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15th September 2014

Gwydir Shire Council
Locked Bag 5
BINGARA NSW 2404

Attn: Glen Pereira

Your Reference: DA28/2013:14/15125:grp:pmc
Our Reference: 14/09 Runnymede

Dear Mr Pereira,

Re: Request for Additional Information – 18th August 2014

Please find attached Addendum II. We trust that this should provide sufficient information to allow Council to make a well informed decision and that it satisfies the Office of Environment and Heritage's Recommendations.

We ask that you contact us as soon as possible if anything further is required to ensure that we can deliver all relevant information in a timely manner to allow the application to be assessed and an outcome to be reached.

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Grady (B.Env.Sc)
Environmental Consultant

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ADDENDUM II

Additional Information

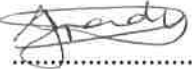
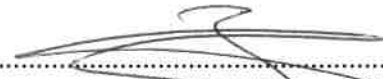
Development Application 28/2013

Increase in Annual Production at Runnymede Quarry

**SMK CONSULTANTS
September 2014**

SMK Consultants

Document Control

Proponent: Johnstone Concrete and Quarries Development Application for the Increase in Annual Production.		
Report No. 14/09 Addendum II		
Prepared for:	Johnstone Concrete and Quarries Pty Ltd PO BOX 941 MOREE NSW 2400	
Prepared by:	SMK Consultants P.O. Box 774 Moree NSW 2400 Contact: Peter Taylor ptaylor@smk.com.au Ph.02 6752 1021	
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Revision History		
Revision No.	Date Issued	Reason/Comment
0	12 September 2014	Initial Issue

1. Introduction

This addendum provides additional information to the Gwydir Shire Council and the referral bodies to allow them to make a sound decision in relation to the proposed development. There were two issues raised by the Office of Environment and Heritage in their letter dated 7th August 2014. The intention of this addendum is to supply the required information to satisfy the Office of Environment and Heritage recommendations.

2. Access through Bullala National Park

The Gwydir Shire Council are in agreement to move forward with the public proclamation of the Gil Gil Creek Road. The proponent is prepared to enter a licence agreement with the Minister for National Parks until the transfer of the Administrative rights can be resolved. A request for the required documents was made via an email to Terry Mazzer on the 29th August 2014 to which we have not had a response.

The proponent currently has an agreement with the Gwydir Shire Council to bitumen seal the haul road from the Quarry along the Gil Gil Creek Road and along the Mosquito Creek Road. The first stage of the bitumen seal has been completed along the Mosquito Creek Road from the County Boundary Road along the Mosquito Creek for approximately 2.5 km. It is proposed to progress along the remaining 13 km of road to the quarry when Council have the staff and equipment available and the proponent has the product available.

The Gil Gil Creek Road and the private road to the quarry are currently 10 metres or more wide gravel roads and it is proposed that once the roads are bitumen sealed that the roads would be more than suitable for all the vehicle types entering and leaving both the quarry site and the Bullala National Park and issues relating to environmental impacts from this road would then be resolved. Upon the completion of the proclamation the road would become subject to legislative controls such as the Roads Act and Local Government Act.

3. Offsets

The proponent intends to offset the area to be quarried or disturbed as part of the quarry proves with areas within the property that contain similar species. The offset proposal intends to be based on a strategy of “improve or maintain” areas to be offset. The proponent is prepared to engage in a property vegetation plan or conservation agreement to implement the “maintain and improve strategy”. The proponent will undertake a weed control program to reduce the impact of weeds on native plants, the installation of nesting boxes for any tree with hollows that are removed and the fencing and reducing grazing pressure on the offset areas by rotating stock and not allowing grazing during flowering and seeding of grasses to allow the seed banks to be renewed. The Figure 1 below shows the area the proponent is prepared to offset in order to allow the quarry face to proceed in an easterly direction. This offset area has connectivity to other larger remnants both on the property and on adjoining land to link up with the Bullala National Park.

The strategy is considered relatively straight forward other than the issue that the area subject to extension of the quarry has been cleared and cultivated. There is no other similar habitat on Runnymede. The remaining habitat consists of various woodland communities that remain relatively undisturbed from the quarry operation. The intention is therefore to retain these remnants rather than clear them to replace the area of open grassland on the crest of the ridge which is to be disturbed by the quarry operation. This is considered as a logical offset agreement given the land available on Runnymede and the need to maintain native vegetation buffers between the quarry operation and adjoining land. This buffer is especially significant along boundaries adjoining Bullala National Park.



Figure 1: Offset Map

4. Flora and Fauna Assessment

Attached herewith is the revised Flora and Fauna Assessment which addresses OEH concerns with the previous report and addresses the recommendations from the Office of Environment and Heritage.