

22nd January 2025

Inverell Shire Council
144 Otho Street
Inverell NSW 2360

Attention: Planning Department

Lodged via Planning Portal

Dear Council,

Re: ATJs Earthworks – SPH Quarry Development Application for Gum Flat Quarry

A development application has been lodged through the NSW Planning Portal to obtain approval for the Gum Flat Quarry operated by ATJs Earthworks Pty Ltd. The quarry is located at 472 Eddy Park Lane in Gum Flat.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared and lodged in the Planning Portal as a required document for the Secretary's approval form to allow the application to be accepted by the planning portal.

The Secretaries approved form require documents also list a requirement for:

- Category 1 Fire Safety Provisions; and
- Statement of Environmental Effects.

The EIS includes an assessment of Bush Fire impacts in accordance with NSW Bush Fire Planning Guidelines. These include:

- Establishment of an asset protection zone around the quarry and associated buildings;
- Ensuring water is available in tanks and dams for the purpose of firefighting;
- All machinery is fitted with fire extinguishers which are checked and kept up to date;
- The workshop has fire extinguishers which are checked and kept up to date by a qualified local supplier of this equipment.

The proposed development does not include any new buildings. The building included in the proposal is the workshop. This was originally an open farm shed and now has a concrete floor and is established for storage of equipment, trucks, machinery and the servicing of plant and trucks on the site. The workshop has no habitable areas. The building is fitted out with appropriate fire extinguishers. The building is constructed of steel and non-flammable materials. The workshop has an extensive clear zone around it which is consistent with a suitable asset protection zone.

No change of use of the quarry site or building is included in the development application.

Based on the information presented in the EIS, we are of the opinion that the Fire Safety Provisions on this site conform to requirements. Further detail in the form of a list of proposed fire measures can be supplied as part of a construction certificate process if this is required by Council or others.

In regard to the requirement for a Statement of Environmental Effects in addition to the EIS, we are of the opinion that this is an error in the Planning Portal. The EIS has been uploaded to the Portal as an EIS and a copy uploaded as a Statement of Environmental Effects to enable the application to be accepted by the Planning Portal.

Your faithfully,

Peter Taylor

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