NSW TSC Act 1995: Assessment of Significance

Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus*): Blyth Quarry

a) **In the case of a threatened species, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at the risk of extinction;**

The Brown Treecreeper was heard calling from vegetation south of the Blyth Quarry during the EcoLogical site inspection on 25 July, 2007. The occurrence of this and other bird species on site is likely to be infrequent at best, with similar foraging habitat in better condition found in the surrounding areas. Therefore the proposed reactivation of the Blyth Quarry is not likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the Brown Treecreeper and will not place it at risk of extinction.

b) **In the case of an endangered population, whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on the life cycle of the species that constitutes the endangered population such that a viable local population of the species is likely to be placed at risk of extinction;**

The Brown Treecreeper is not an endangered population.

c) **In the case of an endangered ecological community or critically endangered ecological community, whether the action proposed;**

   i. **Is likely to have an adverse effect on the extent of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction; r**

      The Brown Treecreeper is not an EEC.

   ii. **Is likely to substantially and adversely modify the composition of the ecological community such that its local occurrence is likely to be placed at risk of extinction.**

      The Brown Treecreeper is not an EEC.

d) **In relation to the habitat of a threatened species, population or ecological community;**

   i. **The extent to which habitat is likely to be removed or modified as a result of the action proposed;**

      Potential foraging habitat for the Brown Treecreeper exists on site, but similar resources in better condition found in the surrounding areas. It is unlikely that the site contains critical resources for fauna likely to occur in the region.

   ii. **Whether an area of habitat is likely to become fragmented or isolated from other areas of habitat as a result of the proposed action; and**

      The proposed reactivation of the Blyth Quarry will not cause any habitat to become fragmented or isolated.

   iii. **The importance of the habitat to be removed, modified, fragmented or isolated to the long term survival of the species, population or ecological community in the locality.**

      The degree to which foraging habitat of the Brown Treecreeper will be removed will not impact the long term survival of the species and is therefore considered of low importance to its long term survival.

e) **Whether the action proposed is likely to have an adverse effect on critical habitat (either directly or indirectly);**

No critical habitat has been declared for this community.

f) **Whether the action proposed is consistent with the objectives or actions of a recovery plan or threat abatement plan;**

No recovery plan or threat abatement plan has been developed for this community. However, 6 priority actions have been identified to help recover the Brown Treecreeper in New South Wales.

g) **Whether the action proposed constitutes or is part of a key threatening process or is likely to result in the operation of, or increase the impact of, a key threatening process.**

The proposed quarry is not part of the key threatening process of land clearance as native cover species do not make up more than 70% of plant cover and the site is not classified as an EEC under the TSC Act or EPBC Act.

Conclusion

The reactivation of the Blyth Quarry is likely to modify the potential foraging habitat of the Brown Treecreeper. There are known habitats in better condition surrounding the site, therefore the removal of this low quality habitat will not impact the long term survival of the species, or place it at risk of extinction.