

20 July 2020

Hornsby Shire Council  
Caroline Maeshian  
Assessment Officer  
Planning and Compliance Division

Dear Caroline,

Sydney North Planning Panel Meeting 6 May 2020 – Deferred Commencement Conditions - Development Application No. DA/101/2019 – Rehabilitation of the existing Hornsby Quarry involving bulk earthworks (and associated civil works including construction of access tracks, drainage and retaining walls), site remediation, tree removal, revegetation work and site rehabilitation - Lot A DP 318676, Lot B DP 318676, Lot C DP 318676, Lot D DP 318676, Lot E DP 318676, Lot 1 DP 926103, Lot 1 DP 926449, Lot 1 DP 114323, Lot 1 DP 169188, Lot 2 DP 169188, Lot 7306 DP 1157797, Lot 1 DP 859646, Lot 11 DP 258657, Lot 9 DP 264621, Lot 3 DP 575390, Lot 13 DP 734459, Lot 404 DP 788628, Lot 114 DP 749606, Lot 213 DP 713249, Hornsby Quarry, HORNSBY

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The Sydney North Planning Panel at its meeting on 6 May 2020, determined to defer its decision on DA101/2019 pending the Applicant providing additional information. Council has now completed this additional information and attached is a Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation DA Deferral Submissions Report, ready for public exhibition and determination.

#### **DA Deferral Items**

**Item 1.** Complete the Biodiversity Offset Package, Vegetation Management Plan, Habitat Creation and Enhancement Plan, to the level of detail described in the Deferred Commencement Conditions in the Assessment Report and submit those documents for public exhibition and finalisation.

**Response to Item 1.** A Final Draft Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and Habitat Creation and Enhancement Plan (HCEP) and a Final Draft Biodiversity Offsets Strategy have been completed ready for public exhibition.

The preparation of the VMP and HCEP included extensive consultation and review with Dr. Beth Mott from Birdlife Australia (a recognised expert on Powerful Owls). Council also engaged an environmental consultancy, Gecko Environment Management, to assist in the preparation of the plan, with a specific focus on fauna assessment and mitigation measures.

In the preparation of the Biodiversity Offsets Strategy, Council has had ongoing consultation with the Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT). The BCT has indicated in principle support for the use of a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA). The VCA, along with the VMP/HCEP, will form part of the offset strategy for the DA. Furthermore, Council engaged an independent third party, and expert ecological consultancy, to peer review the Biodiversity Offset Strategy to ensure compliance with the

SEARs. Copies of the VMP and HCEP and the Biodiversity Offsets Strategy are included in the attached Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation DA Deferral Submissions Report, ready for public exhibition and finalisation.

**Item 2.** Provide a definitive plan outlining protection measures, including the extent and scheduling of works, for the maximum possible buffer zone around the Powerful Owl breeding pair's roosting tree in the Northern Spoil Mound, and submit this plan for public exhibition and finalisation.

**Response to Item 2.** Council consulted with Dr. Beth Mott from Birdlife Australia to provide input into the development of the VMP and HCEP. The document incorporates measures for the protection and habitat creation for the Powerful Owls, during the earthworks and operational phase of the development. Recommendations relate to the staging of earthworks and exclusion zones, with consideration to the Owl's breeding cycle. Post works habitat enhancement and creation, appropriate vegetation management practises and temporary exclusion zones are also stipulated. The protection measures are contained in the VMP and HCEP included in the attached Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation DA Deferral Submissions Report.

**Item 3.** Provide additional information regarding staging of the project. The Staging Plan should address works, stabilisation, rehabilitation and revegetation required in each stage as well as how each stage relates to other stages across the site.

**Response to Item 3.** A Staging Plan has been completed highlighting earthworks will not be undertaken within the recommended Powerful Owl exclusion zones if a breeding pair are occupying a nest on Site. The Staging Plan also details revegetation works commencing prior to, during and after earthworks construction. The Staging Plan is included in the attached Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation DA Deferral Submissions Report.

**Item 4.** Provide further information on the Volcanic Diatreme located on the eastern face of the quarry void. The Diatreme must be clearly identified on relevant plans and cross sections and the Panel needs advice from the Applicant regarding how the Diatreme is incorporated in the proposal in terms of the level of fill, treatment, rehabilitation and protection whilst appropriately reflecting its geological significance. The Panel recommends this work be undertaken in consultation with geological societies who have the appropriate expertise in this field.

**Response to Item 4.** Dr Ian Percival, a representative from The Geological Society of Australia (GSA), and a local geologist (a member of STEP Inc) visited the quarry site on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. The outcome of the site visit has resulted in the GSA noting that it is apparent that Council now recognises the geoheritage significance of the site. The GSA has acknowledged the protection measures, proposed treatment and access which Council intends to provide. Council has also prepared a photograph of the eastern quarry face showing the Diatreme formation and highlighting that a further five (5) metres of this formation will be exposed as part of the works proposed in the DA. The response from the Geological Society of Australia, and the photograph of the eastern quarry Diatreme face are included in the attached Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation DA Deferral Submissions Report.

**Item 5.** Make any subsequent changes to the proposed rehabilitation of the Hornsby Quarry as a result of the above.

**Response to Item 5.** The additional information detailed above in the Responses to Items 1 to 4, has not resulted in any changes to the proposed impact area of the works.

Three (3) hard copies of the Hornsby Quarry Rehabilitation DA Deferral Submissions Report are attached and an electronic copy has been forwarded ready for public exhibition.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 9847 6701.

Yours faithfully,



Craig Clendinning  
Project Manager, Major Projects  
Design & Construction Branch  
Hornsby Shire Council