



Our ref: EF/11/533

Contact: Greg Buckler

8 September 2017

Ms Genevieve Seed
Senior Planning Officer
Resource Assessments
Level 22, 320 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Genevieve

Response to Submissions Blakebrook Quarry (MP 07_0020 MOD 1) - EA

Lismore City Council (LCC) would like to thank the Department of Planning for their prompt processing of the Modification Application for Blakebrook Quarry (Major Project 07_0020) and the ongoing liaison with the concerned stakeholders. LCC also thanks the Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Department of Planning & Environment – Division of Resources & Geoscience (GSNSW) for their time and responses regarding the application.

In relation to the responses LCC would like to address each of Departmental responses separately.

The Department of Planning Resources and Geoscience provided the following comment:

GSNSW has no concerns regarding the proposal, however in order to assist in the collection of construction material production data, the proponent should be required to provide annual production data for the subject site to DRG as a condition of any new or amended development consent. Should biodiversity offsets be considered for the project GSNSW requests consultation to ensure that there are no potential sterilisation impacts to resources.

Blakebrook Quarry continues to lodge its extractive production data annually and will continue to do so. Additionally Blakebrook Quarry has acquired 45 hectares of Land adjacent to the Quarry as environmental offset land to be protected indefinitely. The purchase of this land from neighbouring properties will ensure that there is no sterilisation of resources within the extractive boundaries of the Blakebrook Major Project.

The Department of Primary Industries provided the following recommendations for consideration in the assessment of the proposal:

- *The proponent should minimise the risk of uncontrolled run-off or discharge from the quarry site in accordance with a Soil and Water Management Plan and the relevant Environment Protection Licence.*
- *The proponent should continue to monitor groundwater levels and take appropriate action when required in accordance with a groundwater management plan.*

.../2

Blakebrook Quarry currently operates under the ISO 14001 Environment Management System certification and as part of the Environmental Management Plan acts to identify and negate all environmental risks involved with the operation of the Quarry. Environmental aspects such as uncontrolled run off or discharge are completed in accordance with the licence conditions and the actual sampling regime associated with discharge from the Quarry site. Additionally all the environmental aspects are captured in the Aspects and Impacts Register which is subject to annual review. Blakebrook Quarry will review and update any aspects or impacts in the register to ensure any mining in the South Pit meets any additional conditions that come out of recommendations from the Department of Primary Industries.

LCC can reassure the Department of Planning, the Department of Primary Industries and the Environmental Protection Authority that it is committed to its groundwater monitoring program and is very confident that it cannot only meet the September 2018 deadline, but hopes to complete and publish the results well prior to the late 2018 deadline. The groundwater monitoring program has already installed the test pumping well and the well pumping equipment is currently being mobilised to complete the test pumping by the end of September. The test pumping will be comprised of a 48 hour pump test which is to be followed by a 24 hour recovery test.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) proposed several conditions to be included in the consent including:

- *The modification consent lapses on the 30th September 2018*
- *The extraction authorised by this modification is not to interfere with the water bearing zones;*
- *A monitoring regime at the groundwater bores BQS1S, BQS1L and BQS1D is to be undertaken to evaluate any impacts of the extraction on the groundwater level or quality.*
- *Should any impact of groundwater be detected, all quarrying activities in the South Pit are to cease until the Department of Planning and Environment authorises recommencement of extraction.*

In addition to the above points, the EPA has proposed some administrative controls to be included on EPL 3384.

LCC believes that the proposed conditions above and the administrative controls to be included in the consent are all fair and reasonable proposals. Council can assure the Department that the above conditions are in part (monitoring the groundwater wells) already being undertaken or are part of the expected conditions when the Modification Application is approved.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Buckler on 0448613439 or greg.buckler@lismore.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully



Phil Klepzig
Manager Commercial Services