



Major Development Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
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Attention: Howard Reed

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Our ref ER 21261
Your ref 10_0183

Dear Howard

Teralba Quarry Project (10_0183) Exhibition of Environmental Assessment

I refer to your letter of 1 December 2011 inviting comments on the above proposal.

The NSW Office of Water has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposal with reference to the assessment requirements for the EA and the Office of Water's correspondence regarding the adequacy of the EA, dated 5 August 2011.

The Office of Water provides the following comments on the basis that the former legislative provisions under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* apply to this proposal.

1. Site water balance

The Office of Water is satisfied that the EA provides an adequate description of the site water balance and demonstrates that an adequate and secure water supply is available for the life of the proposal.

2. Water licensing

The EA does not demonstrate that the taking of water from the Mine Adit Dam for the existing operation or the proposal is appropriately authorised by a water licence. Taking water without licence authorisation is an offence under the *Water Act 1912* and *Water Management Act 2000*.

If the proposal is approved, the Office of Water recommends that the commencement of quarrying operations be conditional on the proponent obtaining appropriate water licences to authorise the taking of water from the Mine Adit Dam.

3. Water quality monitoring program

The quarrying operations may impact on the quality of stormwater and groundwater by mobilising naturally-occurring chemicals and metals in the conglomerate resource. Accordingly, the water quality monitoring programs for surface water and groundwater should include the monitoring of major anions, cations and metals.

If the proposal is approved, the Office of Water recommends that monitoring of metals should be undertaken six monthly. If monitoring results indicate that electrical conductivity is above the trigger value, then monitoring of major anions and cations should also be undertaken.

4. Groundwater levels

As data regarding groundwater levels at the site is restricted to flow data recorded near the Mine Adit Dam, the potential for increased recharge to raise groundwater levels above the top of the coal seam and into the lower level of the quarrying operations is uncertain.

Any interception of groundwater by the quarrying operations must be authorised by a water licence.

5. Recommended conditions of approval

If the proposal is approved, the Office of Water recommends the following conditions of approval:

- Prior to the commencement of quarrying operations under the Project Approval, the proponent must obtain the necessary water licences for the project.
- The proponent must prepare the following plans in consultation with the Office of Water, and submit the plans to the Director General for approval, within 3 months of the date of the Project Approval:
 - Groundwater Management Plan,
 - Spill Management Plan,
 - Soil and Water Management Plan,
 - Groundwater Contingency Plan, and
 - Site Water Management Plan.
- The Annual Environmental Management Plan must be submitted to the Office of Water.

If you require further information please contact Elizabeth Cala, Planning and Assessment Coordinator on (02) 4904 2533 at the Newcastle office.

Yours sincerely



Mark Mignanelli

Manager Major Projects, Mines and Assessments

13 February 2012