

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978* (REFERRAL NUMBER 2024-R05)

Proponent

Mountain View Quarries (a subsidiary of Barro Group Pty Ltd)

Project

Little River Quarry Variation Project (the Project)

Description

Mountain View Quarries (the Proponent) are seeking to vary operations of the Little River Quarry (the Project) by expanding and deepening its current hard rock extraction area.

The additional extraction area sought is 46 hectares (ha), up from the currently approved 16.3 ha to approximately 62.3 ha. The total site area, including the extraction area, site access road, soil stockpiles, office, weighbridge, amenities, and workshop is approximately 71 ha. There is no proposed increase in the site disturbance outside of the expanded extraction area; the expanded Little River Quarry would use the site access road and utilities as currently utilised. The site sits within the approved Work Authority (WA453).

The life of the expanded Little River Quarry is expected to exceed 80 years and the total volume of the extraction, excluding topsoil, is approximately 38.5 million cubic metres over the life of the quarry. Operational activities that are currently in place and expected to continue with the expansion include both soft rock (excavator, dozer) methods to remove overburden and highly weathered granite, and soft rock (drill and blast) methods to extract the harder, fresher granite.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is not required for the Little River Quarry Variation Project, as described in the referral accepted on 27 June 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 First People State Relations (FP-SR) and completed to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning. The report needs to examine and document:
 - a. The assessment of potential adverse effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) given the project's proximity to the You Yangs and a significant number of registered Aboriginal places.
 - b. The assessment of predicted impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) on native vegetation communities, habitat for threatened species and other biodiversity values within the site and in the surrounding areas, including:
 - i. the Brittle Greenhood (*Pterostylis truncate*) and other relevant listed species of flora and fauna (under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*); and
 - ii. relevant listed vegetation communities, including those listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
 - c. Proposed offset areas and arrangements for the native vegetation and specific

species, including the translocation process and management of the Brittle Greenhood (*Pterostylis truncate*).

- d. Mitigation and management measures designed to avoid, minimise and mitigate predicted impacts on flora, fauna and native vegetation within the project site and surroundings during construction, operation and rehabilitation.
 - e. Mapping that clearly articulates full extent of proposed and future works on the site, as well as environmental values to be avoided (e.g. no-go zones and offset sites).
 - f. Approach to staging the delivery of the project's preferred development configuration.
- 2) The environment report required under condition (1) is to be prepared to inform the final proposed project configuration, to be considered in subsequent approval processes, particularly under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*.

Reasons

- There is uncertainty regarding the extent and magnitude of potential effects on native vegetation, biodiversity values and Aboriginal cultural heritage values within and near to the project site. Further assessment of the potential effects to these values is necessary to understand the potentially significant impacts and to examine approaches to appropriately avoid or minimise.
- The conditions set out through this decision provide an appropriate and targeted means for examining these potentially significant impacts and related uncertainties, including the development of measures to avoid and mitigate impacts in the context of relevant policy and regulatory requirements.
- Other residual potential effects are either unlikely to be significant or can be readily addressed through existing statutory requirements.

Date

10/12/2024