



OUT15/36027

Ms Swati Sharma
Resource Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Swati.Sharma@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Sharma,

**Possum Brush Quarry Mod 4 (DA 283/97)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email dated 19 November 2015 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment has been sought from DPI Water, Agriculture and Lands. Any further referrals to DPI can be sent by email to landuse.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au. DPI Lands and Agriculture advise no issues. Water comments are provided below.

Comment by DPI Water

The Department of Primary Industries – Water (DPI Water) has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Modification 4 for Possum Brush Quarry. Our comments are outlined as follows.

The modification involves extending the life of the quarry to 30 years and increasing the production from 200 000 tpa to 370 000 tpa.

Groundwater Management

The applicant has not undertaken an assessment of the development with respect to the Aquifer Interference Policy (AIP), however the applicant has suitably demonstrated through a desktop and visual assessment that the quarrying operations will not intersect the regional water table and will only receive seepage following heavy rainfall that is infiltrating down to the regional water table. As such, there is no further requirement for an assessment of the development with respect to the AIP.

The groundwater assessment undertaken is based on the regional geological conditions as determined by information from regional bores, including water bearing zones and standing water levels. It is expected that the local groundwater at the site would be comparable to these regional conditions and therefore contain deep standing water levels. This, along with the presence of relatively steep

topography, and presence of seeps/discharges to the current quarry following prolonged rainfall only, indicates that minimal impact is expected on groundwater.

Based on this information it is considered at this stage no groundwater licence is required for the site under the *Water Act 1912*.

However should any permanent unforeseen groundwater discharges from the quarry face of floor become evident over time, a licence shall be required to cover the volume of potential take or discharge. This licence shall require:

- 1) an assessment of the groundwater interception against the Aquifer Interference Policy, and
- 2) the development of a groundwater management plan to manage the potential dewatering impacts, if any, on the surrounding groundwater system. This plan shall identify potential groundwater impacts on groundwater dependent ecosystems and other users, and set out a monitoring regime with a minimum of 3 monitoring bores with automatic water level recording instrumentation. This plan shall identify;
 - receptors at risk of impact,
 - a methodology for determining impact threshold water level criteria,
 - contingency measures should there be a breach of thresholds, and
 - reporting.

Water Supply

The EA outlines in Section 5.6.3 sediment laden water is collected in three dams, a sump and a sediment basin. The sediment laden water is utilised in the quarry for on-site processing and dust suppression. Section 5.6.5 outlines the harvestable right dam capacity for the property is 31.24ML which accounts for the combined water collected in dams 3 and 4. However the EA outlines that dams 3 and 4 periodically receive sediment-laden water, however for the bulk of the time, the water in these dams can be considered 'clean' water.

Any current or additional dams, storages, detention basins constructed as part of the development will need to be in accordance with the NSW Farm Dams Policy and the proposal needs to satisfy the Harvestable Rights Order published in accordance with section 54 of the *Water Management Act 2000*, or otherwise gain the appropriate approvals. In addition, any volumes of water taken in excess of Harvestable Rights need to be licenced.

For further information please contact Christie Jackson, Water Regulation Officer, (Tamworth office) on (02) 6763 1426 or at christie.jackson@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
18/12/2015