



Your reference: MP06_0074 Mod 4
Our reference: EF13/3918, DOC16/168766
Contact: Amanda Fletcher (02) 6229 7002

Ms Margaret Kirton
Senior Planner - Resource Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

6 May 2016

Dear Ms Kirton

Re: Project Approval 06_0074 Modification Request No. 4 – Boral Peppertree Quarry - Marulan

I refer to your email on the 5 April 2016 in which you requested the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) comments and suggested approval conditions on Boral Resources (NSW) Pty Ltd's Peppertree Quarry at Marulan (Project Approval 06_0074).

The EPA has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) titled '*Peppertree Quarry Modification 4 – Environmental Assessment*', prepared by Element Environment, dated April 2016. The EPA has identified a number of issues in relation to the modification proposal for the Department of Planning and Environment's consideration in its decision whether not to approve the modification.

Noise

The EPA has reviewed the noise impact assessment contained within the EA, titled '*Noise Impact Assessment – Peppertree Quarry Mod 4*' (NIA), prepared by Wilkinson Murray and dated February 2016.

The EPA supports the NIA's conclusion that additional noise monitoring stations should be set up at R4 and R17. These additional monitoring stations would provide the proponent with more comprehensive data for the noise emitted by the Quarry.

In addition, low frequency noise was identified in the NIA as a potential impact for the nearest sensitive receivers due to the predicted levels being close to the applicable criterion. Therefore, the EPA suggests that in addition to the current noise parameters monitored at each location, measurement of dB(C) and the frequency characteristics also be included in the noise monitoring 'suite' in order to monitor low frequency noise levels and guard against any impacts to the surrounding community.

Surface Water Management

The EPA has also reviewed the surface water impact assessment, titled '*Peppertree Quarry Modification 4 – Surface Water Assessment*' (SWA), prepared by Advisian and dated February 2016.

Given the layout and topography of the area, the EPA is concerned that runoff from the south end of proposed new southern overburden emplacement area (Catchment D) may not flow into the North Pit of the Limestone Mine as stated in the SWA. Drainage plans for the proposed southern overburden emplacement are provided in Figure 4.1 of the SWA and it is noted that a drainage line runs along the south east of the proposed

emplacement, but does not continue further along the far southern end of the emplacement area (Catchment D).

Given the sensitivity of the environment to the south of the proposed modification, including Morton National Park, the Shoalhaven River and the Bungonia Gorge, the EPA is concerned that sediment fencing alone may not be adequate to protect the environment from the sediment runoff in the event of a significant rainfall event.

The EPA suggests that instead of (or in addition to) the proposed sediment fences along the southern end of the proposed emplacement area, the proposed catch drain along the south-east of the stockpile should be extended along the southern tip of Catchment D. This proposed catch drain could either flow to the west to enter the drainage line which flows into the North Pit of the Limestone Mine, or north-east and north to the proposed sediment basin on the eastern edge of Catchment C. This should guard against sediment washing into the neighbouring sensitive environment.

I trust these comments are helpful. If you have any queries on this matter please contact me or Michael Heinze at the EPA's South East Regional office in Queanbeyan on (02) 6229 7002.

Yours sincerely



JULIAN THOMPSON
Unit Head – South East Region
NSW Environment Protection Authority