



24 April 2018

Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to:
colin.phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Mr Colin Phillips

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Karuah South Quarry – SSD 17_8795
Request for Modification of SEARs**

I am writing on behalf of Wedgerock Pty Ltd (Wedgerock) to formally request a modification of the SEARs for the above Project to accommodate a proposed change in the footprint of the extraction area and the resource quantity for the Project. Please note that reference is now made to “Karuah South Quarry” rather than the previous reference to “Kiely’s Karuah Quarry”.

The SEARs issued on 2 November 2017 relate to an 18ha area on the southern section of Lot 11 DP 1024564 with the northern boundary of the proposed extraction area effectively coinciding with the approved southern boundary of the Karuah Quarry operated by Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd (Hunter Quarries). At the conclusion of extraction within the Karuah Quarry, and the previously proposed Kiely’s Karuah Quarry, a pillar of hard rock, with stepped extraction faces on both its northern and southern sides, would remain.

Figure A displays the approximately 2.3ha increase in the area of the Project Site for the modified Project, which would effectively cover the bulk of the footprint of the remnant pillar. Only a small area of the northern toe of the pillar would remain to facilitate the planned wetland on the floor of the Karuah Quarry. The total footprint of disturbance under the modified Project would be 14.8ha compared with the previously proposed 12.5ha. For the purposes of the EIS, the proposed extraction operation would be described to occur in two stages.

Stage 1: Extraction of the resource on the southern side of the Karuah Quarry.

Stage 2: Extraction of the remnant pillar between the two extraction areas.

Brooklyn Office:

First Floor, 12 Dangar Road, PO Box 239, BROOKLYN NSW 2083
Telephone: (02) 9985 8511 Email: brooklyn@rwcorkery.com

Orange Office:

62 Hill Street, ORANGE NSW 2800
Telephone: (02) 6362 5411 Email: orange@rwcorkery.com

Brisbane Office:

Suite 5, Building 3, Pine Rivers Office Park, 205 Leitchs Road, BRENDAL QLD 4500
Telephone: (07) 3205 5400 Email: brisbane@rwcorkery.com

The proposed modification to the Project would enable Wedgerock to recover an estimated additional 5 million tonnes of material and to create a more appropriate final landform than would otherwise result at the end of the operational life of both quarries. The bulk of the materials recovered would be high quality rock given there would be little overburden remaining as it would have been removed by both operations. The recovery of the additional resource would extend the operational life of the Project by approximately 10 years.

From an operational perspective, the Applicant proposes that its activities would be confined to the southern part of Lot 11 DP 1024564 until such time as Development Consent DA 265_10_2004 expires on 3 June 2027. In this way, there would be no direct interaction between the operation of the Karuah Quarry and Karuah South Quarry throughout their approved operational periods. Upon the expiry of Development Consent DA 265_10_2004 for the Karuah Quarry, the Applicant would then commence Stage 2 to progress in a northerly direction and extract the remnant pillar between the two extraction areas.

One of the key implications upon the Karuah Quarry arising from Wedgerock's proposal, should it be approved, would be the removal of the requirement for Hunter Quarries to rehabilitate the southern extraction faces. It would still remain a requirement for Hunter Quarries to rehabilitate the eastern, northern and western extraction faces to the Department's satisfaction together with the extraction floor beyond the nominated Stage 2 Extraction Area for the proposed Karuah South Quarry. It is envisaged that the modification of Hunter Quarries' Closure Plan required under *Condition 44* (Schedule 3) of Development Consent DA 265_10_2004 would accommodate the removal of rehabilitation requirements for the southern extraction faces within the Karuah Quarry.

For your information, Wedgerock's proposal has been discussed with representatives of Hunter Quarries who sought to clarify the following matters regarding the modified Project.

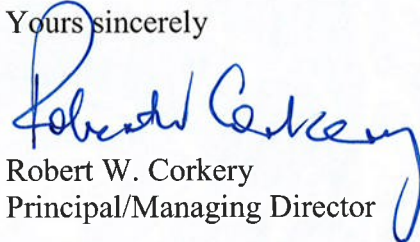
1. The position of the southern boundary of the Karuah Quarry displayed on **Figure A**. The boundary of the Karuah Quarry displayed on **Figure A** was transferred from the Stage Plan for Year 22 from the 2004 EIS for that Quarry. **Figure B(i)** presents the contours drawn from the 2004 EIS (grey) superimposed with contours drawn from the 2017 survey (red). **Figure B(ii)** presents the 2017 contours which will be relied upon for the Karuah South Quarry EIS. It is noted that the contour values relied upon for the Karuah Quarry were based on a local datum which is approximately 15m below AHD. Hence, the southern boundary of the Karuah Quarry was aligned with the 100m **RL** contour which is equivalent to the 115m **AHD** contour.
2. The proposed landform following the removal of the rock pillar, particularly relating to the eastern extraction face. The proposal for the introduction of a second stage for the Karuah South Quarry would not affect any part of the existing eastern extraction face within the Karuah Quarry. The EIS will provide information regarding the final landform following the removal of the pillar.
3. Development Consent DA 265_10_2004 allows extraction operations within the Karuah Quarry until 3 June 2027.
4. In the event Stage 2 removes the entire rock pillar between the two quarries, there would be implications upon creating the proposed wetland within the floor of the Karuah Quarry given the extraction floor slopes to the south. This concern would be overcome through the retention of the lower section of the extraction face of the rock pillar, to contain the wetland that Hunter Quarries is proposing as part of the closure plan for the Karuah Quarry.

For your information, we intend to consult with Hunter Quarries, as required, throughout the preparation of the EIS to ensure that matters of mutual interest are accurately presented, particularly with respect to the cumulative impacts.

I trust I have provided sufficient information about the modified Project to allow the Department to modify the SEARs for the Karuah South Quarry.

Should you require any additional information, or would like to discuss the modified Project, please don't hesitate to contact me.

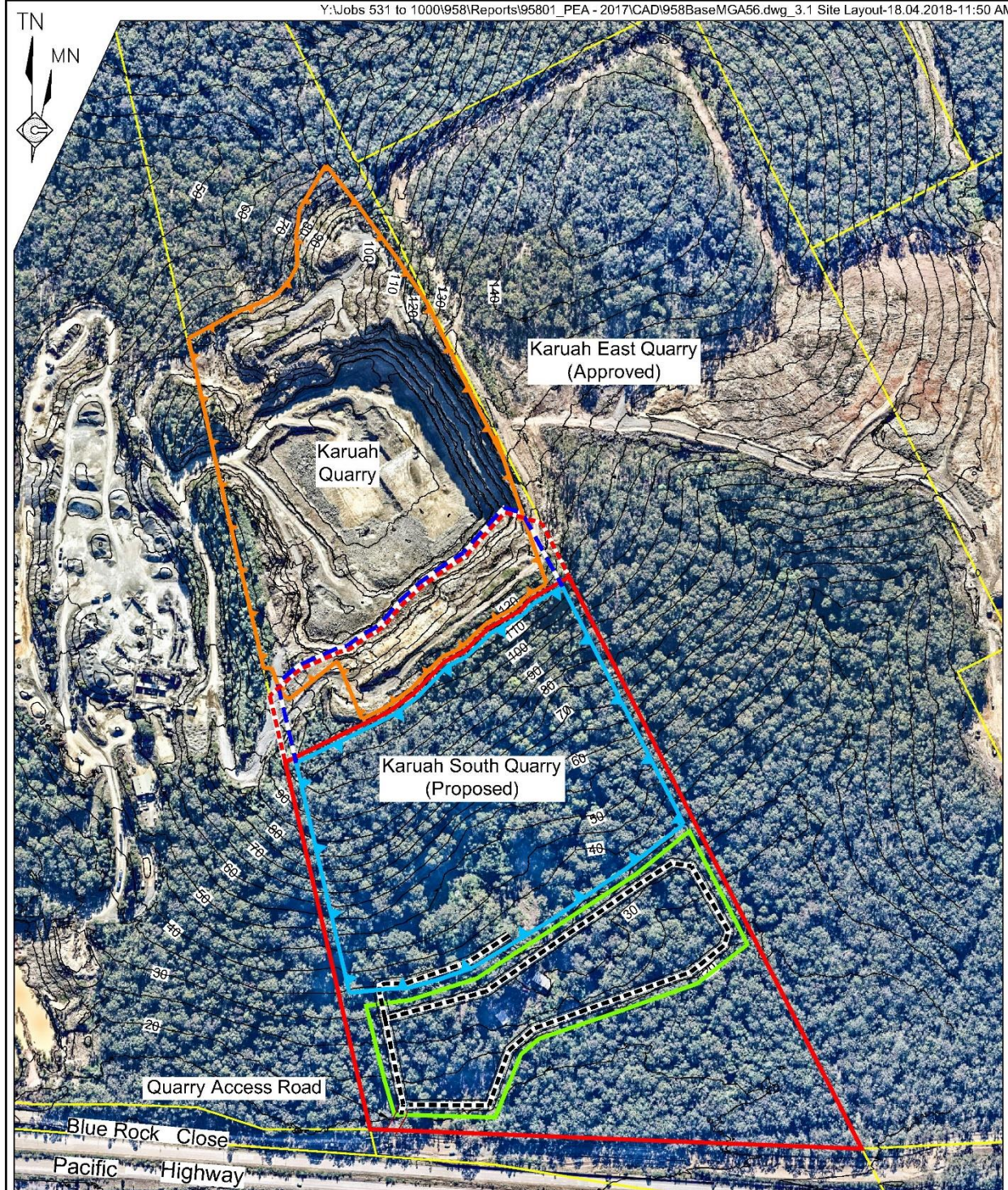
Yours sincerely



Robert W. Corkery
Principal/Managing Director

Encls: Figures A and B

Copy: Wedgerock Pty Ltd
Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd



Note: Some boundaries are coincident and are offset for clarity

REFERENCE

- | | |
|---|---|
| — Stage 1 Project Site Boundary | Cadastral Boundary |
| - - - Stage 2 Project Site Boundary | Infrastructure Area |
| — Stage 1 Extraction Area Boundary | Internal Haul Road |
| - - - Stage 2 Extraction Area Boundary | Quarry Access Road |
| — Limit of Extraction - Karuah Quarry | Contour (mAHD)(Interval=5m) |

SCALE 1:6 000 (A4)

100 0 100 200 300 m

Base Photo Source: Atlas (September 2017) & Nearmap (July 2017)
Cadastral Boundary Source: © NSW Department of Finance and Services
Panorama Avenue Bathurst NSW 2795 www.lpi.nsw.gov.au

Figure A
STAGE 1 AND STAGE 2
EXTRACTION BOUNDARIES

