

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Leongatha Quarry Extension Project

Proponent: Holcim Australia Pty Ltd

Description of Project:

Holcim Australia Pty Ltd (Holcim) propose to expand the existing hard rock Leongatha Quarry located approximately 7 kilometres (km) south-west of Leongatha. The existing Leongatha Quarry has operated since the 1950's with the existing resource expected to be depleted by mid-2012.

Holcim propose to expand operations by establishing an additional pit located approximately 300 metres (m) south-east of the existing quarry. The proposed expansion will allow the extraction of up to 500,000 tonnes of hard rock to be used for construction in the local and regional area and will allow for ongoing supply for the next 40 years.

The proposed pit will have an approximate surface footprint of 16 hectares. Some processing infrastructure, the workshop and onsite services are proposed to be relocated from the existing operations closer to the proposed pit. In addition the existing mobile processing plant will be replaced with a fixed, enclosed processing plant.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is not required for the Leongatha Quarry Extension Project, as described in the referral accepted on 6 May 2011.

Reasons for Decision:

- The potential environmental effects of the proposed quarry are of local significance only, as it is located in an area that has been extensively modified and cleared for agricultural and quarrying purposes.
- The proposed quarry can be readily managed such that potential adverse effects on local amenity (especially noise, vibration and dust) will meet applicable criteria at nearby sensitive receptors.
- The potential environmental effects can be adequately addressed through the planning permit and Work Plan processes under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, respectively.
- While the proposed quarry is expected to impact some Aboriginal artefacts, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Date of Decision: 8 June 2011