

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978* (REFERRAL NUMBER 2024-R09)

Proponent

Regional Quarries Riviera Pty Ltd and Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd (wholly owned subsidiaries of (MGH) Maas Group Holdings)

Project

WA375 Yarra Valley Quarry Extension Project (the Project)

Description

The proponent has applied for a Work Authority (WA375) Variation and associated Work Plan Variation to vary the size (Work Authority boundary) of the quarry by increasing the current extraction area from 23.3 ha to 42.58 ha and the extraction depth (from 155m to 285m) at the existing WA375 quarry, located at 130 McMahons Road, Launching Place, 3139. The existing Yarra Valley Quarry currently occupies an area of 90 ha, while the proposed future extraction area will extend into the adjoining 42.6 ha of 30 Moora Road, Mount Toolebewong, 3777, known as Crown Allotment 50C and Crown Allotment 2051. The total area to be disturbed by this operation, including all roads, hardstands, other earthworks and the extraction area, is estimated to be 48.68 hectares.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is not required for the WA375 Yarra Valley Quarry Extension Project, as described in the referral accepted on 15 November 2024, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) An **environment report** for the Project must be prepared in consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) and Parks Victoria (PV) and completed to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning. The report needs to examine and document:
 - (i) the assessment of predicted impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) on native vegetation and biodiversity values, within the site and in the surrounding areas, particularly for:
 - listed communities and species of flora and fauna under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999*;
 - habitat connectivity and loss of hollow-bearing trees;
 - the ecological vegetation classes of Riparian Forest (EVC 18), Damp Forest (EVC 29) and Shrubby Foothill Forest (EVC 653), and other high value vegetation protected under the environmental significance overlay;
 - immediate and adjacent aquatic and terrestrial environments, including groundwater dependent ecosystems and waterways; and
 - indirect impacts on above values from dust, noise and vibration (including fly-rock, blasting vibration and air-blasting) within the Project site and surrounds;
 - (ii) the assessment of predicted impacts on landscape values, including those protected under the significant landscape overlay (associated with the rolling hills and bushy agriculture landscape of the Yarra Ranges surrounds) and within adjoining land reserved under the *National Parks Act 1975*;
 - (iii) mapping that clearly articulates full extent of proposed/future works, infrastructure

- and, facilities on and near the site, as well as key environmental assets/values to be avoided (e.g. no-go zones and offset sites);
- (iv) the approach to staging the delivery of the project's preferred development configuration;
 - (v) the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, minimise and/or manage potential effects on native vegetation, areas of potential habitat, biodiversity, including use of no-go zones; and landscape and scenic values in the report;
 - (vi) the approach to delivering native vegetation offsets; and
 - (vii) an **environmental management framework** that sets out the proposed environmental management commitments and how the environmental commitments would be governed through the different approvals required for the project.
- 2) The environment report required under condition (1) is to be prepared to inform the proponent's final proposed configuration of the project, considered in approval processes, particularly under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

Reasons

- There is uncertainty and potentially significant effects for native vegetation, biodiversity and landscape values within and adjacent to the project site, which require further assessment to improve understanding and appropriate avoidance and mitigation.
- Other potential environmental effects of the project are unlikely to be significant or warrant integrated assessment. The conditions set out through this decision provide the most appropriate and targeted means for examining potentially significant effects and related uncertainties, including the development of adequate measures to avoid and mitigate impacts in the context of relevant policy and regulatory requirements.
- Other potential effects can be readily addressed separately through relevant statutory requirements, in particular under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Heritage Act 2017* and *Environment Protection Act 2017*.

Date 28/01/2025