

Specialist Traffic Report – Addendum, 7 August 2007

Supplementary Statement

Sight Distance at Access

Recent advice has been received that the existing vegetation along the southern boundary of the Hume Highway road reserve may be habitat for the threatened Squirrel Glider. This requires a review of the proposal to remove native trees near the access way to the quarry. One of the conclusions in the TIS stated:

It is recommended that clearing of three mature trees on each side of the entrance occur prior to the formal commencement of expanded quarry operations.

The proposal was to improve sight distance at the access way to the existing highway.

If the trees were removed, the gap between remaining trees would be in the order of 75 metres. It is understood that squirrel gliders require a distance between tree trunks of approximately 40 metres to fly to adjoining trees.

The site has been re-inspected and an alternative proposal has been developed. It is possible to retain the two trees closest to the access way. These have a distance between trunks of 38 metres.

On the Holbrook side of the accessway (i.e. to the south-west), the first tree should be retained and the next three trees removed. The trees to be removed vary in trunk diameter between 600mm and 250mm. The trees now proposed for removal have been clearly marked with red paint on the trunk. Also a small native "sucker" near the Auxiliary Lane sign should also be removed.

On the Tarcutta side of the access way (i.e. to the north-east), improved sight distance can be achieved by the retention of the first and third trees from the accessway and the removal of the second tree together with 6 other native trees and one dead tree. The trees vary in trunk diameter between 350mm and 100mm. The new proposal will create satisfactory gaps in the existing vegetation to allow a good view of the traffic on the highway as trucks approach the existing carriageway. Again the trees proposed for removal are clearly marked with red paint.

It is also considered that any low hanging branches and vegetation on remaining trees be pruned to leave clean trunks and maximise sight-lines.

The resultant situation will give improved sight-lines and will not produce excessive gaps between trees. The largest gap will be the existing 38m across the access way, and so these existing conditions will be unchanged.

Garry Gaffney
7 August 2007
