

## ASSESSMENT REPORT

### NOWRA BRICKWORKS QUARRY

Site Infrastructure Modification (07\_0123 MOD 1)

#### 1 BACKGROUND

South Coast Concrete Crushing and Recycling Pty Limited (SCCCR) owns and operates the Nowra Brickworks Quarry, located approximately 5 kilometres south of Nowra, within the Shoalhaven City local government area (see Figure 1).

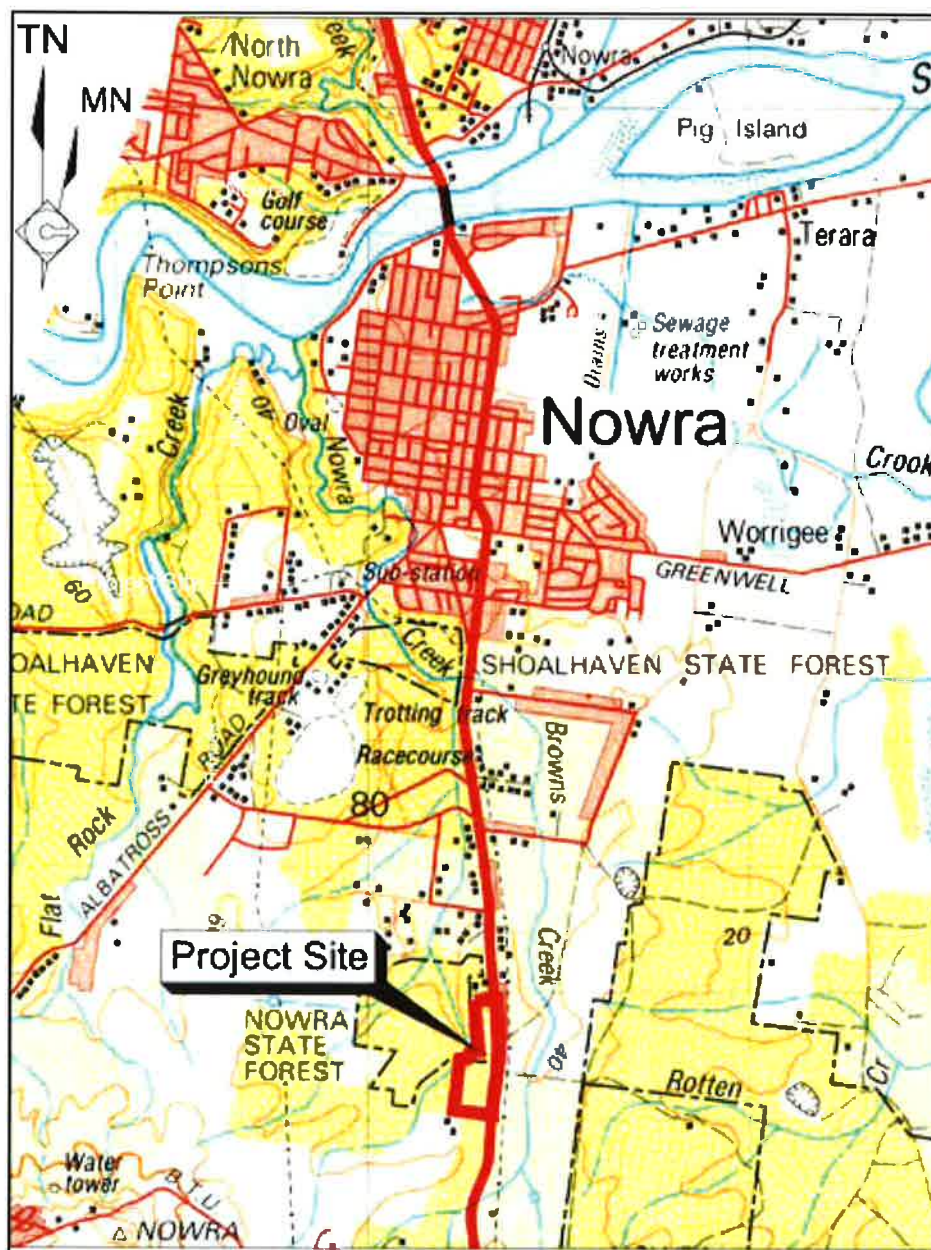


Figure 1: Location of the Nowra Brickworks Quarry

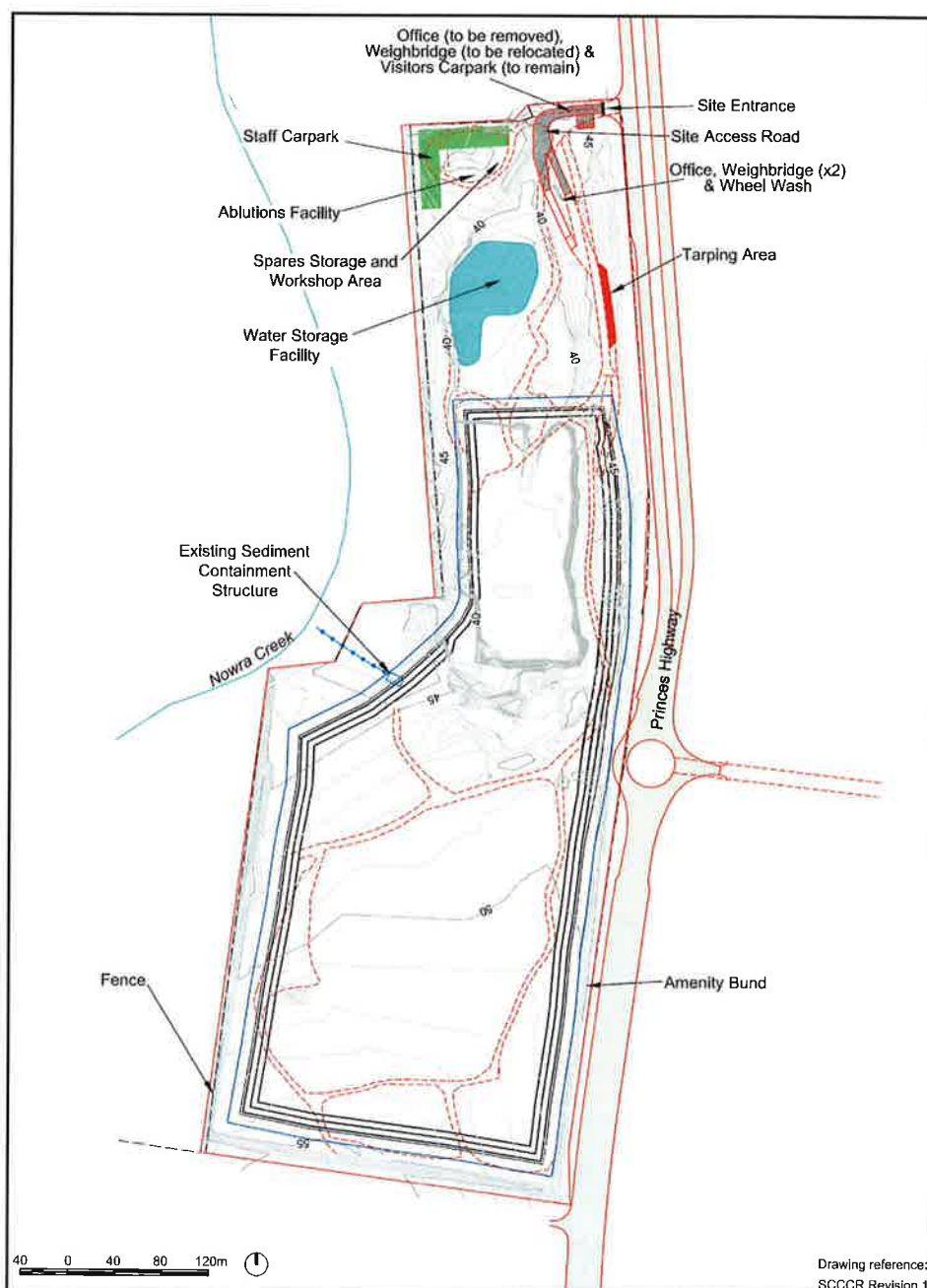
Nowra Brickworks Quarry has operated since 1948 under a number of mining leases. On 1 December 2009, the quarry was granted project approval by the then Minister for Planning under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). This approval provides a contemporary planning approval and regulatory framework for the quarry's operations.

The project approval allows SCCCR to:

- operate the quarry until December 2039;
- extract 364,000 tonnes per year of clay/shale, structural clay and associated materials;
- import 50,000 tonnes per year of recycling materials to the site;
- import 125,000 tonnes per year of blending materials to the site;
- import 200,000 tonnes per year of Virgin Extracted Natural Material to the site; and
- despatch 500,000 tonnes per year of quarry products from the site by road.

## 2 PROPOSED MODIFICATION

On 16 May 2013, SCCCR submitted a modification application (07\_0123 MOD 1) and accompanying environmental assessment (EA – see **Appendix C**) under section 75W of the EP&A Act. The proposed modification involves changing the approved locations of the quarry's weighbridge, weighbridge office and wheel wash, and realigning an internal access road (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2:** Approved and proposed locations of the weighbridge, weighbridge office and wheel wash

The proposed modification is required to ensure the safe movement of quarry trucks near the entrance to the site, and to allow trucks to queue wholly within the site boundary where necessary. Nearby roadworks, currently underway to duplicate a section of the Princes Highway, have required resumption of a portion of the site along its eastern boundary for construction of a deceleration lane to the quarry site access. This deceleration lane is required so that quarry trucks slowing to enter the site do not affect the flow of northbound highway traffic.

However, the currently approved location of the weighbridge, weighbridge office and wheel wash may limit the movement of trucks near the site entrance, which could result in trucks using the deceleration lane to queue for the site. In order to avoid this occurring, SCCCR has chosen new locations for this infrastructure, approximately 100 metres south of the approved locations. The proposed modification would therefore allow trucks to safely enter, exit and queue near the site entrance without inhibition from site infrastructure.

SCCCR has already partially constructed the weighbridge, weighbridge office and wheel wash in the new locations; however this infrastructure has not been fully commissioned. SCCCR therefore seeks to regularise the new locations for these structures, to allow them to be completed and operated as approved. SCCCR is also proposing the realignment of an internal access road. The proposed alignment is currently being used as a truck turning area, and no significant additional works would be required.

The proposed modification only seeks approval to complete these minor site works. No other modifications to current operations, including the extraction, processing and transportation functions of the quarry are required.

### **3 STATUTORY CONTEXT**

#### S75W Modification

Part 3A of the EP&A Act was repealed on 11 October 2011, however, the Nowra Brickworks Quarry Project remains a “transitional Part 3A project” under Schedule 6A of the EP&A Act. The proposed modification must therefore be assessed under Section 75W of the EP&A Act.

#### Approval Authority

Under section 75W of the EP&A Act, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure is the approval authority for this modification application. However, under the Minister's delegation of 14 September 2011, the Director, Mining and Industry Projects, can determine the modification application, as less than 10 public submissions objecting to the modification were made and Shoalhaven City Council did not object to the application.

#### Modification

The Department has considered the nature of the proposed modification and is satisfied that it can be characterised as a modification to the original project, and that it is within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act. In this respect, the Department notes that there would be no change to approved extraction methods, no increase in production, no change to processing or transportation systems, and the resulting environmental impacts would be the same as the approved project.

### **4 CONSULTATION**

Under Section 75W of the EP&A Act, the Department is not obliged or required to undertake formal consultation or exhibit the application. Given the minor nature of the proposed modification, the Department did not undertake any formal public consultation. However the Department invited Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and Shoalhaven City Council (Council) to comment on the proposal, and made relevant documents available on its website.

#### Submissions

RMS and Council provided submissions on the proposal (see **Appendix D**). RMS noted that the proposed modification would not impact on access to the site from the Princes Highway. Council made no objection.

### **5 ASSESSMENT**

The potential environmental impacts relating to the construction of the weighbridge, weighbridge office and wheel wash were assessed and approved as part of the original project application. Constructing this infrastructure in different locations would not alter these previously assessed and approved impacts, or generate additional impacts. Notwithstanding, the Department has assessed the merits of the proposed modification and has summarised its assessment in Table 1.



**Table 1: Assessment of key issues**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<i>Traffic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed modification would allow arriving trucks to safely queue within the site boundary. This would avoid the risk of trucks queuing in the deceleration lane, reducing potential safety impacts for northbound Highway traffic.</li> <li>The realigned internal access road would allow trucks to move more easily between the quarry pit and the site infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No additional conditions are required; however the existing site figure in the project approval should be replaced with a figure which identifies the modified locations of site infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<i>Noise</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No additional noise impacts are likely to result from the change in location of the infrastructure.</li> <li>Any unforeseen noise impacts would be managed under the existing Noise Monitoring Program, which would be reviewed and updated as necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional condition requiring the review and update of the Noise Management Plan.</li> </ul>
<i>Air Quality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production rates and operating processes would not alter, therefore no additional air quality impacts are expected.</li> <li>Potential air quality impacts would be managed by the existing Air Quality Monitoring Program, which would be reviewed and updated where necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional condition requiring the review and update of the Air Quality Management Plan.</li> </ul>
<i>Water</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run-off from disturbed areas would be captured in the existing water storage dam. Appropriate sediment controls are in place. No change to existing water management systems would be required.</li> <li>Any unforeseen impacts would be managed under the existing Water Management Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional condition requiring the review and update of the Water Management Plan.</li> </ul>

## 6 RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

The Department has recommended modified conditions of approval for the Nowra Brickworks Quarry (see **Appendix A**). The recommended conditions include the requirement to review and update the quarry's management plans in response to an Annual Review, incidents or modifications to the approval. A number of updated definitions are also recommended. SCCCR has reviewed and accepted the recommended conditions. The consolidated approval, as proposed to be modified, is set out in **Appendix B**.

## 7 CONCLUSION


SCCCR seeks to modify the approved locations of the weighbridge, weighbridge office and wheel wash at the Nowra Brickworks Quarry. It also seeks to realign an internal access road. The proposed modification would ensure that this site infrastructure would not inhibit the safe movement of trucks and allow arriving trucks to queue wholly within the site boundary.

The Department has assessed the modification application in accordance with the relevant requirements of the EP&A Act. The Department is satisfied that the proposed modification is justified, and should be approved. The Department is also satisfied that the proposed modification would not increase the approved impacts of the project. The Department considers that any unforeseen impacts would be able to be appropriately managed under the existing management plans, which would be reviewed and updated as necessary.


## 8 RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Director, Mining and Industry Projects:

- **considers** the findings and recommendations of this report;
- **determines** that the proposed modification is within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act;
- **approves** the proposed modification under section 75W of the EP&A Act; and
- **signs** the attached Notice of Modification (**Appendix A**).

  
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 Mining Projects

4.7.13

  
 David Kitto  
 Director  
 Mining and Industry Projects