Stone Ridge Quarry Project – SSD 10432

Independent Planning Commission Public Meeting Presentation

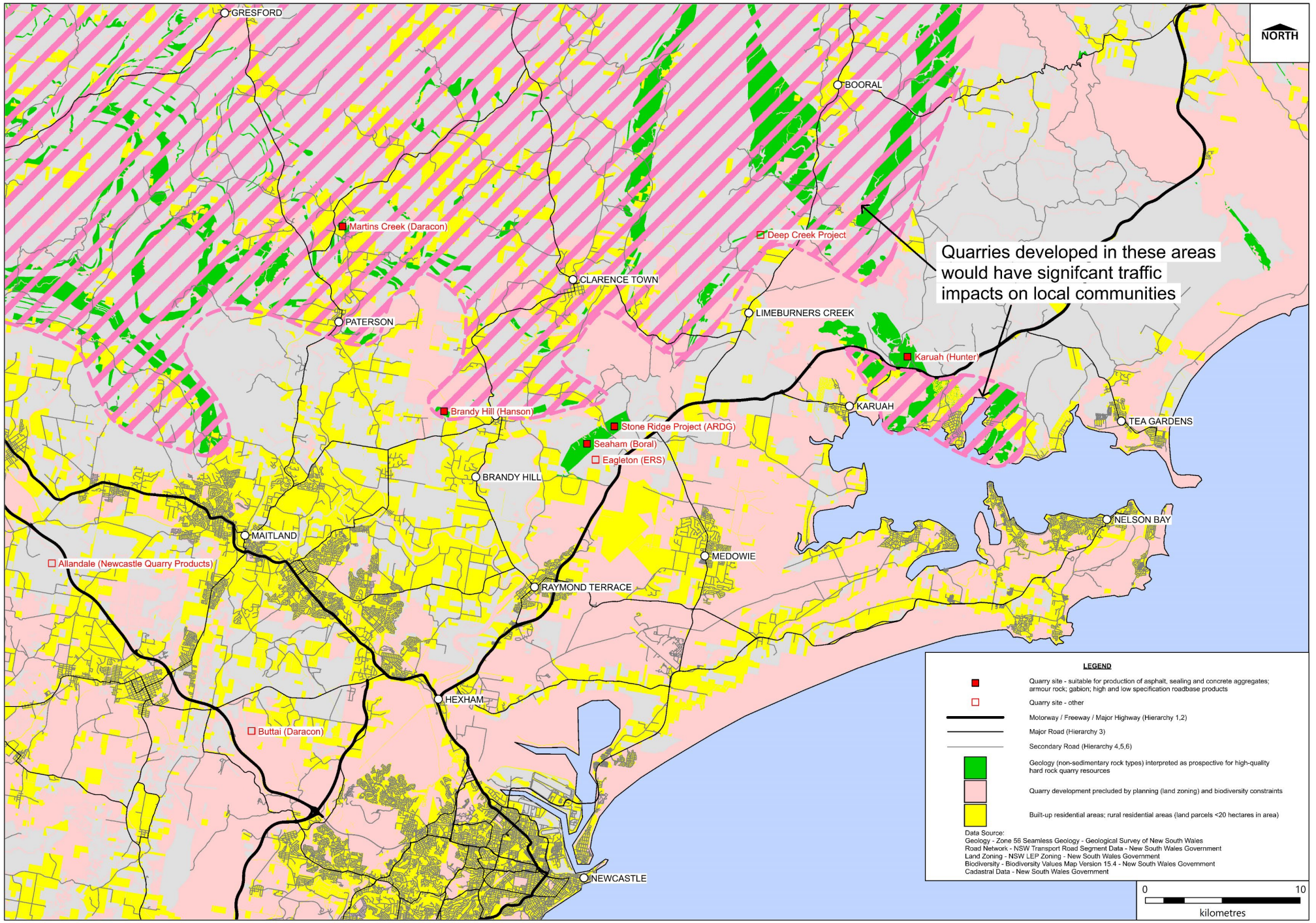
Opening Address

14th November 2024

Section 3 Strategic Context

Section 3.3 Resource and Markets

- Quarry projects listed in Table 3-1 cover two different categories of quarries located on resources suited to producing:
  - the full range of quarry products including high-specification concrete and road surfacing aggregates;
  - lower-specification quarry products (*e.g.* road-base, fill)
- High-specification resources - opportunities highly constrained by limited geology
- Lower-specification resources - opportunities not as constrained by geology
- Alternative sites would significantly impact local communities and the local road network


NORTH
GRESFORD
BOORAL
Martins Creek (Daracon)
Deep Creek Project
Quarries developed in these areas would have signifcant traffic impacts on local communities
CLARENCE TOWN
LIMEBURNERS CREEK
PATERSON
Karuah (Hunter)
KARUAH
TEA GARDENS
Brandy Hill (Hanson)
Stone Ridge Project (ARDG)
Seaham (Boral)
Eagleton (ERS)
BRANDY HILL
NELSON BAY
MAITLAND
MEDOWIE
Allandale (Newcastle Quarry Products)
RAYMOND TERRACE
HEXHAM
Buttai (Daracon)
NEWCASTLE
LEGEND
Quarry site - suitable for production of asphalt, sealing and concrete aggregates; armour rock; gabion; high and low specification roadbase products
Quarry site - other
Motorway / Freeway / Major Highway (Hierarchy 1,2)
Major Road (Hierarchy 3)
Secondary Road (Hierarchy 4,5,6)
Geology (non-sedimentary rock types) interpreted as prospective for high-quality hard rock quarry resources
Quarry development precluded by planning (land zoning) and biodiversity constraints
Built-up residential areas; rural residential areas (land parcels <20 hectares in area)
Data Source:
Geology - Zone 56 Seamless Geology - Geological Survey of New South Wales
Road Network - NSW Transport Road Segment Data - New South Wales Government
Land Zoning - NSW LEP Zoning - New South Wales Government
Biodiversity - Biodiversity Values Map Version 15.4 - New South Wales Government
Cadastral Data - New South Wales Government
0
10
kilometres

Section 5 Engagement

Section 5.1.1 Summary of Public Submissions

- Traffic impacts - a key concern from local submissions particularly re: safety
- Biodiversity impacts - major issue (18 %) raised in objecting submissions
- Objections in particular related to location in a State Forest. Note that FCNSW:
  - has a statutory responsibility to provide timber, forest products and forest materials (*i.e.* rock, stone, sand and gravel)
  - has existing commercial quarries in State Forests that provide hard rock and gravel for NPWS, Council, private roads, as well as the broader construction materials market
  - sought amendment to Forestry Act in 2008 to allow Forest Materials Licences to be awarded for up to 20-year periods – specifically driven by recognised hard rock potential of the site

Section 6 Assessment

Section 6.1 Biodiversity

Section 6.1.2 Existing environment

- Long history of timber harvesting for mining industry (*i.e.* pit props)
- No old growth forest - vegetation is 'forest regrowth' now subject to regular high intensity fire
- Project disturbance footprint < 2 % of Wallaroo State Forest

Section 6.1.3 Assessment of biodiversity impacts

- Koala
  - Critical consideration for ARDG: Project not located in high quality koala habitat – (per Port Stephens CKPoM)
  - Notwithstanding State assessment process, CKPoM mapping is a reliable indicator of koala habitat quality
  - 96 % of the site mapped as 'marginal' for the koala, 1 % mapped as 'preferred' habitat (remaining areas are 'buffer')
  - Project would have a very small impact on higher value 'preferred' habitat

Section 6 Assessment

Section 6.1 Biodiversity

Section 6.1.5 Offsetting

- Entire disturbance area would be offset in accordance with BC and EPBC Act requirements
- Biodiversity offsets = long-term protection and habitat enhancement for a larger area relative to disturbance footprint
- Revenue stream to FCNSW would provide opportunities for improved management of forest estate
- An additional revenue stream would be derived from biodiversity stewardship agreement for habitat enhancement and weed / pest management

Section 6 Assessment

Section 6.3 Traffic

Section 6.3.2 Pacific Highway / Italia Road upgrade

- Multiple upgrade options developed by ARDG for TfNSW consideration – process led by ARDG over five-years
- Final design accepted by TfNSW after joint position agreed between ARDG, Boral (Seaham Quarry) and ERS (Eagleton Quarry). Design does not conflict with TfNSW planning process for new Pacific Highway interchange
- Significant benefits to community by driving resolution of existing traffic safety issue

Section 6.3.3 Site access intersection

- Options constrained by TfNSW requirements (*i.e.* no new access point to Pacific Highway), topography, site distance, nearest residences and Balickera Channel
- Location on Italia Road stipulated by Port Stephens Council – no new conflict points on Italia Road (*i.e.* utilises existing access to Hamburger Trail and is opposite entry to Boral Seaham Quarry)

Section 6 Assessment

Section 6.3 Traffic (cont.)

Section 6.3.4 Transport Route

- Quarry trucks on Italia Road confined to existing B-double transport route to Pacific Highway
- Importantly, ARDG has committed to no haulage trucks to / from the site via Seaham
- Table 6-3 – Council recently reduced speed limit on Italia Road to 80 km /hr

Section 6 Assessment

Section 6.4 Air Quality

- Critical all dust is controlled / managed to ensure safety of all site personnel – key focus for NSW Resource Regulator
- Compliance with on-site OH&S controls / management = compliance with off-site requirements
- Distance to residential dwellings also assist with meeting AQ criteria
- In addition to statutory monitoring requirements, ARDG commitment to monitor water tanks at nearby dwellings, as discussed at CCC meetings

Section 6 Assessment

Section 6.8 Other Issues

- Blasting
  - Modelling of all receivers (including heritage-listed Balickera House) indicated vibration below specified criteria limits
  - For clarity, modelled exceedance of vibration criteria at R18 is predicted from Stage 6 (Operational Years 10-16) onwards. Blast design modification as quarrying progress is a normal practice that would resolve this issue
  - All blasts monitored at representative locations to ensure vibration criteria are not exceeded