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20 June 2024

Response to request for additional information regarding Eagleton Quarry Project (SSD-7332)

Dear Mr Barry

I refer to your request seeking a response to further questions raised by the Commission Panel regarding the Department's whole of government assessment of the impacts of the Eagleton Quarry Project (SSD 7332; the project). The Department's responses to each of the Commission Panel's questions are set out below.

Question 1: Are the biodiversity values of the site and its surrounds now materially the same as what is described in the BAR and BOS (prepared in 2017, relying on data between 2011 and 2016), noting intervening events, such as the Black Summer bushfires, that may have affected those biodiversity values?

- *If so, how was that conclusion reached?*
- *If not, how has BCS reached its state of satisfaction that the BAR and BOS are 'adequate for assessing the biodiversity impacts and offsetting requirements for the Project (DPHI AR at [158])?'*

Please see attached a copy of BCS' written response to this question. As stated in the attached advice, BCS '*checked the application to confirm there were no differences from the previous assessment and relied on its previous detailed review to determine that it had no issues to raise.*'

The Department also notes that the project site has not been directly impacted by the Black Summer bushfires or any other catastrophic events in the intervening period between preparation of the BAR and BOS in 2017 and finalisation of the Department's assessment in 2024.

On the basis of the above information, the Department's conclusions regarding the biodiversity impacts of the project have not changed from those outlined in its assessment report.

Question 2: *The Panel seeks advice on the Department's consideration of the form, extent and potential impacts of the temporary noise barriers required by Condition B4, including potential visual impacts .*

Conceptual details of the temporary noise barriers required by Condition B4 are provided in the revised Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (Spectrum Acoustics, February 2024), reproduced as follows:

'The natural hill will be largely retained for the life of the quarry as an acoustic barrier and will be excavated to a height of no less than RL 57.5m. In the final year of the quarry this barrier will also be removed to provide a suitable final landform, and supplemented by a temporary barrier comprising a 3m high mound of push up topsoil.'

The indicative location of the barriers is also shown on Figure 6 of the revised Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (shown below).

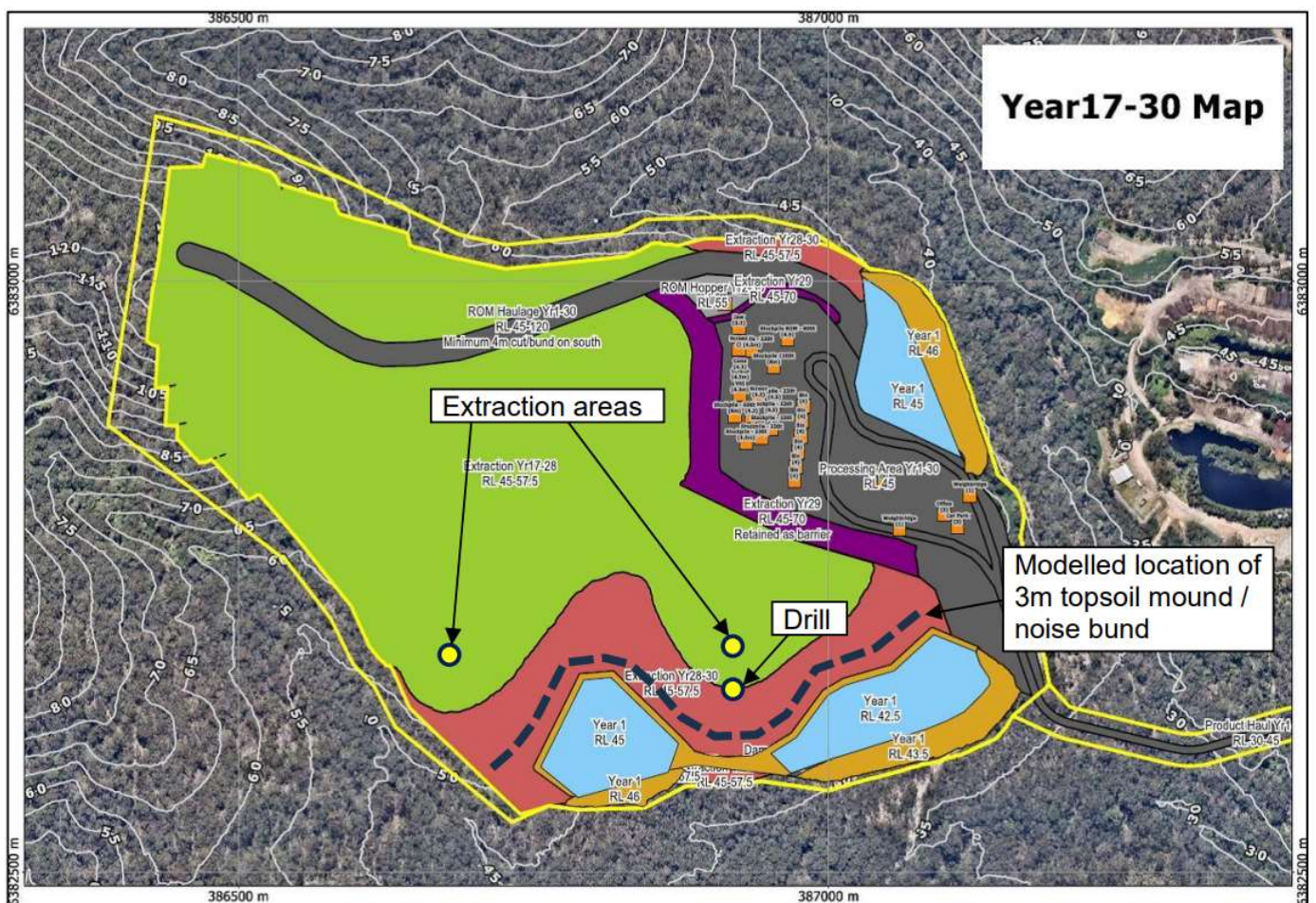


Figure 6. Scenarios 3 and 4: Proposed Year 30 operations.

The first barrier would involve retaining the natural hill to provide acoustic screening of the extraction and processing areas (shown in red and purple in Figure 6 above). The visual impacts are not expected to be any greater than those predicted for the broader quarry extraction area, including those areas at higher, more visible elevations in the north west portion of the extraction area.

The second barrier would involve establishing a 3m high earthen noise bund at approximately 50 m AHD during the final year of quarry operations (as shown above in Figure 6). At this height, the bund

would be screened by the intervening topography and surrounding remnant vegetation and is considered unlikely to adversely impact the visual amenity from surrounding sensitive viewpoints.

The Department's consideration of the visual impacts of the temporary noise barriers required by Condition B4 do not change the conclusions regarding the broader visual impacts of the project. Consistent with the findings of the Department's Assessment Report, the Department considers the visual amenity impacts from the project would be minimal and are therefore acceptable.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this additional information to support the Commission Panel's deliberations regarding the project.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact me on [REDACTED] or

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Jessie Evans
Director
Energy and Resource Assessments



James McDonough
Team Leader, Resource Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear James

Response re: IPC Request for Additional Information – Eagleton Quarry Project (SSD-7332)

I refer to your Major Projects Portal request, dated 13 June 2024, requesting information from Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) in relation to the Eagleton Quarry Project (SSD-7332), in particular questions raised by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

The questions provided from the IPC are as follows;

Are the biodiversity values of the site and its surrounds now materially the same as what is described in the BAR and BOS (prepared in 2017, relying on data between 2011 and 2016), noting intervening events, such as the Black Summer bushfires, that may have affected those biodiversity values?

- *If so, how was that conclusion reached?*
- *If not, how has BCS reached its state of satisfaction that the BAR and BOS are 'adequate for assessing the biodiversity impacts and offsetting requirements for the Project' (DPHI AR at [158])?*

BCS has reviewed the questions and can provide the following response;

Upon receiving the Amendment Report in September 2023, Biodiversity Conservation and Science (BCS) consulted the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) helpdesk and confirmed that the disturbance footprint for the amended project and associated biodiversity impacts remained consistent with the original project application lodged in 2017. BCS then checked the application to confirm that there were no differences from the previous assessment and relied on its previous detailed review to determine that it had no issues to raise.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact our HCC Planning Team at huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Joe Thompson
Director Hunter Central Coast
Biodiversity Conservation and Science

18/6/24