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To whom it may concern

RE: Calga Quarry MOD 3-Crushing System (DA 94-4-2004 MOD 3)

Thank you for the opportunity to formally respond to the project, as noted above.

Darkinjung LALC has now reviewed the proposal, and provides the following issues and recommendations that we wish NSW Government Planning and Environment to consider.

Issues

1. Calga Women's Site and Aboriginal cultural heritage
2. Noise, vibration and dust
3. The area is considered very rich in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and has a highly sensitive cultural landscape.

Discussion

The Calga Women's site is highly significant to Aboriginal Women and is located within the property of Calga Sand Quarry. The Calga Women site and cultural landscape was the primary issues in relation to the outcomes of the NSW Land and environment Court, *'Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council v Minister for Planning and Infrastructure & Anor; Australian Walkabout Wildlife Park Pty Limited (ACN 115 219 791) as Trustee for the Gerald and Catherine Barnard Family Trust v Minister for Planning and Infrastructure & Anor [2015] NSWLEC 1465'*. The amended application for the Calga Sand Quarry Project (06 - 0278) was refused; the court decision was made on 17th November 2015. The court outcome can be accessed at, <https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/564a9ec2e4b003c5681fabbe>

The landscape surrounding an Aboriginal place or site can be seen in a spiritual sense and is very important to Aboriginal people. The landscape can be an extension of a site, or the landforms and features within the landscape can be the site and related to ancestor beings. Aboriginal sites can also be connected through sight lines to other sites or places of significance. These features are all part of the cultural landscape.

Some sites are associated with sight lines and tracks, their purpose and associated stories connect these sites with other sites across Darkinjung country and should not be viewed in isolation of each other. Considering this, changing the context of an Aboriginal site by landscape degradation compromises the spiritual and cultural connection that Aboriginal people have to the land and or the site. In many cases landscape destruction can be considered, destruction of an Aboriginal site and the Darkinjung cultural landscape.

Recent research of certain areas of the Central Coast has revealed an intricate network of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites, connected by Aboriginal walking trails and routes which have been utilised over hundreds and in some cases thousands of years. These tracks were utilised to access seasonal resources, carry out trade, teaching and ceremonies. These sites are connected and form part of a complex Aboriginal cultural landscape. The significance of many of these sites and the significance of the connection they have to each other and the landscape has been highlighted as very important and holds values for Aboriginal people both culturally and spiritually.

Recommendations:

1. The effects of noise, vibration and dust must be considered including the cultural values and physical impacts on the Calga Women's site and Aboriginal sites within the vicinity of the quarry and the surrounding Cultural Landscape.
2. The outcomes of the Land and Environment Court in relation to the Calga Women's Site, Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural landscape must be considered.

If you wish to discuss these recommendations please do not hesitate to contact me on the numbers listed above.

Thanking you



Sharon Hodgetts
Senior Project Officer, Culture and Heritage