



Executive Summary

Introduction

This *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) has been prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty Limited (RWC) on behalf of Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd (“the Applicant”), a part of the Milbrae Business Group, to support a development application submitted to the Narrandera Shire Council (“Council”) for the continued operation and extension of the Strontian Quarry (“the Quarry”). The existing Quarry is located approximately 11km southeast of Narrandera and is currently accessed via Strontian Road (see **Figure ES-1**). The Quarry is located on Crown Land which is leased to PA Woods & Co Pty Ltd, a part of the Milbrae Business Group, in accordance with Crown Extractive Licence 484174.

The Quarry originally commenced operations in 2012 and is currently operating under Development Consent DA27/2011/12 issued by Narrandera Shire Council on 27 March 2012. The Quarry has approval to extract and process up to 30 000 tonnes of indurated sandstone per annum. The Applicant is seeking development consent for the continued operation and extension of the Quarry which would include an increase to the total area of disturbance, annual production and product despatch as well as an adjustment to the approved hours of operation. These activities are collectively referred to as “the Proposal” and the site of the development as the “Quarry Site”.

The Proposal is classified as “Designated Development” and “Regional Development” and therefore requires development consent to be issued by Council (or by delegation under the Western Regional Planning Panel). In order to obtain development consent, the development application for the Proposal needs to be accompanied by an EIS. The

Proposal is also classified as “Integrated Development” as it would require an environment protection licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The EIS has been prepared in accordance with Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) Number 1351 which were accompanied by additional assessment requirements provided by various government departments.

Description of the Proposal

The resource being extracted at the Strontian Quarry is an indurated sandstone resource, which is located within the Womboyne Formation, a unit deposited during the Late Devonian. The Applicant conservatively estimates that the extension of the extraction area would provide for a further 2.97 million tonnes of indurated sandstone material to be recovered during the life of the Proposal.

The Applicant is seeking development consent for the following activities.

- i) Campaign extraction of material from within the proposed extraction area to produce up to 125 000 tonnes of crushed indurated sandstone products per annum.
- ii) Importation of up to 1 500 tonnes of concrete washout and bricks per annum for incorporation in crushed indurated sandstone products.
- iii) Crushing and screening of fragmented rock and imported materials on site using a mobile processing plant.
- iv) Ongoing transportation of up to 125 000 tonnes per annum of crushed indurated sandstone products to end points of use within the Narrandera LGA and the broader Riverina Region.





Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd
Strontian Quarry

- v) Ongoing employment of local personnel.
- vi) Progressive and final rehabilitation of the Quarry to develop a final landform suitable for biodiversity conservation and grazing.

The principal components and respective approximately area of disturbance within the Quarry Site are as follows (see **Figure ES-2**).

- Extraction area (5.2ha)
- Office and Amenities Area (250m²)
- Operational disturbance area (2.3ha)
- Quarry Access Road (450m)

The Quarry Site covers a total area of 15ha of which approximately 7.6ha would be disturbed throughout the life of the Quarry.

Extraction would be undertaken in a staged manner with drilling and blasting used to extract indurated sandstone from within the extraction area on a campaign basis. On-site processing would be undertaken using a mobile crushing and screening plant to produce 20mm and 40mm road base and a range of other aggregates for use in construction and infrastructure projects.

The Applicant proposes to use the existing transport routes for transportation of products to end points of use. The principal transport routes would access the Sturt Highway via Strontian Road and would account for approximately 85% of heavy vehicle traffic generated by the Proposal. The remaining 15% of heavy vehicle traffic would travel south on Strontian Road to end points of use within the Narrandera and Federation LGAs.

The Applicant proposes to rehabilitate the Quarry Site to create a final landform that is suitable for biodiversity conservation and grazing. Emphasis would be placed upon progressive rehabilitation of completed areas within the Quarry Site.

Assessment and Management of Key Environmental Issues

The components and features of the existing environment within and surrounding the Quarry Site have been studied in detail and the Proposal has been designed to avoid or minimise environmental risks and impacts as much as is considered reasonable and feasible. Many aspects of the Proposal have also been planned so that impacts would remain consistent with currently approved activities or would result in only minor changes.

Impacts within the Quarry Site

The key residual impact of the Proposal would be the removal of approximately 3.93ha of native vegetation comprising approximately 2.64ha of vegetation in poor condition and 1.29ha of vegetation in moderate condition. This vegetation has the potential to provide habitat through foraging areas or breeding habitat. Residual impacts to native vegetation would be offset in accordance with the Biodiversity Offset Scheme. A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) prepared for the Proposal (OzArk, 2021) has concluded that potential direct (residual) impacts would be suitably offset and potential indirect impacts would be managed through the implementation of measures to avoid or mitigate potential risks. There would be no significant serious and irreversible impacts (SAII) or significant impacts to matters of national environmental significance (MNES) as a result of the Proposal.



Y:\Jobs 1001+1010\Reports\101002_EIS_2019\CAD\1010Base_MGA55.dwg_2.1 Layout-22.09.2020-4:08 PM



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| REFERENCE | |
| | Quarry Site Boundary |
| | Proposed Limit of Extraction |
| | Office/Amenities |
| | Rehabilitation Area |
| | Quarry Access Road |
| | Internal Road |
| | Contour (mAHD)(Interval = 1m) |
| | +175 Spot Height (mAHD)
Buckinbong Trig Station |
| | Sediment Basin |
| | Clean Water Diversion Drain |
| | Dirty Water Collection Drain |
| | Perimeter Safety Bund |

SCALE 1:3 000 (A4)



Base Map Source: RPAS Australia - 27 April 2019

Figure ES-2
PROPOSED STRONTIAN
QUARRY LAYOUT



Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd
Strontian Quarry

No Aboriginal sites were identified within the Quarry Site. It has also been assessed that there is a low likelihood that the Proposal would adversely harm Aboriginal cultural heritage items or sites (OzArk, 2020). Two heritage features, a survey blaze tree (HS-01) and the Buckingham Trigonometrical Station (HS-02), were identified within the Quarry Site. However, given the design and operational safeguards that would be implemented it is anticipated that these features would not be impacted by the Proposal.

The Proposal includes the excavation of a sediment basin and dirty water collection drains to manage potentially sediment-laden runoff. The sediment basin would be designed to accommodate predicted runoff resulting from a 90th percentile 5-day rainfall event. These structures would effectively manage surface water runoff to limit the potential for sediment-laden runoff to leave the Quarry Site. A clean water diversion drain would also be constructed to divert clean runoff away from areas of operational disturbance.

Assuming the implementation of appropriate soil management measures, the residual impacts associated with soil removal, handling, storage and re-use would be negligible. In addition, the Proposal would not alter the productive use of surrounding land.

Amenity Impacts

Other residual impacts associated with the Proposal include the generation of traffic, dust and noise.

Assessment of potential traffic-related impacts has determined that under the Proposal the Quarry would continue to operate with acceptable impacts on the surrounding road network. Traffic operations for the Proposal have been planned to include a maximum of 12 laden

truck movements per hour and 48 laden truck movements per day on the days when products are despatched. The traffic impact assessment undertaken by for the Proposal (TTPP, 2020) concluded that the level of service would remain good on the surrounding road network during morning and evening peak hours with the combined effects of traffic growth and additional Proposal-generated traffic. The proposed upgrades to Strontian Road and its intersection with the Quarry Access Road would also enhance the safety for turning vehicles and minimise the risk of interference to through traffic.

The air quality impact assessment undertaken for the Proposal (Northstar, 2020) concluded that the Proposal is predicted to comply with all impact assessment criteria for annual average concentrations of TSP, PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ and deposited dust. The assessment of 24-hour average PM_{2.5} and 24-hour average PM₁₀ applying a Level 2 Contemporaneous Assessment has indicated that there would be no additional exceedances of the assessment criteria as a result of the Proposal.

The noise and vibration impact assessment undertaken for the Proposal (MAC, 2020) concluded that operational noise attributable to activities within the Quarry Site and road traffic noise generated by product transport would be well within nominated limits and would have minimal impacts at surrounding residences. Blast overpressure and ground vibration levels would also be well below criteria levels at all surrounding residences.

The Proposal would also result in other negligible adverse impacts principally relating to visual amenity and socio-economic impacts. However, these adverse impacts would be countered by the positive impacts, including economic benefits from the continued operation of the Quarry in the manner proposed.



Conclusions

The Proposal has been designed to permit the ongoing efficient extraction of an important indurated sandstone resource within the Quarry Site. The Proposal incorporates a range of design and operational mitigation measures to ensure all relevant statutory goals and criteria, environmental objectives and reasonable community expectations are satisfied.

This document and the range of specialist consultant studies undertaken have identified that the Proposal should proceed because it would:

- contribute towards satisfying the demand for Quarry products required for construction and infrastructure projects within the Narrandera LGA and the broader Riverina Region;
- have a minimal and manageable impact on the biophysical environment;
- satisfy sustainable development principles; and
- result in a net benefit for the local community, the Narrandera Shire Council and the State of NSW.