

From: Andrew Helman
Sent: 9 Feb 2017 10:47:34 +1100
To: Council Email
Cc: Landuse Minerals
Subject: DA41/16/17 - Wattle Vale Quarry Stage 2 EIS - Geological Survey of NSW consultation
Attachments: DA41-16-17 - Wattle Vale Hard Rock Quarry Stage 2 EIS - GSNSW response.pdf

Good morning,

Please find attached NSW Resources & Energy - Geological Survey consultation for DA41/16/17 - Wattle Vale Quarry Stage 2 EIS, for the attention of Graham Price.

Kind regards
Andrew

Andrew Helman | Senior Geoscientist | Minerals and Land Use Assessment | Geological Survey of NSW

NSW Department of Industry | Division of Resources and Energy

516 High Street | Maitland NSW 2320 | PO Box 344 | Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

T: 02 49 31 6572 | E: andrew.helman@industry.nsw.gov.au

W: www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au

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9th February 2017

The General Manager
Glen Innes Severn Council
PO Box 61
Glen Innes NSW 2370

Emailed: council@gisc.nsw.gov.au

Your Reference: GP:KT
Our Reference (TRIM): OUT17/5223

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: DA41/16/17 – Wattle Vale Quarry – Stage 2 – Exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to provide advice on the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Wattle Vale Quarry Stage 2. DA26/16-17 for Wattle Vale Quarry Stage 1 was approved on 17th January 2017. This is a response from NSW Department of Industry – Geological Survey of New South Wales (GSNSW).

The proponent is required to adequately demonstrate the size and quality of the geological resource proposed for extraction, and its suitability for the intended end uses. The geotechnical investigations reported in the EIS and Appendices adequately demonstrate a basalt and tuff resource, suitable for concrete aggregates and road bases.

The development of Wattle Vale Quarry would make a significant long term contribution to meeting the hard rock aggregate requirements of the Glen Innes Severn region, including increased demand from major wind farm developments, at a time when existing supplies in the LGA are diminishing.

NSW Department of Industry - Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) collects data on the quantity and value of construction materials produced annually throughout the State. Forms are sent to all operating quarries at the end of each financial year for this purpose. The statistical data collected is of great value to government and industry in planning and resource management, particularly as a basis for analysing trends in production and for estimating future demand for particular commodities or in particular regions. In order to assist in the collection of construction material production data, the proponent should continue to provide annual production data for the subject site to DRE as a condition of any new or amended development consent.

A statement of commitment to include provision of production data to DRE in any conditions of approval should be included in the Response to Submissions and Draft Conditions.

Geoscience Information Services

The GSNSW has a range of online data related to mineral exploration, land use and general geoscience topics:

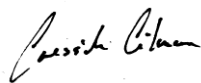
<http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/geological/online-services>

The location of current exploration and mining titles in NSW, explanations of mining and production titles and the roles of community and government in the decision making process for mining/resource projects may be accessed by the general public using the following online utilities:

<http://commonground.nsw.gov.au>

Queries regarding the above information, and future requests for advice in relation to this matter, should be directed to the GSNSW Land Use team at landuse.minerals@industry.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Cressida Gilmore
Manager - Land Use

Libby Cumming

From: Lauren Vine <Lauren.Vine@transgrid.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 April 2017 12:01 PM
To: Council Email
Cc: Kylie O'Brien Pratt; Kenson Ho
Subject: DA- Wattle Vale Hard Rock Quarry Stage 2
Attachments: TG Easement Guidelines for Third Party Development (V10).pdf

ATTENTION: GRAHAM PRICE

Hi Graham,

RE: DA- Wattle Vale Hard Rock Quarry Stage 2 – 1323 Gwydir Highway Matheson

Proposal: Stage 2- Extractive Industry – 3000, 000 tonne/annum

Location: LOTS 87, 101 and 113 in DP 753319

Thank you for referring the abovementioned Development Application to TransGrid.

TransGrid operates and maintains the NSW high voltage transmission line network. After review of the subject property, TransGrid can confirm the development site is not impacted by a TransGrid easement therefore TransGrid does not have any issues with the proposed development.

For future reference, please find attached a copy of *TransGrid's Easement Guidelines for Third Party development (V10)*. These guidelines are not an exhaustive list and should there be any uncertainty further consultation with TransGrid is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

 **Lauren Vine**
Enquiry Services Coordinator | Network Planning and Operations

TransGrid | 200 Old Wallgrove Road, Wallgrove, NSW, 2766
T: (02) 9620 0297

E: Lauren.Vine@transgrid.com.au W: www.transgrid.com.au

Please be advised I work Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. If your matter is urgent, please contact Kylie.obrienpratt@transgrid.com.au (02) 9620 0777

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Office of Environment & Heritage

Our Ref: DOC17/235751
Your Ref: 2218380

General Manager
Glen Innes Severn Shire Council
PO Box 61
Glen Innes NSW 2370

Attention: Ms Libby Cummings

Dear Mr Basson

Re: Wattle Vale Quarry Environmental Impact Statement review of additional information

Thank you for email dated 19 April 2017 to the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) with additional information on the Wattle Vale Quarry Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I appreciate the opportunity to provide further input.

Our original comments on the Wattle Vale Quarry EIS dated 30 November 2016 (Our Ref DOC16/578618) raised a number of issues about biodiversity (threatened species, ecological communities and their habitats) and Aboriginal cultural heritage. We have reviewed the additional information and advise you that the Aboriginal cultural heritage issues have been addressed. However, following our review of the Flora and Fauna Impact Assessment (FFIA) dated March 2017 and associated reports, a number of biodiversity issues appear to remain unresolved.

The full extent of the proposal's impacts still remains unquantified. The FFIA states that the impacts of some infrastructure associated with the proposal have not been assessed in detail. Such assessment is not proposed until the construction and operational stages of the proposal. Hence, the full impacts of the proposal may not have been assessed by the FFIA. The subject site or development footprint needs to be clearly specified in the documentation so that the impacts on biodiversity values can be fully assessed under Section 5A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The OEH advises that '*opportunistic threatened flora surveys*' while '*incidentally traversing the study area*' as stated in s4.2.1 of the FFIA, does not represent a robust survey methodology and results in a low degree of confidence in assessing the presence or absence of threatened flora. The OEH undertook a site inspection on 12 May 2017. We note that no threatened species were detected during our inspection, hence additional targeted surveys are not required. However, due to existing NSW Atlas records and the presence of suitable habitat there is still a high probability that a number of threatened flora species could occur on the subject site.

During our site inspection, we observed higher cover and diversity of native species in both the woodland and derived native grassland forms of the Endangered Ecological Community Ribbon Gum, Mountain Gum – Snow Gum grassy forest/woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion

(EEC), than that described in the original flora and fauna assessment that accompanied the EIS. This higher condition is also recorded in Table 5-1 of the FFIA, with 71.35ha of Woodland EEC upgraded to a moderate/good condition state from its previous low condition state.

However the FFIA Table 5-1 still lists the grassland form of the EEC in low condition, even though we observed that the grassland EEC condition varied significantly across the subject site. We advise that the low condition state assigned to all grassland does not correctly represent the actual condition of the grassland form of the EEC. The FFIA Figure 5-1 also depicts both forms of the EEC in low condition, which is not consistent with FFIA Table 5-1 or our field observations.

We also note that the low condition state for the EEC and threatened flora habitat was used for the FFIA Assessment of Significance (AoS). This is not consistent with the FFIA data or our field observations. This conflicting information makes it difficult to accurately assess if the proposal is likely or unlikely to have a significant effect on the EEC and threatened flora habitat. Hence the conclusions of the FFIA AoS are in doubt.

The OEH recommends that prior to determining the development application, the EIS/ FFIA should be revised to:

1. Include a surveyed plan of the Wattle Vale Quarry Operational Area to show the full extent of the proposal, the quarry extraction area, the location of site infrastructure and areas allocated for the development of site sheds/compounds, weighbridges, laydown areas, roads (including highway intersection), parking areas, fuel storage, dams and temporary drainage. It should also include areas allocated for overburden and soil stockpile of materials, site fencing and sensitive environmental areas.
2. Update the condition state for both forms of the endangered ecological community over the subject site. We recommend using s5.3 of the BioBanking Assessment Methodology to assess condition state.
3. Revise Figure 5-1 to accurately depict the forms and their current condition states.
4. Update the Assessment of Significance for the endangered ecological community - Ribbon Gum, Mountain Gum – Snow Gum grassy forest/woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion in light of its current condition state and the surveyed plan of the Wattle Vale Quarry Operational Area described in recommendation 1 above.
5. Update the Assessment of Significance for *Thesium australe* and *Dichanthium setosum* in light of the current condition state of habitat on the subject site, their likelihood of occurrence there, and the surveyed plan of the Wattle Vale Quarry Operational Area described in recommendation 1 above.
6. Prepare an offset strategy for the unavoidable impacts of the proposal, as per the OEH offsetting principles found at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodivoffsets/oehoffsetprincip.htm>. The OEH recommends use of the BioBanking Assessment Methodology to determine the quantum of offsets required. The strategy should also identify proposed conservation mechanisms to ensure in-perpetuity protection and management of the offsets.

If you have any further questions about this issue, Ms Rachel Binskin, Regional Operations Officer, Regional Operations, OEH, can be contacted on 6659 8247 or at rachel.binskin@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dimitri Young 26 May 2017

DIMITRI YOUNG
Senior Team Leader Planning, North East Branch
Regional Operations Division