

24 November 2016

Thomas Watt
Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Thomas

Re. SSD 14_6612

My mother's property adjoins the Martins Creek Quarry. On her property is revegetating and rehabilitating native vegetation communities in order to protect a stand of *Eucalyptus glaucina* on the ridgeline adjacent to project land.

In considering the current impacts of the quarry on my mother's land, and the incredible increase in extraction that is proposed by Daracon, I am objecting to the proposal. In the event that the proposal is approved, I would seek consideration for the increase in impacts on my mother's land and ask the Department of Planning and Environment to consider those in light of the project description.

At present, the project land has been cleared and left right up to my mother's boundary fence. As such, there are no measures in place to ensure dust and weed seed impacts to the vegetation on my mother's property. With an increased extraction allowance, the dust and weed impacts on my mother's land will only increase.

In order to mitigate these impacts, we are seeking that Daracon plant, fence and maintain a 20 m vegetated buffer along their boundary fence line to minimise the off-site ecological impacts. The proponent themselves identify the use of screen planting utilising endemic plant species to reduce the visual impact, acknowledging the effectiveness of vegetation screening (page 38 of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment). Implementation of a vegetated buffer along my mother's property fence is also in line with the impact mitigation measures proposed by the proponent in their EIS as follows:

- Implementation of suitable erosion and sediment controls during construction and operation
- Implementation of suitable nutrient management controls during construction and operation
- Implementation of protection zones for adjoining vegetation to be retained during construction and operation
- Weed management of cleared edges and quarry pit during construction and operation
- Implement environmental safeguards required under EPA licensing requirements and EIS recommendations.

In order to ensure that the impacts of this project on my mother's property are recognised and mitigated, rather than ignored as they have been to date, we are seeking that if the project is approved, that the Department of Planning and Environment condition the project in line with the following approval condition set for the Boggabri and Maules Creek Coal Projects to manage similar impacts.

Vegetated Corridor between Boggabri and Maules Creek Coal Projects

51. For the vegetated buffer corridor required to be retained and protected between the projects under Condition 7 of Schedule 2 of this approval the Proponent shall:
- (a) use its best endeavours to work cooperatively with the Proponent of the Maules Creek Coal Project to enhance the functioning of the area as a biodiversity corridor; and
 - (b) include in the Biodiversity Management Plan the details as to how impacts on the corridor are to be minimised, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.
7. The Proponent shall not clear native vegetation from any land within 250 metres of the adjoining Maules Creek Coal Mine mining lease boundary, except with the approval of the Secretary, following endorsement of OEH.

Notes: The purpose of this condition is to ensure that a 500 metre wide native vegetation corridor is maintained between the open cut pits of the project and the adjoining Maules Creek Project, if it is approved. However, alignment of this corridor directly along the lease boundaries may not be its most efficient location, from either an environmental or economic perspective. Consequently, with the endorsement of OEH, the Secretary may approve substitution of an alternative native vegetation corridor of at least 500 metres width and equivalent or better ecosystem value, within the general vicinity of the lease boundary. See also condition 51 of Schedule 3.

Further, it would be beneficial if the condition ensured that the species endemic to the area are used for the vegetated buffer, identified by the proponent as representing slaty red gum grassy woodland of the southern north coast, as follows:

Slaty red gum grassy woodland on hinterland foothills of the southern north coast

Upper Stratum: *Eucalyptus glaucina*, *Eucalyptus crebra*, *Corymbia maculata*, *Eucalyptus globoidea* and *Eucalyptus moluccana*.

Mid Stratum: *Acacia binervata*, *Eucalyptus crebra*, *Eucalyptus glaucina*, *Denhamia silvestris*, *Leucopogon juniperinus*, *Acacia falcata*, *Acacia implexa*, *Sannantha crassa*, *Jasminum volubile*, *Notelaea longifolia*, *Breynia oblongifolia*, *Pittosporum revolutum*, and *Pittosporum undulatum*.

In addition, we believe the Crown land road "west of lot 21 DP773220 and Lot 1" should remain as Crown land and we object to the closure of this road.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the project, and look forward to your response to this submission,

Yours Sincerely,

Siobhan Isherwood