



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Hawkesbury-Nepean

Mr Kane Winwood
Team Leader – Mining Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our Reference: HN00868
Contact: Gina Guinane

18th of April 2013

Dear Mr Winwood,

Subject: Review of Environmental Assessment - 'Central Coast Sands Quarry' (08_0173), Reservoir Road and Keighley Avenue, Somersby.

Thank you for referring details of the 'Central Coast Sands Quarry' proposal to the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) for comment.

The following materials were received and have been reviewed;

- 1 CD copy of the Environmental Assessment (including all relevant attachments)

The HNCMA understand that this project application has been lodged with your department as a Part 3A (Major Project) under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act) and will continue to be dealt with as a 'transitional Part 3A project' under this Act. This proposal includes the following components;

- An 8ha expansion of the existing sand quarry located at Reservoir Road, Somersby to incorporate an adjoining lot (Lot 10 DP 1090880) at Keighley Road. This would allow for extraction of an additional 5 million tonnes of sand and extend the life of the current operation by up to 30 years;
- Transporting product from the site via road; and
- Rehabilitating the site.

As you are aware, Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) are approval authorities for clearing of native vegetation under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (NV Act), and are also responsible for implementing the objectives of the NV Act which include:

- "to prevent broad scale clearing unless it improves or maintains environmental outcomes, and
- to protect native vegetation of high conservation value having regard to its contribution to such matters as water quality, biodiversity, or the prevention of salinity or land degradation".

Review of the project documentation, including the environmental assessment report prepared by *Insite for Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd*, notes that there will be some removal and disturbance of native vegetation to allow for the proposed extension and future activities at the project site.

This will include clearing of a 25 metre wide, linear strip of native vegetation identified as Somersby Plateau Open Forest. The clearing would affect a small portion of land

(approximately 0.5 ha in area) currently separating the existing quarry and the proposed extension area to the east. Both areas have already been highly modified, with the proposed extension area altered through a variety of agricultural uses including orchards, market garden activities, poultry farming and grazing in the past.

Environmental assessment requirements for 'Part 3A' projects under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act), continue to apply to 'transitional Part 3A' projects under Schedule 6A, cl 3(1). This means that under that part, an approved project would not require a property vegetation plan (PVP), or development consent, under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* (s 75U(1)(e)).

Although no approval is required under the NV Act and the level of impact on native vegetation and habitat is small, the HNCMA consider that this project should still have regard for the threatened species (recorded on site and nearby) which will be impacted by the removal of native vegetation to allow for this proposal.

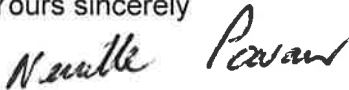
The HNCMA recommend the following;

- Environmental management and site rehabilitation measures identified in the environmental assessment report (2013) including; Section 8.1.4 – Site rehabilitation, 8.1.5 – Key recommendations, Section 9 – Rehabilitation and final landform, and Section 10 – Statement of commitments) should be adopted.

Adoption of these measures will assist greatly in minimising impacts to native vegetation and the threatened species associated with the proposed development site.

If you have any further questions in relation to this proposal please contact Gina Guinane (Catchment Officer) at our Goulburn office on (02) 4828 6777.

Yours sincerely



Neville Pavan
Acting General Manager