioned RWC to manage preparation of an Amendment Report that would present the following.

- Relocation of the Infrastructure Area to the north of the extraction area within the floor of the existing Karuah Quarry.
- Redesign of the extraction stages to reflect commencement in the north and progression south (effectively reversing the currently proposed sequence of extraction).
- Removal of a large portion of the current Stage 1 extraction area from the Project.
- Updated design of a progressive access arrangement that would permit access to Blue Rock Close as the Quarry is developed. This access would evolve over time as extraction proceeds until a permanent access arrangement is developed.
- Use of the existing disturbed area on the southern portion of Lot 11 DP 1024564 for administration and car parking.
- The removal of large areas of required vegetation clearing.

It is considered that this amended approach to the development would resolve outstanding queries regarding biodiversity impacts, noting that the majority of vegetation in the southern portion of the property would be retained. Connectivity for fauna movement would be considered in access road design. An update to the existing BDAR would be presented with the Amendment Report.

The proposed change to active extraction face orientation and extraction scheduling would reduce blast-related risks. Wedgerock has commissioned Prism Mining to review the proposed approach and update the assessment of blast-related risks. The outcomes of this assessment would be presented in the Amendment Report. Note that the extraction activities for the amended Project would also be offset from Blue Rock Close by approximately 300m (compared to 142m at its closest point as presented in the EIS).

The reduced extraction extent would also limit views of operating areas from the Pacific Highway. An assessment of views in the Amendment Report would be supported by photomontage images and cross-section analysis.

In addition to the above, noise and dust dispersion modelling would be updated to present predictive modelling outcomes for a single scenario for the amended Project. It is considered that the amended Project would result in an improvement to noise and dust generation for the Project. The surface water assessment would also be updated to reflect water management strategies for the amended Project.

You may also be aware that Wedgerock has recently reached a cooperative agreement with Hunter Quarries relating to blast safety protocols and a general agreement accepting the environmental impacts of the Karuah South Quarry on land owned by that company or its directors. Discussions have commenced with Hunter Quarries on a proposal to modify development consent for the Karuah Quarry to permit extraction of the eastern highwall between the Karuah Quarry and the Karuah East Quarry. This proposal will also be considered in developing plans for the operation of the Karuah South Quarry, noting the short-term nature of the proposed modification. Should this

modification be approved and more area become available in the Karuah Quarry floor, Wedgerock intends to make use of this land.

It is anticipated that the necessary assessment for the Amendment Report will be completed in early 2022 and the Amendment Report submitted by the end of March 2022. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Michael Kiely on this matter. We look forward to confirmation of agreement to proceed with the proposed amendment of the Project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Warren', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nick Warren
Principal Environmental Consultant

Encls: Figure A – Karuah South Quarry

Copy: Wedgerock

