

# **Stone Ridge Quarry Project – SSD 10432**

**Independent Planning Commission Public Meeting Presentation**

**Closing Address**

**14th November 2024**

## Proposed Stone Ridge Quarry – Project Justification

- Would significantly ameliorate the supply shortfall of high-specification quarry products required for supporting the construction of forecast growth and associated critical public infrastructure and housing in the LHCC region. This includes highways and local roads, bridges, hospitals, retail centres and sporting facilities
- Provides access to a public resource that has been long recognised by government and industry as being optimally located to support future growth in the LHCC region
- Resources from the quarry would be used for public and private projects which would be of significant benefit to both existing and future generations. The Project's proximity to the Pacific Highway and use of a designated B-double haulage route already used by existing quarries would avoid additional impacts on communities not currently affected by resource extraction activities
- Driven resolution of existing safety issue at existing Pacific Highway / Italia Road intersection via upgrade – led by ARDG in consultation with TfNSW, Boral (Seaham Quarry) and ERS (Eagleton Quarry)

## Project Justification (cont.)

- Environmental Assessment of the Project has confirmed that impacts:
  - have been minimised by the Project design
  - meet all statutory requirements
  - can be appropriately mitigated through the implementation of a range of mitigation and monitoring measures
- Project is consistent with the principles of ESD in that it would assist in meeting the needs of the broader community for high quality hard rock resources needed to support public and private development in the LHCC region, while minimising the extent of environment and social impacts and avoiding potentially significant environmental impacts through project design features and proposed mitigation and management measures
- Site was specifically targeted due to being mapped as 'marginal' koala habitat by the Port Stephens Council CKPoM
- The Project's biodiversity impacts will be fully offset in accordance with the BC and EPBC Acts. Biodiversity offsets will facilitate the creation of larger areas of conserved habitat relative to the disturbance area that will provide a long-term benefit for a range of species including the koala

## Project Site Benefits Compared to Alternatives

- Most optimally located greenfield quarry site for high-specification quarry resources remaining in the LHCC with respect to competing environment, community, planning and transport factors, with minimal and manageable impacts on the environment and community.
- Compared to alternative sites, the Project site would have significantly less impact on local communities via:
  - No haulage through residential / rural residential areas
  - Quarry truck movements confined to existing B-double haul route on Italia Rd (1.4 km to M1 Pacific Highway)
  - Compatible with surrounding land uses (*i.e.* existing/approved quarries, motorsport facilities)

## Project Site Benefits Compared to Alternatives

- Alternate greenfield quarry sites are all located a greater distance from the market. If developed, these would have a significantly greater impact on residential and rural residential communities due to:
  - a greater number of heavy vehicle movements required to deliver the same quantity of materials over much greater distances
  - increased road safety risks as a result of greater potential for heavy vehicle / light vehicle interactions on the local road network
  - increase damage to the local road and associated higher road maintenance costs
  - higher greenhouse gas emissions
- Many alternate sites (including brownfield expansions) are located in relatively undisturbed, vegetated areas with similar or higher environmental values compared to the Stone Ridge site