BRIEFING DETAILS

BRIEFING DATE / TIME	Wednesday, 15 November 2023, 2:00pm and 3:00pm
LOCATION	MS Teams Videoconference

BRIEFING MATTER(S)

PPSHCC-203 – Upper Hunter – DA 10.2023.42.1 - 4458 Golden Highway, Merriwa 2329 - Extension of Quarry Life by 15 years & Increase Production to 330,000 tpa

PANEL MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE	Alison McCabe (Chair), Roberta Ryan, Greg McDonald, Maurice Collinson
APOLOGIES	Tony McNamara
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Nil

OTHER ATTENDEES

COUNCIL ASSESSMENT STAFF	Paul Smith, Matt Clarkson
PLANNING PANELS SECRETARIAT	Leanne Harris

KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED

- The purpose of this briefing is to update the Panel post the recent site inspection.
- There are concerns that the current BDAR is invalid as it hasn't finalised the credit report (Appendix E).
- The format of the BDAR is also not sufficient.
- The BDAR identifies a potential serious and irreversible impact but assessment within the documentation is only summarised and not sufficient for the consent authority to be able to determine the application.
- There is also a concern that the application has not addressed all the requirements of the SEARs for ecology and rehabilitation matters. These are statutory threshold requirements that the consent authority must have before it to be able to make a determination.
- Council is to issue a comprehensive RFI and request an expected timeframe from the applicant for a response.
- The Panel expect the applicant to respond in a timely manner and keep the Council informed of their progress so that the Panel can schedule a determination timeframe for the application.
- In the absence of the requested information the Panel requests that Council finalise its assessment report based on the information currently before it.