

4325 8222

Assessment Unit/s
D Spithill
22 April 2013

Major Projects Assessment
NSW Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39,
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Director, Mining Projects

**Central Coast Sands Quarry - Reservoir Road and Keighley Avenue, Somersby
Project Application No 08_0173**

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the above project application and environmental assessment report for Central Coast Sands Quarry and provide the following response:

Council's Resolution dated 2 October 2012

Council at its meeting dated 2 October 2012 resolved in part:

A *Council oppose all current coal gas exploration and mining practices anywhere in the Gosford Local Area because of the unacceptable risks to our water catchments, groundwater, agricultural industries, natural environment and human health.*

In addition to Council's resolution the following matters are raised:

Biodiversity

Duffys Forest – Endangered Ecological Community TSC Act 1995

The Ecological Assessment (RPS, Report No: PR103611, dated December 2010) has identified remnant native vegetation in the south western portion of the site as consistent with Somersby Plateau Forest MU E26d as described by Bell (2009). This vegetation community has been described as having very strong similarities to the endangered ecological community listed as Duffys Forest.

It is noted that other studies on Duffys Forest distribution have dismissed vegetation similarities in the Somersby area (Smith & Smith 1990) although no data analysis was conducted using data from the Somersby area. Without further comprehensive data analysis of both Sydney and Somersby data sets, scientific uncertainty exists in respect to the presence of this endangered ecological community on the subject site.

For completeness and to extinguish any scientific uncertainty in respect to impacts on Duffys Forest, further analysis and impact assessment is warranted for this EEC.

Prostanthera junonis – Endangered Flora Species TSC Act 1995

Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for *Prostanthera junonis* form part of Appendix 2 of the approved recovery plan for this species and should be considered in survey design and impact assessment reporting. These guidelines recommend that targeted surveys for *Prostanthera junonis* should be conducted over several days (2-3) spread evenly over the peak flowering period (October – mid December).

Surveys conducted underpinning the Ecological Assessment (RPS 2010) have only been completed on a single survey effort (25 October 2010).

It is acknowledged that only low to moderate habitat has been recorded for *Prostanthera junonis* within the subject site although for completeness additional targeted surveys should have been completed during the peak flowering period (October – mid December) for this species.

Noise

The key noise mitigation measure for this proposal is the construction of a 5m high earth mound that is proposed to fringe the entire northern, eastern and southern perimeter of the site.

Based on a review of the EIS and accompanying Noise Impact Assessment (SLR , Report No: 630.01872-R1, dated 14 March 2012) no details are provided on the design of the earth mound including compaction, stability, finished batter slopes or vegetation / erosion control measures.

It is recommended that finished batter slopes should not exceed 35° and that mound stability should be certified by a suitably qualified geotechnical engineer.

Hazards

The excavation profile proposes benching height intervals of 15m at 2V:1H with 5m horizontal benches. It is considered that bench heights of 15m have the potential to poses a significant post mine landform safety hazard. It is recommended that bench heights be reduced to between 3-5m heights to ensure post mine landform safety hazard are reduced.

Drinking Water Catchment

The proposed quarry expansion is located within the Mooney Dam drinking water catchment. Given this the EIS should give consideration to Gosford City Council Policy D6.41 Water Supply Catchment Area Development Policy and ensuring the proposal has a zero impact on water quality. Note, that this policy is currently under review and the “Draft” policy *Development within a Water Supply Catchment Area Policy WS5.15* should also be considered.

Should you have any enquires with regard to this matter please contact Peter Pegg – Adviser Planning on (02) 4325 8274 during business hours.

Yours faithfully

Diane Spithill
Acting Adviser Planning