



Brandon Armstrong
Chair
NSW Farmers' Oyster Committee

Ref: 23061POC

6 November 2023

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

RE: Karuah South Quarry EIS

NSW Farmers is Australia's largest state farming organisation, representing the interests of its farmer members in the state. We are Australia's only state-based farming organisation that represents farmers across all agricultural commodities. We also speak up on issues that matter to farmers, whether it's the environment, biosecurity, water, animal welfare, economics, trade, workforce or rural and regional affairs.

The association wishes to acknowledge that in 2019, we submitted our concerns about the original project proposal, particularly related to the potential negative impacts on the oyster industry in the Karuah River. Our members, who are involved in oyster farming in this area, now wish to express their satisfaction with the adjustments made to the EIS that have taken into account the oyster industry's concerns.

The organization would like to highlight the EIS's comprehensive explanation of how water exceeding acceptable contaminant limits would be monitored and treated before being discharged into the river. This aspect is crucial for our producers since harvesting oysters with elevated contaminant levels could result in rejected harvests and economic losses. It's important to note that the water released from the quarry directly enters into an oyster harvesting zone.

NSW Farmers' oyster producers also emphasize the importance of enhanced communication and community engagement. While WedgeRock Pty Ltd plans to hold community events annually, we recommend more frequent meetings. We stress the need for a clear and consistent line of communication between WedgeRock Pty Ltd and oyster producers, especially when water is to be released into the river, to ensure all necessary considerations are taken into account and to prevent any stock losses or harvesting of oysters with contaminant levels exceeding the trigger limit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brandon Armstrong', written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Armstrong
Chair
NSW Farmers' Oyster Committee

NSW Farmers' Association

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