

Appendix 6

Responses to Concerns raised by ICAG

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Table A6.1
Response to Concerns raised by ICAG

Comment / Concern	Response	EIS Section
Air Quality and Health		
Dust impacts and the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.	The results of the air quality assessment undertaken by Northstar (2018) indicate that the proposed mitigation measures would ensure that the Project complies with all impact assessment criteria with the exception of one minor exceedance of maximum 24-hour average PM ₁₀ at Residence 16. On the day of maximum predicted cumulative impacts at all residences, the 24-hour average PM ₁₀ criterion is predicted to be achieved at all residences except Residence 16. The total cumulative impacts of PM ₁₀ during Stage 1C operations would be <97% of the criterion and <102% of the criterion at Residence 16. The implementation of real time air quality monitoring would assist to avoid any exceedances of criterion are experienced at surrounding residences attributable to the Karuah South Quarry.	5.1
The crusher must be put in a contained building to reduce noise and dust emissions.	A number of measures would be put in place to mitigate dust emissions and noise impacts triggered by the use of the mobile crushing plant. These mitigation measures include the use of a misting spray on discharge from crushers and the installation of a 4m fence at the southern edge of the Quarry infrastructure area.	5.1.7 5.2.5
There is a need for real-time dust monitoring that measures PM _{2.5} .	A real-time air quality program would be implemented by the Operator and would include monitoring for PM ₁₀ which would be used as a proxy to calculate PM _{2.5} concentrations.	5.1.7
Health concerns around silicosis.	An assessment of respirable silica was undertaken by Northstar (2018) due to concern expressed by some members of the local community. The maximum incremental concentration of respirable silica (as PM _{2.5}) generated by the Project would be less than <0.1µg/m ³ with the cumulative impacts from all quarry operations likely to be <0.2µg/m ³ . These concentrations of respirable silica are unlikely to adversely impact the health of those residents living with the area surrounding the existing and proposed quarries.	5.1.8.2
Noise and Blasting		
Noise impacts and the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.	The noise and blasting impact assessment undertaken by Spectrum (2018) identified that the Project would be able to operate in compliance with all applicable noise, blasting and vibration assessment criteria.	5.2
There is a need for real-time noise monitoring.	Noise monitoring would be conducted on a quarterly basis for the first year of operations to determine compliance with the noise criteria and confirm the results of the predictive modelling.	5.2.9

Table A6.1 (Cont'd)
Response to Concerns raised by ICAG

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Comment / Concern	Response	EIS Section
Noise and Blasting (Cont'd)		
There is a huge difference between quarry/mining noise and traffic on the Pacific Highway.	It is acknowledged that some members of the local community may perceive noise generated by the Project and noise generated by traffic on the Pacific Highway differently. The proposed mitigation measures would be implemented to minimise any potential impacts of the proposed Karuah South Quarry.	5.2
Measures must be put in place to mitigate blasting impacts (including miss fires and toxic orange plumes).	Both design and operational safeguards would be implemented to ensure that blasting impacts are minimised.	5.2.5.3
Ecology and Biodiversity Offsetting		
Impacts to Koala habitat.	Whilst the Project has been designed to minimise impacts to native flora and fauna, it is acknowledged that a total of 345 Kola species credits would be required to offset the residual impacts of the Project on Koala habitat.	2.13.4.2
Impacts to wildlife and habitat including trees and hollows to be cleared.	The Project has been designed to minimise impacts to wildlife and native vegetation as far as practicable whilst recognizing the important of hard rock resources within the Site. Fragmentation of native vegetation would be avoided and/or minimised throughout the life of the Project with vegetation clearance and rehabilitation undertaken progressively. Native vegetation within the southeastern corner and northernmost extent of Lot 11 DP1024564 would remain undisturbed to provide connectivity to surrounding habitat. Residual impacts to flora and fauna have been assessed by EcoPlanning (2019) and would be offset by payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.	2.13 5.5
How will impacts to bushland be offset?		
Will the land in the southeastern corner of the Site be offset in perpetuity?		
Will a wildlife corridor be maintained to prevent areas of remaining bush becoming closed systems?	Ecological surveys undertaken by EcoPlanning (2019) identified the following threatened species or plant community types within the proposed area of disturbance. 1527 - Bangalow Palm - Coachwood - Sassafras gully warm temperate rainforest of the Central Coast Little Bentwing Bat and Eastern Bentwing Bat (foraging habitat) Rufous Fantail (migratory) Koala	5.5
We dispute that there are no threatened, vulnerable and endangered species living within the Site.		





Table A6.1 (Cont'd)
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Comment / Concern	Response	EIS Section
Ecology and Biodiversity Offsetting (Cont'd)		
How will nesting wildlife be rescued?	Pre-clearance protocols would be implemented by the Quarry operator to mitigate and avoid potential harm or injury to fauna species. Vegetation would be cleared and rehabilitated progressively throughout the life of the Project to minimise the area of disturbance.	5.5.4
Will bushland be cleared slowly to allow wildlife to relocate?		
Is the area to be offset 10m from the boundary of Lot 11 going to be an overburden dump or a void requiring fencing?	The 10m buffer between the extraction area and the Site boundary would not be disturbed. Reliance would be placed upon the existing fencing around the boundary of the Site. A set of gates would be installed at the Quarry entrance to prevent unauthorised access to the Site. The Operator would also rely upon a network of CCTV cameras positioned at strategic locations around the Site for security purposes. Measures to ensure long-term safety of the void would be discussed with the Resources Regulator.	2.5
Details of the ecological studies that have been undertaken must be provided.	Details of the ecological studies are summarised in Section 5.5. of the EIS and provided in full as Part 4 of the <i>Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium</i> .	5.5
Surface Water and Groundwater		
Many creek systems are located within the Site and would be removed because of the Project.	Local drainage comprises four topographically controlled, ephemeral, first order drainage features, two of which merge to form a second order drainage feature that is subsequently joined by two others and which traverses the southeastern section of the Site. The Project has been designed to avoid impacting drainage features as far as is practicable.	5.6
The EIS will need to contain an in-depth explanation of water management and mitigation measures.	The proposed water management system for the Project has been developed to ensure that water is managed in a manner that maximises opportunities for reuse and recycling and minimises the possibility of uncontrolled discharge.	5.6.3
The EIS will need to contain an in-depth explanation of water discharge practices	Runoff generated within disturbed catchments would be directed to one of two sediment basins or the extraction area sump to prevent the uncontrolled discharge of sediment-laden runoff from the Site.	5.6.3
Where is sediment-laden runoff generated from stockpiles going to go?	Sediment-laden runoff generated from the stockpiles would drain to the north to the extraction area sump.	5.6.3
Impact of discharge events on oyster farmers in the area.	Impacts of discharge events on oyster farms would be very unlikely due to the proposed management and mitigation measures.	5.6.3

Table A6.1 (Cont'd)
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Comment / Concern	Response	EIS Section
Surface Water and Groundwater (Cont'd)		
The Applicant is seeking full creek discharge for the Project which would pollute waterways.	Each sediment basin has been designed to capture and store a runoff volume that exceeds the design criteria establish in the Blue Book and the likelihood of sediment-laden discharge from the Site is considered low. Should discharge from the sediment basins be required, the turbidity of the water would be measured prior to discharge and if found to be above 50NTU (nephelometric turbidity units), flocculant (e.g. bio-polymer) would be added to reduce the volume of sediment in the water such that turbidity is reduced below 50NTU prior to discharging.	5.6.3
Public Safety		
Identify how public safety will be managed.	Public safety has been considered extensively throughout the EIS with specific mitigation and management measures identified for the handling, storage and discharge of hydrocarbons, bush fire hazard and traffic safety.	5.11.2 5.11.3 5.4.4
How does the community be protected from truck drivers that have things fly out the back?	A detailed Traffic Management Plan would be implemented following the grant of consent to safely manage traffic impacts during all stages of the Project. All trucks would be required to have their loads covered prior to leaving Site.	5.4.4.2
Visual Amenity		
What visual mitigation processes will be in place?	The Project has been designed to minimise impacts on visual amenity. Proposed mitigation measures include the implementation of a design of the extraction area that minimizes views of operational or terminal extraction benches, progressive vegetation clearance and rehabilitation, air quality controls, ongoing maintenance of the Site in a clean and tidy condition and a Lighting Management Plan.	5.3
How will overburden dumps be hidden from view?	All overburden would either be incorporated within the landform constructed for use as the Quarry Infrastructure Area or placed within extracted areas within the extraction area.	5.3
General		
The 5am start time is unacceptable and would disturb nearby residents.	Extraction and processing operations would be limited to between 7:00am and 6:00pm throughout the life of the Project. The commencement of product despatch at 5:00am would allow for traffic impacts to be minimised both in the area surrounding the Site and in end markets. Traffic arriving and departing the Quarry between 5:00am and 7:00am would be indistinguishable from that on the Pacific Highway.	2.9





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Comment / Concern	Response	EIS Section
General (Cont'd)		
The 5am start time would set a precedent for Hunter Quarries to amend their start time.	Any changes to the approved operating hours of the Hunter Quarries' operations would require a separate approval which would be assessed on the merits of the application.	
What makes up \$15m Capital Investment Value?	The CIV would include all mobile and processing equipment, construction activities and miscellaneous costs to allow for the production of the first tonne of quarry products.	5.12
Lack of consultation with Port Stephens Council.	Although formal consultation with Port Stephens Council was not required by DPE, correspondence was sent to Port Stephens Council on 21 November 2018 given the proximity of the Project to the Port Stephens LGA boundary. Council provided demographic statistics for the Karuah Region and identified the following key strategic documents for consideration in the EIS and Social Impact Assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Karuah Growth Strategy 2011.</i>• <i>Port Stephens Planning Strategy 2011.</i>• <i>Port Stephens Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028.</i>	3.2.4
Cumulative impacts with Hunter Quarries.	Cumulative impacts with Hunter Quarries' operation have been considered in the air quality, noise and traffic assessments.	5.1 5.2 5.4
How will the Port Stephens Council benefit from further economic diversity?	Economic benefits of the Project to the local community would mostly arise through the creation of full time jobs. It is anticipated that the majority of the workforce for the Project would be sourced from the Karuah SSC and broader Hunter Region.	5.13

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