



Department of Primary Industries

OUT13/10854

24 MAY 2013

Ms Sophie Butcher
Mining Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sophie.Butcher@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Butcher,

**Karuah East Hard Rock Quarry (09/0175)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Assessment**

I refer to your letter dated 11 March 2013 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by NSW Office of Water

The NSW Office of Water has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Karuah East Quarry Project and provides the following comments for DP&I's consideration in the final assessment of the proposal, with recommended conditions of approval at **Attachment A**.

For further information please contact Mitchell Isaacs, Manager Strategic Stakeholder Liaison on 8838 7529 (Parramatta office), or at: Mitchell.Isaacs@water.nsw.gov.au.

Crown Lands, Fisheries and Agriculture divisions do not have any comments on the EIS.

Yours sincerely

Phil Anquetil
Executive Director Business Services

Attachment A

Karuah East Hard Rock Quarry (09/0175) Response to exhibition of EIS Additional comments by the NSW Office of Water

Groundwater management

Based on knowledge from the existing operations and current investigations the groundwater assessment determined that the project is unlikely to result in adverse impacts to groundwater resources. Further investigation, comprising an additional groundwater investigation/monitoring bore up-gradient of the proposed quarry, is requested by the Office of Water to confirm this assessment and assist in the ongoing monitoring of any potential groundwater impacts from quarry operations. This request has been discussed with and agreed to by the proponents.

In the event that groundwater is intercepted or is likely to be intercepted by the quarry, the proponents shall contact the Office of Water to address any potential licensing requirements.

Surface water management

Surface water management for the proposal is based on the objectives of segregation of clean and dirty water flows and minimisation of surface flows across disturbance areas. Clean water diversions will be constructed upslope of disturbance areas, whilst dirty water flows will be directed to two dirty water dams for reuse or discharge.

The harvestable rights provisions of the *Water Management Act 2000* give landholders the right to capture and use for any purpose 10% of the average regional rainfall runoff from their property. Harvestable rights have been defined in terms of an equivalent dam capacity called the Maximum Harvestable Right Dam Capacity (MHRDC). Any capacity of the total of all the dams on the property greater than the MHRDC may require a licence.

The harvestable rights provisions provide exemptions for certain structures, including those for the capture, containment and recirculation of drainage and/or effluent. In this instance the two dams may be deemed exempt from the MHRDC calculation and licensing requirements to the extent that they are designed to achieve this function. Capacity in excess of that required for this purpose is included in the calculation of MHRDC and determination of licensing requirements.

The proposed dam designs incorporate 8 ML of additional storage capacity (Dam 1) which is within the MHRDC for the property (assessed as 8.2 ML). As such no licences are required for the proposed surface water capture.

Works on waterfront land

All works taking place in, on or under waterfront land as defined in the *Water Management Act 2000*, for example instream works or watercourse crossings, should be conducted in accordance with the Office of Water's *Guidelines for Controlled Activities*.

Recommended Conditions of Approval

1. An additional groundwater monitoring/investigation bore should be installed up-gradient of the proposed quarry footprint prior to the commencement of extraction
2. All works with the potential to intercept or extract groundwater require licensing prior to the activity commencing.

3. All works taking place in, on or under waterfront land, as defined in the *Water Management Act 2000*, should be conducted in accordance with the NSW Office of Water's Guidelines for Controlled Activities.
4. A *Water Management Plan* should be developed which outlines measures to mitigate potential impacts to surface water and groundwater sources and incorporates monitoring, impact assessment criteria and response actions for all water sources potentially impacted by the project.

End Attachment A
6 May 2013