



Section 1

Introduction

PREAMBLE

This section introduces the continued operation and extension of the Strontian Quarry ("the Proposal"). This section provides:

- *an outline of the scope and format of the document;*
 - *an introduction to the Applicant;*
 - *relevant background information about the Proposal;*
 - *a summary of the existing quarrying operations;*
 - *the intended approach to environmental management and documentation for the Quarry; and*
 - *the personnel involved in the design of the Proposal, document preparation and specialist consultant investigations and assessments.*
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1.1 Scope

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”), to support a development application submitted to the Narrandera Shire Council (“Council”) for the continued operation of the Strontian Quarry (“the Quarry”). The existing quarry is located approximately 11km southeast of Narrandera and is currently accessed via Strontian Road, approximately 250m south of its intersection with the Sturt Highway (see **Figure 1.1**). A copy of the development application is provided as **Appendix 1**.

The Quarry which is currently operating under Development Consent DA27/2011/12 issued by Narrandera Shire Council on 27 March 2012, has approval to extract, process and transport up to 30 000 tonnes of indurated sandstone per annum. Extracted material is processed on a campaign basis using mobile crushing and screening equipment within the existing extraction area. Quarry products are stockpiled within the extraction area prior to despatch.

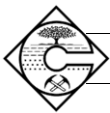
The Applicant is seeking development consent for the continued operation of the Strontian Quarry which would include the following.

- An extension of operations to ultimately include a total disturbance area of approximately 7.6ha.
- An increase to the annual extraction rate to 125 000tpa.
- Importation of up to 1 500tpa of concrete and other building materials for recycling.
- Product transportation involving a maximum of 48 laden trucks per day and a peak of 12 laden trucks per hour.
- Ongoing operations for a period of 30 years from the commencement of operations under the new development consent.

These activities are collectively referred to as “the Proposal” and the site of the development as the “Quarry Site”.

The Quarry Site is located on Crown Land which is leased to PA Woods & Co Pty Ltd, a part of the Milbrae Business Group, under Crown Extractive Licence 484174. Crown Extractive Licence 484174 was granted on 31 May 2012 and allows for the extraction of material from within the Quarry Site. Crown Extractive Licence 484174 would be revoked following the receipt of development consent and a new licence would subsequently be sought from the Department of Industry and Environment – Crown Lands (“Crown Lands”).

Assessment requirements for the Proposal were sought from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and provided on 17 July 2019 under Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) Number 1351. A copy of the SEARs is provided in **Appendix 2**. The EIS has been prepared to address the requests from DPIE, Council and other government agencies. A list of the assessment requests and a cross-reference to where they have been addressed in the document is provided as **Appendix 3**.





1.2 Format of the Report

The information presented in this document covers all aspects of the proposed development, operation, rehabilitation and environmental monitoring of the Proposal. The document has been structured to address the assessment requirements nominated by the Secretary of the DPIE, Narrandera Shire Council and other State government agencies.

This EIS has been assembled in a single volume with seven sections of text, as well as a glossary, references section and a set of appendices. The format of the EIS is as follows.

Section 1: introduces the Proposal and the Applicant and provides background information relevant to the application, the Quarry Site and existing operations. The section concludes with information on the management of investigations undertaken during the preparation of the EIS.

Section 2: provides a description of the Proposal including the objectives of the Proposal, an overview of the proposed activities, approval required, need for the Proposal and reviews the local geology, resources and Quarry products. Section 2 also describes the proposed operations including extraction and processing operations and associated overburden management. Finally, an overview is provided of the progressive rehabilitation strategy and indicative final landform and use.

Section 3: reviews the planning and legislative requirements of the Proposal including State Environmental Planning Policies and local planning instruments.

Section 4: presents the environmental setting of the Quarry Site, including information on topography, geology, meteorology, land ownership, surrounding residences and land uses.

Section 5: provides an assessment of potential environmental impacts of the Proposal and, for each matter identified, the existing environment, proposed mitigation and management, assessment of potential impact and maintenance/monitoring requirements.

Section 6: provides a compilation of the environmental management and monitoring measures for the Proposal.

Section 7: evaluates the Proposal in terms of biophysical, economic and social considerations, and the goals and guidelines of Ecologically Sustainable Development and the Objects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. A conclusion is provided for the EIS.

Section 8: lists the various source documents referred to for information and data used during the preparation of the EIS.

Appendices: present the following additional information and the specialist consultant technical assessments undertaken to support the development application.

1. A copy of the application for development consent.
2. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and requirements of the consulted government agencies.
3. The coverage of requirements listed in the SEARs and provided by government agencies.



4. Traffic Impact Assessment prepared by The Transport Planning Partnership Pty Ltd.
5. Air Quality Impact Assessment prepared by Northstar Air Quality Pty Ltd.
6. Noise and Vibration Assessment prepared by Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd.
7. Sediment Basin Storage Requirement Calculations prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty Limited.
8. Biodiversity Development Assessment Report prepared by OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management Pty Ltd (operating as OzArk Environment and Heritage).
9. Aboriginal Archaeological Impact Assessment and Historic Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management Pty Ltd (operating as OzArk Environment and Heritage).

1.3 The Applicant and the Quarry Site

1.3.1 The Applicant

Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd is one of a group of family-owned companies that operate under the Milbrae Business Group brand centred around the provision of quarry products and mobile crushing services, as well as a range of ready-mix and precast concrete products. The Group employ a significant workforce within the Riverina Region and manage their own extensive transport fleet that services the various operations.

Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd is a privately-owned company with over 30 years of experience in the extractive industry. The Applicant operates a network of quarries within the Riverina Region of New South Wales, which together produce a range of hard rock and road base products the bulk of which are used to supply private operators and local councils as well as concrete batching plants operated by Milbrae Concrete Pty Ltd.

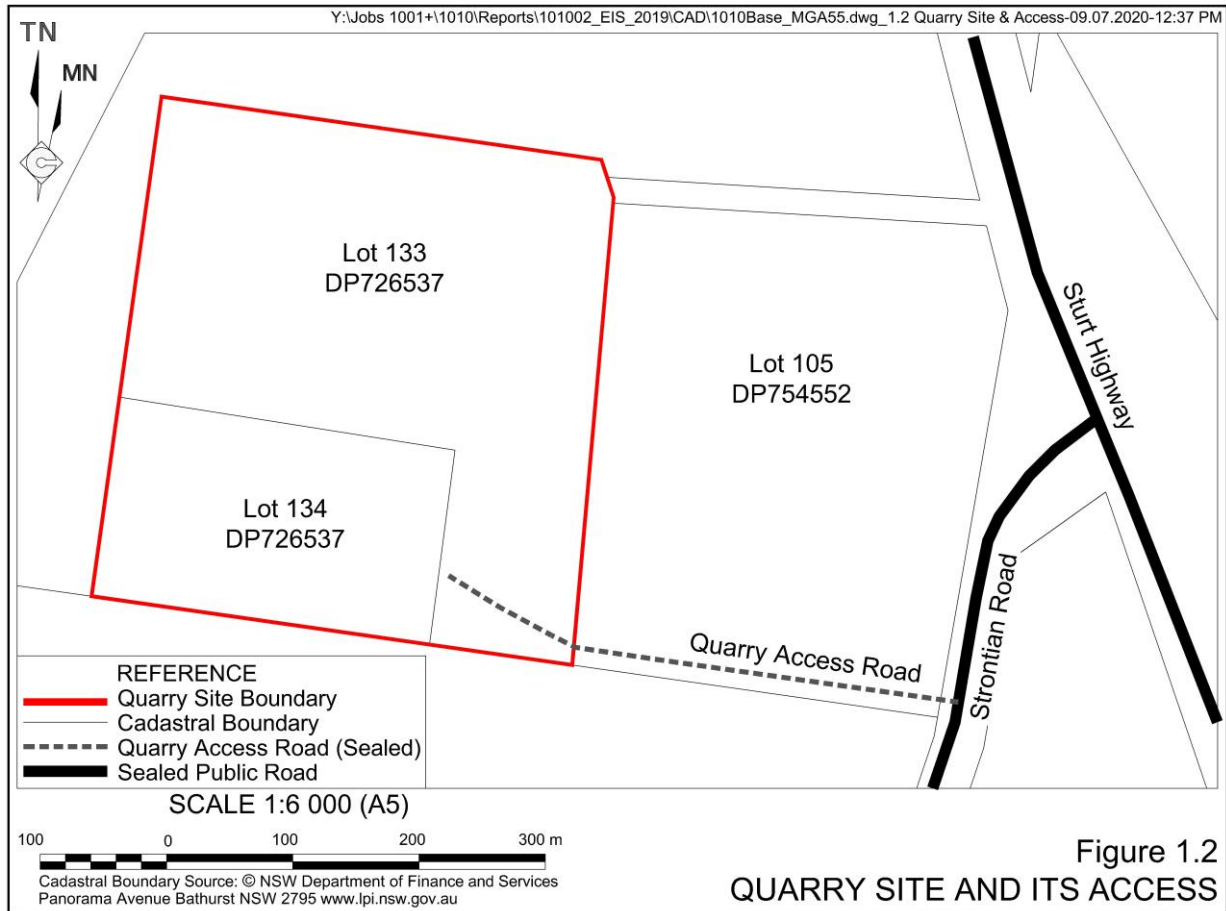
Strontian Quarry is situated on Crown Land licenced to P.A. Woods & Co. Pty Ltd, which is also part of the Milbrae Business Group.

1.3.2 The Quarry Site

The Quarry Site is located on Crown Land within Lots 133 and 134 DP726537. The Quarry Site has been defined to incorporate all activities proposed, recognising that not all land within the Quarry Site would be disturbed. The Quarry Site covers a total area of 15.0ha of which approximately 7.6ha would be disturbed throughout the life of the Quarry. The Quarry Access Road provides access to the Quarry Site from Strontian Road and traverses Lot 105 DP754552 which is owned by PA Woods & Co Pty Ltd. **Figure 1.2** displays the land titles traversed by the Quarry Access Road and within the Quarry Site.



Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd
Strontian Quarry



1.4 Background to the Proposal

Strontian 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 currently has approval to extract, process and transport up to 30 000 tonnes of sandstone per year.

The Applicant has identified a further 2.97 million tonnes of indurated sandstone material adjacent to and beneath the approved extraction area which would be the target of extraction. Indurated sandstone outcrops over much of the proposed extraction area with negligible quantities of topsoil or overburden present. Overall, the proposed activities would increase the total area of disturbance to approximately 7.6ha, of which approximately 3.93ha is remnant native vegetation which would be cleared.

In order to efficiently access and extract the identified resource, it is proposed that a new development consent is sought that would supersede the existing development consent. As part of this application, the Applicant proposes to increase the approved maximum extraction rate from 30 000tpa to 125 000tpa to allow for existing and future market demands to be met. It is acknowledged that the Proposal would result in an increase to approved traffic levels from a maximum of five laden heavy vehicle movements per day to a maximum of 48 laden heavy vehicle movements per day.



1.5 Need for the Proposal

The need for products produced from the indurated sandstone extracted from Strontian Quarry has been demonstrated through the sale of products since operations commenced in 2012. Under the Proposal, the Quarry would continue to provide a range of road base and pavement products for use in the Narrandera Local Government Area (LGA) and the broader Riverina Region.

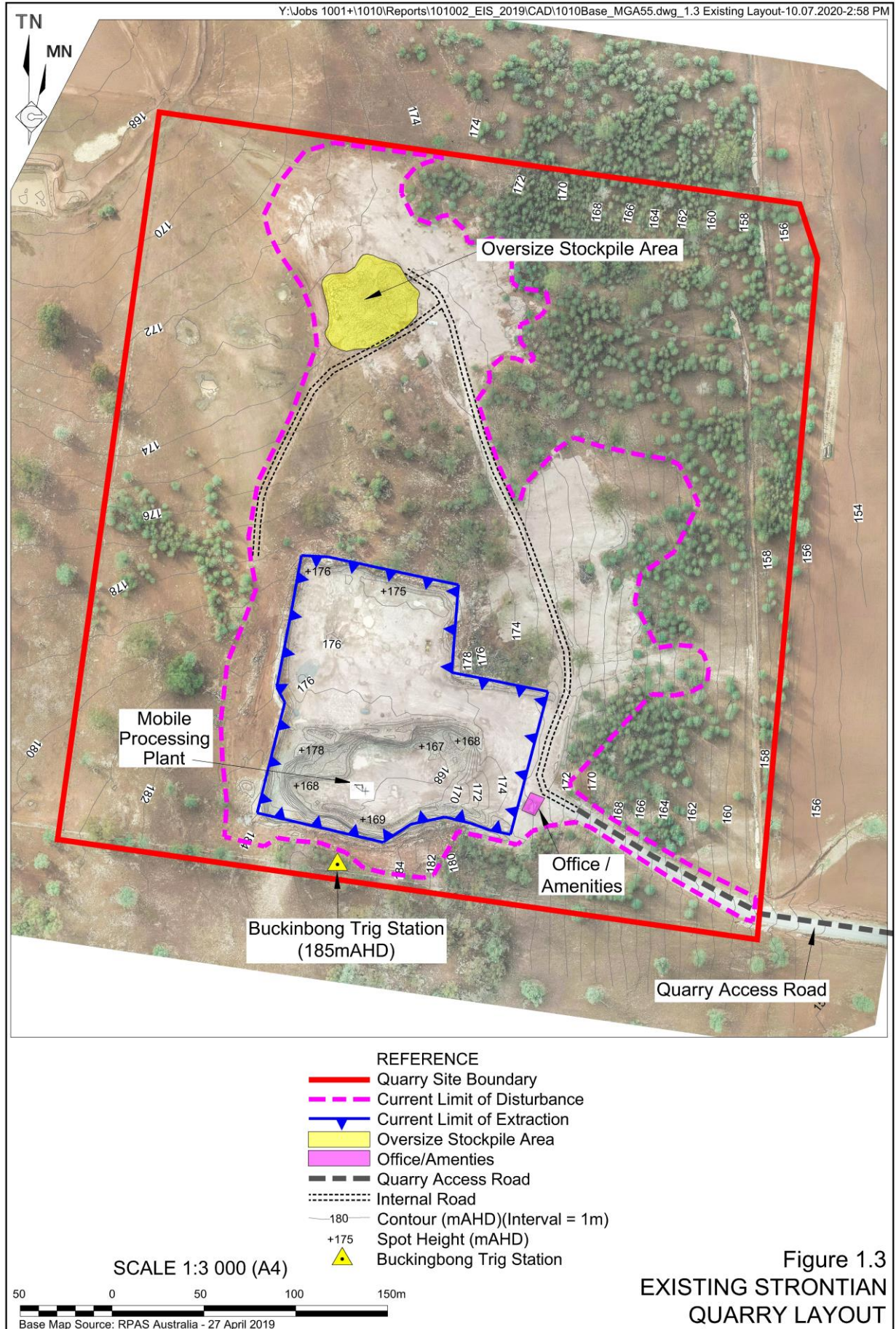
1.6 Existing Operations

Figure 1.3 presents the existing layout of Strontian Quarry which incorporates an extraction area, oversize stockpile area and demountable office/crib room. **Plates 1.1** and **1.2** present views of the extraction area and product stockpiles prior to loading and transportation of products.



The following activities are currently undertaken within the Quarry Site.

- Vegetation clearing and soil stockpiling (intermittently).
- Removal and stockpiling of any overburden.
- Drilling and blasting to fragment raw material.
- Loading of fragmented material into the mobile processing plant.





- Processing of fragmented indurated sandstone to manufacture a range of aggregates and road base material to meet community demands.
- Stockpiling of products within the footprint of the extraction area.
- Loading and transportation of products to end points of use.

1.7 Consideration of Alternatives

The Proposal would extend the existing operations at Strontian Quarry and provide for the professional and efficient operation of the Quarry. As the Quarry is based on the site of the indurated sandstone resource and is the site of existing extractive operations, it is not possible, nor necessary, to relocate the Quarry operations. It is noted that the Applicant operates a network of quarries within the Riverina Region which have been strategically located proximal to end markets in order to reduce costs associated with product transportation. This ultimately ensures that products are supplied to end markets at a competitive price point.

The opportunity to install a fixed processing plant was considered by the Applicant, however, it has been established that this option would not be feasible as extraction and processing operations under the Proposal would continue to be undertaken on a campaign basis. The use of a mobile processing plant will continue to allow for processing equipment to be moved between the Applicant's various quarry operations thus ensuring ongoing flexibility of operations.

1.8 Environmental Management and Documentation

1.8.1 Environmental Management

Given the size and location of the operation and limited environmental impacts from operations within the Quarry Site, formal monitoring programs have not been required. Ongoing environmental management of the Quarry, including the assessment of the extent of implementation of the commitments made in this document (see Section 6) and the conditions of the development consent or licence conditions, would be the ultimate responsibility of the Applicant. The Quarry Manager would remain responsible for day-to-day on-site supervision including the integrated implementation of all environmental safeguards identified in this document, and all additional documentation as developed throughout the life of the Quarry.

The Applicant would manage all extraction, processing, transportation and associated activities in a responsible and pro-active manner which is environmentally and socially responsible.

1.8.2 Environmental Documentation

The Applicant currently operates the Quarry generally in accordance with DA1/92 and DA21/95. The Applicant would assemble a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan for the ongoing management of the relevant environmental issues at the Quarry. The Plan would incorporate an overall Environmental Management Strategy and comprise separate sections relating to:

- Vegetation Clearing;
- Traffic Management;



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Strontian Quarry

- Air Quality Management;
- Soil and Water Management;
- Rehabilitation Management; and
- a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan.

The Plan would also include a protocol to manage any complaints (including a Complaints Register) and a Driver's Code of Conduct.

1.9 Environmental Performance

1.9.1 Compliance Issues

The Statement of Environmental Effects (SoEE) prepared by Planning Matters Development Service in 2011 (PMDS, 2011) to accompany Development Application DA27/2011/12 identifies the following limits which apply to the existing Quarry operations.

- Extraction to be limited to an area of 2ha area.
- Annual extraction, production and transport to be limited to 30 000t.
- Daily extraction, production and transport to be limited to 150t.
- Daily laden heavy vehicle movements to be limited to five.

The Applicant acknowledges that the above limits have been exceeded in recent years principally to meet market demands. The Proposal would regularise existing operations and ensure that any adverse environmental impacts associated with the extension of the Quarry are fully considered and addressed.

1.9.2 Complaints

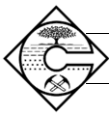
No complaints have been received with regards to existing operations at the Quarry.

1.10 Consultation

1.10.1 Surrounding Landowners

The Applicant maintains an open-door policy regarding complaints, questions and feedback to the local community. The Applicant visited or contacted eight neighbours during the preparation of the EIS to explain the proposed ongoing operations and discuss any Quarry-related issues. This consultation identified very few issues, however, matters to be addressed within the EIS included blast management and notification protocols (Section 5.3.4) and potential interactions between livestock on Strontian Road and heavy vehicles (Section 5.1.4.2).

The Applicant also plans to visit neighbours during the exhibition period for the EIS to discuss any concerns regarding the ongoing operation of the Quarry.



1.10.2 Government Agencies

A background paper was prepared and distributed to the then Department of Planning Environment in June 2019, with a request for assessment requirements for the Proposal. Assessment requirements were received from the following government agencies.

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Narrandera Shire Council
- Department of Industry – Crown Lands
- Department of Primary Industries – Agriculture
- Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
- Environment Protection Authority
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Water NSW
- Natural Resources Access Regulator
- Department of Planning and Environment - Resources Regulator
- Department of Planning and Environment - Division of Resources and Geoscience

Crown Lands Consultation

In addition to the above consultation, further consultation was undertaken with Crown Lands in relation to the conditions of Crown Extractive Licence 484174. In particular, confirmation was sought regarding the extraction limits stipulated under Schedule 2 of the licence, which are as follows:

- *The extraction of material is to be limited to 30,000 tonnes per year with a daily limit of 150 tonnes.*
- *No quarrying activities are to be undertaken within 20 metres of the property boundary with adjoining neighbours.*
- *The Buckingham Trig station is to be preserved and quarrying to be restricted within 20 metres radius from the Station's centrepiece.*

In correspondence received on 5 February 2020, Crown Lands confirmed that no changes would be required to Crown Extractive Licence 484174 to allow for the proposed increase to the annual extraction limit and extension of the extraction area. Crown Lands also confirmed that the Proposal would be unlikely to impact upon the Buckingham Trig Station. In correspondence dated 22 February 2021, and a subsequent telephone conversation, Crown Lands advised that Crown Extractive Licence 484174 would in fact be revoked following the receipt of development consent and a new licence would need to be sought from Crown Lands.



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Strontian Quarry

Crown Lands was also consulted regarding rehabilitation methods and preferred final land use(s) within the Quarry Site. In correspondence received on 21 July 2020, Crown Lands confirmed they were generally comfortable with the proposed rehabilitation methods identified in Section 2.12 and indicated the Quarry Site would likely be used for grazing in the future.

Biodiversity and Conservation Division Consultation

Consultation was initiated with the Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) regarding the requirement to apply the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Koala Habitat Protection) 2019* (Koala SEPP). Correspondence received from BCD on 4 November 2020 confirmed that, as the request for SEARs was made prior to the commencement of the Koala SEPP, the assessment did not need to consider the Koala SEPP and that the Proposal would be assessed in accordance with the *State Environmental Planning Policy No.44 – Koala Habitat Protection* (SEPP 44).

Narrandera Shire Council Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with Council regarding the suitability of the proposed road upgrades to Strontian Road and its intersection with the Quarry Access Road. Council confirmed the suitability of the proposed road upgrades during a telephone conversation on 17 August 2020.

The Applicant also consulted with Council regarding the quantum of contributions which would be required under the *Narrandera Shire Council Section 94A Development Contributions Plan*. Council confirmed the works which would be used to calculate this levy in correspondence dated 15 September 2020.

1.11 Management of Investigations

The preparation of this document has involved a study team managed by Mr Caiden O'Connor, B.Sc. (Geology), Environmental Consultant with RWC, assisted Dr Mudassar Arsalan, Senior Cartographer / Spatial Analyst with RWC. Mr Rob Corkery, B.Appl.Sc. (Hons), M.Appl.Sc., Principal Environmental Consultant of RWC provided internal peer review of the documentation.

Information concerning the existing and proposed operations was provided by Mr Scott Gillieatt (Regional Manager), Mr Keith Joy (Senior Operations Manager), Mr Ryan Barry (Transport Manager) and Mr Geoff Pigram (Property Officer) of Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd.

Quarry design and planning was managed by Mr Michael Yelf of RPM Global Pty Ltd.

A range of environmental investigations have been undertaken to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposal and identify operational safeguards and measures. These studies were undertaken by a team of specialist consultants managed by RWC including the following key individuals and companies.

- The Transport Planning Partnership – Traffic Impact Assessment
Mr Ken Hollyoak M.Sc. (Transport Planning), B.Sc. (Hons) and Ms Penny Dalton BE Civil (Hons)
- Northstar Air Quality – Air Quality Impact Assessment
Dr Martin Doyle PhD, B.Sc. (Hons)



- Muller Acoustic Consulting – Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
Mr Oliver Muller BSc (REM and HGeog) and Mr Dale Redwood B.Sc (Hons)
- OzArk Environment and Heritage – Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR)
Dr Emma Gray PhD, B.Bsc. (Hons) and Ms Coral Pearce M.Sc. (Ecology), B.Appl.Sc.
- OzArk Environment and Heritage – Aboriginal Archaeological Impact Assessment (AAIA) and Historic Heritage Impact Assessment (HHIA)
Dr Alyce Cameron PhD, Archaeology, BA (Hons)