



OUT15/35377

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,

**Coraki Quarry (SSD_7036)
Response to exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement**

I refer to your email dated 9 November 2015 requesting advice from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in respect to the above matter.

Comment by DPI Agriculture

The subject land is mapped under the Northern Rivers Farmland project as containing areas of regionally significant farmland. Such areas are considered highly important resources for current and future agricultural industries in the North Coast Region, and due consideration of potential impacts on these resources is required.

The EIS Section 7.12.4 states that the site was incorrectly mapped by the Northern Rivers Farmland Protection Project as *"it does not have soils deeper than 1m with significant rock outcropping and would not be suitable for farming."* Despite DPI (Agriculture) advising Groundwork Plus to include supporting information in the EIS (May 2015), the EIS does not include any data or methodologies used to document the relevant soil criteria or area of land affected.

This information would assist decision makers better understand the impact of the project on regionally significant farmland in the Northern Rivers region. DPI (Agriculture) believes that approximately 50 Ha of regionally significant farmland is affected by the proposal which is part of a much larger mass. This regionally important farmland will be permanently removed as a result of the project and no longer available for future agricultural purposes. The provision of the requested additional information will clarify the above statement in the EIS and may confirm that the site has been incorrectly mapped.

DPI (Agriculture) is concerned about the cumulative impact of such developments on this valuable resource and will work with relevant agencies to develop better guidance.

For further information please contact Alex Wells, Agricultural Resource Management Officer (Coffs Harbour Office) on or at alex.wells@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Comment by DPI Water

The Department of Primary Industries – Water (DPI Water) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Coraki Quarry. Comments are outlined as follows.

Site Water Balance

It is recommended the site water balance included in the EIS is formatted in a table outlining the water inputs and outputs for the proposed development. It is unclear from reviewing the site water balance if the volume of water required for the quarry can be entirely sourced from sediment basins, rainwater tanks or a water contractor as outlined in the EIS.

The site water balance also does not seem to consider water used for site rehabilitation purposes. There is no volume outlined in the EIS, this should be clarified.

Watercourse Management

The EIS outlines a buffer of at least 40 metres between the development and the watercourse to the west will be maintained. DPI Water supports this approach to minimise any potential impacts to the watercourse from the proposed quarry.

Sediment Basins

The EIS outlines the dirty water collected in the sediment basins will be treated with dosing before discharge. Ongoing water quality testing will also be carried within the sediment basins before and after discharge. DPI Water supports this approach to minimise potential impacts on surface water and groundwater sources in the locality.

Groundwater

The EIS outlines groundwater was not intercepted when the Peterson's Quarry was operating on the site, and it is unlikely this project will encounter or impact upon groundwater. If groundwater is encountered at any time during the project, the proponent should contact DPI Water immediately to confirm water licensing requirements.

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

Comment by DPI Lands

DPI Lands advise some issues relating to the following Crown public roads (as shown in the attached diagram), which are within or will service the proposed development.

The development relies on access from Seelems Road. Investigations show Seelems Road is a Crown public road, which is administered by DPI Lands. The

Environmental Impact Statement identifies Richmond Valley Council as the roads authority for Seelems Road.


The road is currently held under Enclosure Permit 22505 by the owners of Lot 12 DP 6339. Approximately 240m of the western end of this road was approved for closure by the Minister but the application for closure and purchase did not proceed.

The length of the road that services the existing and proposed quarry, as shown in blue on the attached diagram, must be transferred to Richmond Valley Council as a condition of consent.

The EIS drawings show the Crown public road adjoining the eastern boundary of Lot 401 DP 633427, as shown in red on the attached diagram, is within the development envelope. This is not addressed by the Development Application, Environmental Impact Statement or other supporting documents. This Crown public road must be closed prior to any development.

For further information please contact Andrew Petroeschevsky, Senior Natural Resource Management Officer, on 6642 9236 or at andrew.petroeschevsky@crowland.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Isaacs', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mitchell Isaacs
Director, Planning Policy & Assessment Advice
17/12/2015

Encl.

Crown Estate Copyright Crown Lands NSW

