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03 November 2021

Carl Dumpleton
Team Leader – Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Carl,

Re: Hitchcock Road Quarry MOD1 – Response to Request for Information

Further to the Department's request for additional information dated 28 October 2021, we provide the following responses.

1. Final Landform

The final landform strategy that has been adopted for the Quarry is Strategy A. The Strategy B final landform was included within the current Project Approval 06_0104 as an alternative landform in the event that the proposed revegetation for biodiversity offsetting was unable to be successfully implemented. However, in accordance with *Schedule 2 Condition 10*, the Department confirmed satisfaction of the revegetation requirement on 15 March 2013. As such, Strategy B is no longer relevant. Although not necessary, if desired, reference to Strategy B could now be removed from the Project Approval.

In relation to the proposed final landform under MOD1, this remains consistent with Strategy A. It is proposed that the small area of extraction within the 10m buffer zone with Lot 2 would be backfilled similarly to the adjacent extraction area and provide a landform generally consistent with the currently approved Strategy A final landform. Subject to approval, a revised Landscape Management Plan will be prepared to reflect the backfilling of this area.

As discussed in item 2 below, extraction within the buffer area is now sought in accordance with *Schedule 3 Condition 2* of the current Project Approval rather than as part of MOD1. Notwithstanding, the above remains applicable.

2. Vegetation

Extraction was always anticipated within the 10m buffer zone with Lot 2 DP 555184 (Lot 2), however, a buffer zone was conditioned with extraction subject to agreement by the Director General in accordance *Schedule 3 Condition 2* of the current Project Approval. As outlined in our letter 22 October 2021, PF Formation is now seeking agreement from the Director-General (now Planning Secretary) for extraction within the buffer zone in accordance with the existing conditions of consent rather than through the current modification application. As such, the MOD1 application no longer seeks to change the area of extraction or any areas of vegetation clearing.

Notwithstanding, the proposed biodiversity offset strategy proposed as part of the MOD1 application is considered applicable and appropriate for the disturbance of vegetation within the buffer zone.

3. Biodiversity Offset

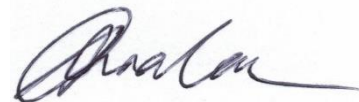
Lot 214 was originally included in the 2007 application. Whilst the extraction boundary presented in the plans submitted in accordance with *Schedule 3 Condition 1* (previously supplied) includes the entire Lot (excluding the required property boundary buffers), extraction was not planned within the eastern part of Lot 214 (although access roads were originally proposed through this area).

As outlined within the Statement of Environmental Effects supporting MOD1, the currently approved biodiversity offset strategy relies solely on revegetation of extracted areas (i.e. areas that have been completely disturbed). However, the proposed biodiversity offset provides protection in perpetuity to 8ha of high quality existing vegetation and also retains the existing 4.2ha rehabilitated to woodland and approved as meeting the required standards would be retained. A further approximately 3.1ha would also continue to be rehabilitated resulting in a total of 7.3ha of woodland rehabilitated to the standard required in Appendix 6 of the current Project Approval together with the protection of the 8ha of existing vegetation.

As concluded in the ecological assessment supporting MOD1 the proposed biodiversity offset would provide an equal, if not superior biodiversity outcome to the current approved offset which relies solely upon rehabilitation of fully disturbed areas.

We trust the above information is satisfactory for the finalisation of the MOD1 application. However, if you would like any further information or would like to discuss any matter, please don't hesitate to contact Mr Scott Hollamby of R.W. Corkery & Co (0437 858 511) or myself (0418 439 923).

Yours sincerely



Joshua Graham
Managing Director