Environmental Assessment Report

Dorset Council

Ben Ridge Quarry Capacity Increase

Ben Ridge Road, Trenah

December 2024

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Environmental Assessment Report

Proponent	Dorset Council
Proposal	Ben Ridge Quarry Intensification
Location	Ben Ridge Quarry is located on the eastern side of Ben Ridge Road approximately 2.7 km west from the Mathinna Plains Road Junction, Trenah, TAS 7263
Class of Assessment	2A
PCE no.	11690
Permit Application No.	PLA/2024/91 (Dorset Council)
myDAS Folder No.	23/7229
myDAS Document No.	D24-226775

Assessment Process Milestones

Date	Milestone
02 October 2023	Notice of Intent lodged
06 November 2023	Guidelines Issued
16 April 2024	Permit application submitted to Council
17 September 2024	Referral received by the Board
02 November 2024	Start of public consultation period
17 November 2024	End of public consultation period
05 December 2024	Date draft conditions issued to proponent
02 January 2025	Statutory period for assessment ends

Glossary/Acronyms

Term	Detail
Board	Board of the Environment Protection Authority
CFEV	Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values
CMPI	Conservation Management Priority Immediate
CMPP	Conservation Management Priority Potential
EER	Environmental Effects Report
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EMPCA	*Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
EMPCS	Environmental management and pollution control system
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
ICV	Integrated Conservation Value
LUPAA	*Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*
NCA	*Nature Conservation Act 2002*
NOI	Notice of Intent
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
PAF	Potentially Acid Forming
QCP	Quarry Code of Practice (EPA 2017)
RMPS	Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania
SD	Sustainable development
TSPA	*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*

Report Summary

This report is an environmental assessment of the intensification of operations at the Ben Ridge Quarry as proposed by Dorset Council.

The proposal involves intensification of an existing hard rock quarry operation adjacent to Ben Ridge Road within the South Esk Regional Reserve to provide road construction and maintenance materials for gravel roads in the vicinity of the quarry, including Mathinna, Trenah and Paradise Plains. The proposal would increase annual extraction and processing limits from 5,000m^3 and 1,000m^3 respectively to 10,000m^3 each. Ben Ridge Quarry is a drill and blast operation. It operates on a campaign basis with mobile plant to win, process and stockpile material for ongoing transport off site.

This report has been prepared based on information provided in the Environmental Effects Report (EER). Relevant government agencies and the public were consulted, and their submissions were considered as part of the assessment.

Appendix 1 contains details of matters raised by the public and referral agencies during the consultation process.

Appendix 2 contains a table of the proponent's proposed management measures.

Appendix 3 contains the environmental permit conditions for the proposal.

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1. Approval Process

The Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board) received a Notice of Intent in relation to this proposal on 2 October 2023.

An application for a permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPAA) for the proposal was submitted to Dorset Council on 16 April 2024.

This proposal is defined as a 'level 2 activity' under clause 5(a) and 6(a), Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA), being a quarry and materials handling facility.

Section 25(1) of EMPCA required Council to refer the application to the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board) for assessment under the Act. The application was received by the Board on 18 September 2024.

The Board required that information to support the proposal be provided in the form of an Environmental Effects Report (EER), prepared in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Board on 6 November 2023. Drafts of the EER were submitted to EPA for review against the Guidelines before it was finalised and accepted on behalf of the Board on 1 October 2024.

The final EER was released for public inspection for 14 days on 2 November 2024. Advertisements were placed in The Examiner and on the EPA website. The EER was also referred to relevant government agencies for comment. One (1) representation was received.

The Manager, Assessments has determined the assessment under delegation from the Board.

2. SD Objectives and EIA Principles

The proposal must be considered by the Board in the context of the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania (RMPS), and the Environmental Management and Pollution Control System (EMPCS). Both sets of objectives are specified in Schedule 1 of EMPCA.

The functions of the Board are to administer and enforce the provisions of EMPCA, and to use its best endeavours to further the RMPS and EMPCS objectives. The Board must assess the proposal in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Principles defined in Section 74 of EMPCA.

3. The Proposal

The main characteristics of the proposal are summarised below. A detailed description is provided in Part A of the EER.

Summary of the proposal's main characteristics

Activity

Extraction and processing a maximum of 10,000 cubic metres of gravel per year. The proposal is to increase production at an existing level 1 activity from 5,000 cubic metres (extraction) / 1,000 cubic metres (processing). The proposal will be operated on a campaign basis, using a drill and blast operation along benches within the quarry to produce shot rock. Contract crushers are subsequently engaged to process the shot rock into gravels to meet current specifications. The quarry operates Monday to Saturday and there are no changes to operating hours under this proposal.

Location and planning context

Location	Ben Ridge Quarry is located on the eastern side of Ben Ridge Road approximately 2.7 kilometres west from the Mathinna Plains Road junction.
Land zoning	Environmental Management. Ben Ridge Quarry is currently permitted to operate as a Level 1 quarry under 'existing use rights'. The proposal to increase production beyond the Level 1 Quarry limit has triggered a Development Application.
Land tenure	South Esk Regional Reserve.
Mining lease	4M/2017 (granted 09/11/2017, expires 30/09/2027) with a pending renewal.
Lease area	7 hectares
Bond	A bond of $40,000 is currently held by MRT against this Mining Lease.

Activity site

Land Use	Ben Ridge Quarry is currently permitted to operate as a Level 1 quarry as a pre-existing use within the South Esk Regional Reserve. Land use across the broader district is dominated by Crown lands including Regional Reserves, Production Forests (both current and future) and freehold land.
Topography	Ben Ridge Quarry occupies a ridge top location at 820m AHD. The land falls away with a low gradient to the east and steeply on the opposite side of Ben Ridge Road to the west (outside the quarry boundary).
Geology	The quarry site is underlain by fine grained contact metamorphosed siltstone. There is also granite in proximity that may be exposed through quarry operations.
Soils	Common rock outcrops on land surrounding the quarry have resulted in the development of very thin soils. Surrounding vegetation is poorly developed due to poor drainage and high elevation.
Hydrology	Ben Ridge Quarry is situated on the divide between two catchments. On the western side Ben Ridge Road intervenes. Combined with the easterly gradient on site and quarry extraction which prevents any discharge to the west, all discharge now exits the site at two points from distinct sub-catchments on the eastern perimeter of the site into tributaries of the South Esk River. The northern catchment of 0.54 hectares has no sediment retention facility and drains through a rectangular channel into intact vegetation 50 metres from the mining lease boundary. This runoff passes through a further 55 metres of vegetation before entering a watercourse. The Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values (CFEV) project classifies this watercourse section 326202 as having Integrated Conservation Value

	(ICV) of Medium, a Conservation Management Priority Immediate (CMPI) of Medium and a Conservation Management Priority Potential (CMPP) of High. The southern catchment of 1.71 hectares has no sediment retention facility and drains through a rectangular channel into intact vegetation 20 metres from the mining lease boundary. This runoff passes through a further 35 metres of vegetation before entering a watercourse. The CFEV project classifies this watercourse section 326201 as having an ICV of Medium, a CMPI of Low and a CMPP of High. Undisturbed land outside the quarry footprint naturally drains away from the quarry.
Natural Values	There are no records of threatened fauna under the *Threatened Species Act 1995* (TSPA) in the proposed activity zone. There is one recorded sighting of two Tasmanian devils (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) and one recorded sighting of an Eastern Barred Bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*) within 500 m of the quarry site. There are no records of threatened flora species under the TSPA on the quarry site or within 500 m. There are no vegetative communities protected under the TSPA or the EPBC Act present on or in close proximity to the site.

Location region

Climate	The nearest Bureau of Meteorology weather recording station is West Minstone Road at Scottsdale (091219) approximately 28.7 km northwest of the site. The mean annual rainfall is 974.3 mm. The mean minimum and maximum temperatures range between 3.8°c and 23°c. Predominant wind direction and strongest winds are from the west in the morning. In the afternoons the predominant wind direction is from the northwest.
Surrounding land zoning, tenure and uses	The land surrounding the quarry site is zoned Environmental Management under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and forms part of the South Esk Regional Reserve. The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* determines the purpose of the reservation to be for "Mineral exploration and the development of mineral deposits in the area of land, and the controlled use of other natural resources of that area of land, including special species timber harvesting, while protecting and maintaining the natural and cultural values of that area of land".
Species of conservation significance	No threatened species or threatened vegetation communities under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002,* the TSPA or the EPBC Act have been observed or recorded on site.

Proposed infrastructure

Major equipment	The following pieces of major equipment are used onsite: • Mobile Drill Rig (120kW, 117dB) • Excavator (120kW, 108dB) • Wheel loader, Cat 950K (157kW, 103dB) • Primary Crusher, J-1175 (257kW, 120dB) • Cone crusher, C-1540 (261kW, 120dB) • Vertical Shaft Impact Crusher, Twister-Trac VS350 (403kW,120dB) • Screener, Terex-Finlay 883 (72kW, 109 dB) • Road Trucks (72kW, 104 dB)
Other infrastructure	Access to the site is by the existing access road with a locked security gate. As part of this proposal a pipe culvert will be installed on the roadside (Ben Ridge Road) to divert road drainage under the quarry entrance towards a road culvert further west. A portaloo/relocatable toilet is bought to site when required in support of periodic use of the site.

	As activities occur as day works, no onsite crib or office facilities are required.

Inputs

Water	Water cart deployed on trafficked surfaces for dust suppression when required.
Energy	Diesel powered equipment will be used on site.

Wastes and emissions

Liquid	Stormwater runoff from extraction activities, unrehabilitated areas and stockpile areas.
Atmospheric	Dust from internal and external traffic and blow off from stockpiles. Dust from blasting, drilling, crushing and screening.
Solid	General refuse including food scraps, paper and packaging.
Controlled wastes	Waste engine oil, brake fluid and hydraulic fluid from onsite maintenance. Any potentially contaminated soil from spills or leaks from machinery. Portable chemical toilet to be used when operations are being undertaken will generate sanitary waste.
Noise	Noise from blasting, drilling, crushing, and screening and internal and external traffic.
Greenhouse gases	Greenhouse gases will be emitted through the operation of mobile plant, trucks and associated activities requiring fossil fuels. Greenhouse gas emissions also arise directly from blasting and indirectly from the production and transport of explosives.

Construction and operations

Proposal timetable	No construction or commissioning required to increase production after approval due to existing infrastructure.
Operating hours (ongoing)	Quarry Operations • 0700 to 1900 hours Monday to Friday • 0800 to 1600 hours Saturday • Closed Sundays and Public Holidays Cartage • 0700 to 1900 hours Monday to Friday • 0800 to 1600 hours Saturday • Closed Sundays and Public Holidays Blasting • 1000 to 1600 hours Monday to Friday • Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays

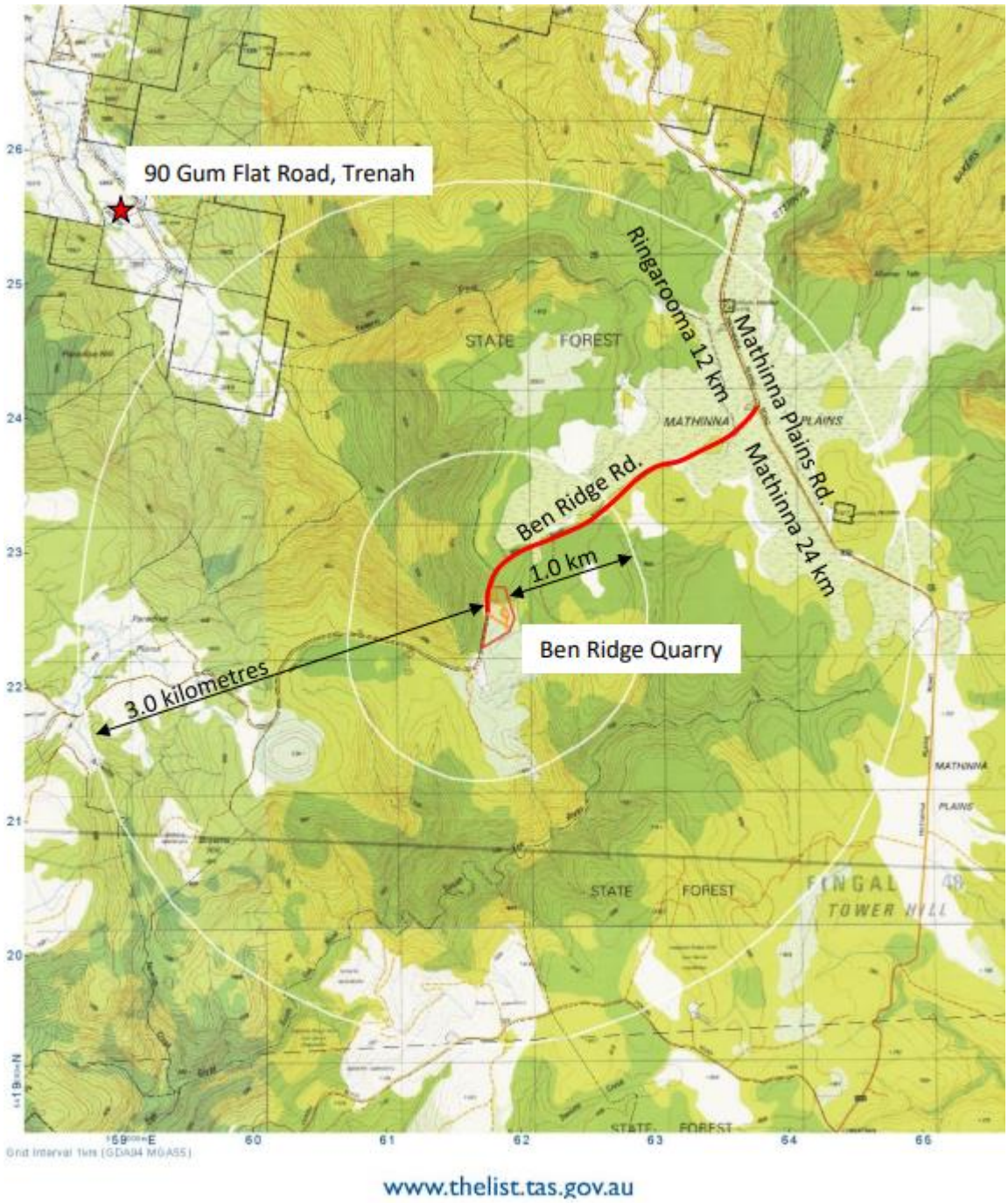

Figure 1: Proposed location and nearest sensitive receptor (Figure 3 of the EER)

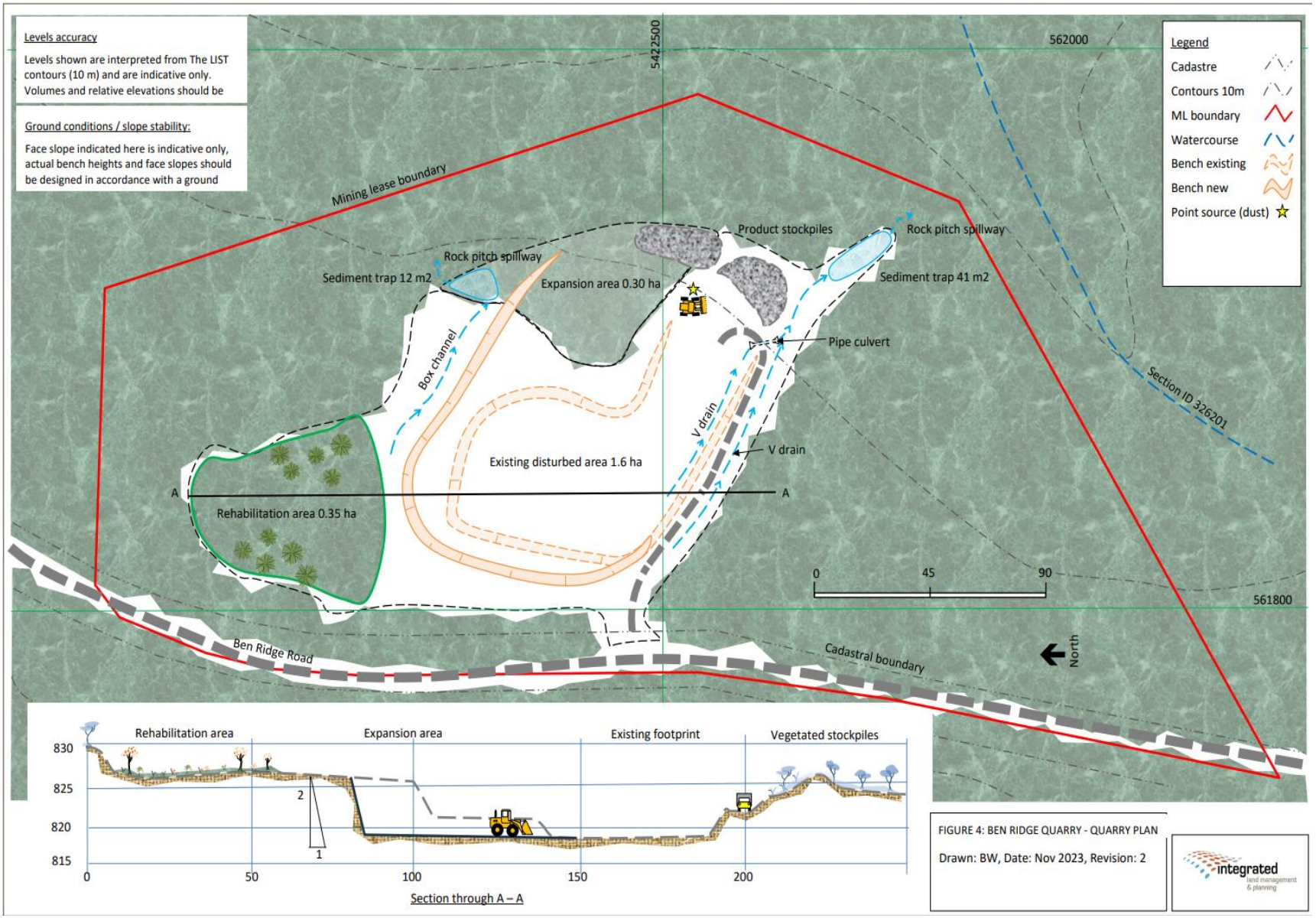

Figure 2: Site plan (Figure 4 of the EER).

4. Project Rationale and Alternatives

Dorset Council is applying for an increase in the annual production allowance from 5,000 cubic metres to 10,000 cubic metres and an increase in the annual processing allowance from 1,000 cubic metres to 10,000 cubic metres. According to the EER, Dorset Council requires this increase to allow economic mobilisation of the crushing plant to the site every two of three years to process and stockpile a larger amount of material as compared to processing small amounts annually. Ben Ridge Quarry is also located near Council maintained roads in the local area that require this material, which reduces the associated transport costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternatives to the proposed increase in production at Ben Ridge Quarry that were considered were, to continue operating uneconomically within the restrictive annual processing limit (dismissed due to the uneconomic cost of processing shot rock in small volumes under 1,000 cubic metres) and, closure of the Ben Ridge Quarry (dismissed due to the additional expense and greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting rock from other quarries at long distances from the locations supplied by Ben Ridge Quarry). The EER notes that any additional costs associated with sourcing material from other locations would be borne by the Dorset ratepayers.

5. Public and Agency Consultation

One (1) public submission was received during the public consultation period. The main issue raised related to ensuring adequate water quality protection of the Federal Creek catchment situated to the west of the quarry site noting there are currently no sediment traps installed at the quarry's drainage outlets. The EER has committed to installing sediment traps as part of managing water quality on site in the future.

The EER was also referred to several government agencies with an interest in the proposal. Submissions were received from the following:

- Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Division, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Conservation Assessments Section, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
- Mineral Resources Tasmania, Department of State Growth

The following individuals also provided specialist advice on the EER:

- Regulatory Officer, Environment Protection Authority
- Scientific Officer (Air), Environment Protection Authority

Appendix 1 of this report contains a summary of the public and government agency submissions received.

6. Evaluation of Key Environmental Issues

The following environmental issues are considered relevant to the proposal and have been evaluated in this section:

1. Air quality
2. Water quality
3. Noise emissions and blasting
4. Natural Values
5. Weeds and Disease Management
6. Waste and environmentally hazardous substances
7. Decommissioning and rehabilitation

General conditions

The following general conditions will be imposed on the activity:

G1 Activity Area

G2 Access to and awareness of conditions and associated documents

G3 Incident response

G4 Change of responsibility

G5 Proposed change to activity

G6 Change of ownership

G7 Complaints register

G8 Quarry Code of Practice

G9 Amendment of required plans and reports

6.1 Issue 1: Air Quality

6.1.1 Potential Impacts

The primary air emission of concern at the quarry is dust but may also include release of greenhouse gases and particulates from plant and equipment used to undertake the activity that are powered by internal combustion engines. Various activities/sources have the potential to produce dust, these are detailed in Section 1 of the EER and include:

- drilling
- blasting
- traffic traversing unsealed processing areas and road surfaces
- operation of crushers, mechanical screens and conveyors
- exposed gravel surfaces and stockpiles during high wind conditions.

If not managed appropriately, these activities have the potential to cause environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of the permitted activity. Intense and chronic dust emissions can also coat vegetation leading to poor vigor.

The quarry is in an area predominantly surrounded by reserves and current and future production forests. Figure 1 shows that the nearest private residence is 3.9km northwest of the quarry.

6.1.2 Management measures proposed in EER

The EER notes that the prevailing winds are from the west and northwest, resulting in dust emissions being directed towards forested lands to the southeast and away from the nearest sensitive receptor. The EER also notes the remote location of the quarry and the long periods of dormancy between short duration drilling, blasting and crushing activities.

The EER proposes the following mitigation measures to further reduce the risk of adverse fugitive dust emissions:

- Trafficked surfaces on the quarry floor, benches and haul roads will be maintained in good condition and kept clean.
- Drop distances between buckets, hoppers, trays and off conveyor chutes will be kept to a minimum.
- Trays carrying product off site will be loaded so the maximum height of the load does not exceed the height of the sides of the tray or alternatively will have covers fitted.
- Active dust management during operations will result in deployment of a water cart on trafficked surfaces if dust is observed crossing the boundary of the operations area.

6.1.3 Public and agency comment and responses

No public representations were received in relation to air quality. During early agency consultation Public Health noted the modest increase in production related to the activity and did not require any further information regarding potential public health impacts associated with the proposal.

6.1.4 Evaluation

The EER states the disturbance footprint is proposed to increase from the current 1.6 hectares up to 2.25 hectares (all within the 7 hectare mining lease). This will be balanced with the immediate progressive rehabilitation of a portion of the existing quarry not suitable for future extraction. This indicates that the overall area of the activity is expected to remain relatively stable over time.

Greenhouse gases and climate change are briefly addressed in Section 12 of the EER. Section 2 of the EER also identifies that the elevated location of the quarry and its close proximity to local roads that will use the processed materials, will reduce the need for long distance/uphill cartage of material from other sites, indirectly contributing to reducing the carbon footprint of the operation.

Section 1.4 of the EER indicates that it is likely that a single blast and crushing campaign will produce the maximum allowable annual production. A blast is likely to be preceded by up to 3 weeks of drilling and the subsequent crushing campaign is likely to continue for a further 3 weeks. The main dust producing activities will be of short duration which will be interspersed by long periods of dormancy or low-level activity. This

level of activity is expected to produce enough material for 2-3 years of road maintenance, so will not be required on an annual basis.

Section 3.3 of the EER suggests that blasting activities will be undertaken in compliance with the Quarry Code of Practice (QCP). Other mitigation measures have also been referenced from the QCP such as keeping load heights within the vehicle tray or covering loads.

To ensure the mitigation measures continue to be implemented, conditions **A1**, **A2** and **A3** are imposed. Condition **A1** requires that any vehicles carrying loads of material that have the potential to blow or spill must be equipped with effective control measures to prevent the escape of material from the vehicles when they leave the Activity Area or travel on public roads, such as tarpaulins or load dampening.

Unconsolidated material from stockpiles can be a source of dust emissions, particularly during prolonged adverse weather conditions. The EER states that stockpiling of topsoil and overburden will continue, to retain material for future rehabilitation. Sediment cleared from the sediment pond is proposed to also be stockpiled to assist with rehabilitation activities. It is likely that material from the sediment pond will contain finer material, that when exposed to dry and windy conditions is more susceptible to being transported by wind, creating dust. The stockpiling of material for rehabilitation is generally supported.

To ensure that the potential for dust emissions is mitigated, condition **A2** requires that dust emissions from the Activity Area must be controlled to the extent necessary to prevent environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of the Activity Area. Condition **A3** requires specific measures, such as water sprays, extraction equipment or enclosures, to be implemented to control dust emissions from crushing and screening plants.

Condition **DC4** requires that topsoil kept for rehabilitation is protected from erosion or other disturbance (protecting air and water quality).

Combined with the prevailing winds (predominantly west/northwest), the mitigations and commitments made in the EER and the standard conditions imposed as detailed above are expected to limit dust emissions from the quarry below the threshold of any environmental nuisance.

6.1.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

A1 Covering of vehicles

A2 Control of dust emissions

A3 Control of dust emissions from crushing and screening plant

DC4 Stockpiling of surface soil

6.2 Issue 2: Surface and Groundwater Quality

6.2.1 Potential Impacts

The quarry occupies a ridgetop location. As a result of quarry activities, all drainage from current and proposed activities onsite now follows the eastern gradient and enters tributaries of the South Esk River. The undisturbed land outside the activity area naturally drains away from the quarry. The quarry itself currently drains to two discharge points on the eastern boundary that are not supported by sediment traps. The proposed works (including commencing rehabilitation) will not seek to change drainage paths.

The proposal involves several existing activities which have the potential to be sources of pollutants (e.g. sediments, fuel/oil, and other chemicals) that may impact surface or groundwater quality if not managed appropriately. These include:

- runoff from unconsolidated surfaces with erodible materials (e.g. quarry floor, stockpiles).
- spilled fuel and oil from refuelling / maintenance of vehicles.
- weed management (e.g. chemicals and weed treatments).

6.2.2 Management measures proposed in EER

The EER discusses the existing management of water at the site in Section 2. The EER identifies uncontrolled runoff as a potentially moderate impact if not managed effectively. As there is no overland flow entering the quarry from outside the activity area, there are no diversion drains in place or required. Intercept and surface drains will continue to be used within the quarry to direct flow into established channel drains. The absence of sediment traps servicing the quarry has been recognised and addressed through measures proposed below (refer drainage structures at Figure 2).

Specific management measures proposed in the EER are:

- New sediment traps will be established for both the northern and southern discharge points (which drain the northern and southern sub-catchments within the quarry). A design basis of containing a 1 in 20 year rainfall event has been used.
- As there is no further extractive work planned in the almost level northern catchment of the quarry and the area is now proposed for rehabilitation, a sediment trap with a stone spillway will be established at the discharge point of the existing drainage channel.
- In the southern catchment, the existing swale drain will be formalised into a V-drain discharging into a sediment trap with a stone spillway.

Proposed mitigation measures for rehabilitation also provide sediment controls (refer to section 6.7 of this report and section 11 of the EER).

6.2.3 Public and agency comment and responses

One public representation was received in relation to water quality, regarding the treatment and direction of sediment and water runoff disposal with reference to avoiding impact on the Federal Creek ecosystem to the west of the quarry site.

6.2.4 Evaluation

Section 1 of the EER states that the increase in disturbed area associated with the expansion of quarry operations will result in a maximum disturbed area footprint of 2.25 hectares. However, Section 11.1 of the EER also indicates that immediate progressive rehabilitation will commence over a 0.35 hectare area of land that is not suitable for future extraction. As onsite flexibility may be required as to the exact timing of the rehabilitation works, consideration should be given to any potential increase in the risk of surface water quality pollution from additional sediment associated with the expansion, without considering the balancing effect of the reduced transport of materials that can be expected over time through rehabilitation.

The upgrades proposed in the EER to the existing channel and swale drains that drain water from within the quarry, including away from areas of active work, are supported. The construction and maintenance of sediment settling ponds within the quarry footprint are also supported. To reflect the commitments in the EER, condition **SW1** establishes the design and maintenance requirements of settling ponds to maintain downstream water quality. The EER notes that commencement of active rehabilitation works is likely to cause a temporary increase in runoff (and potentially turbid runoff) from the site. As there are currently no sediment ponds on site, condition **SW2** requires their construction and effective operation prior to the commencement of active rehabilitation works or further expansion of the activity area in order to minimise the transport of sediment into tributaries of the South Esk River.

To support these conditions, **SW3** is also included, requiring all reasonable measures to be implemented to ensure solids entrained in stormwater are retained within the Activity Area, and that any polluted stormwater discharged from the Activity Area is first collected and treated to the extent necessary to prevent environmental harm or nuisance. It also requires that any discharge from the Activity Area does not degrade the visual quality of any downstream receiving waters.

The commitment to progressive rehabilitation is also supported. Rehabilitation of disturbed surfaces stabilises loose material and reduces the likelihood of sediments being moved offsite by rain events.

The EER briefly mentions groundwater onsite by stating that there are no constructed water bores in proximity to the quarry site and groundwater has not been encountered as part of extraction operations

to date. As the proposed expansion of the operation is horizontal, it is considered unlikely that groundwater would be encountered. The EER states in section 2.10.2 that any future extraction from the floor of the existing pit would be preceded by preliminary drilling to test the depth of the water table. This approach is supported.

Based on the information provided and commitments made in the EER, and the conditions imposed as detailed above, it is considered the potential environmental risks to downstream water quality can be adequately managed to ensure that environmental harm or nuisance is not caused by the expansion of the quarry.

6.2.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

SW1 Design and maintenance of settling ponds

SW2 Installation of settlement ponds

SW3 Stormwater

6.3 Issue 3: Noise Emissions and Blasting

6.3.1 Potential Impacts

Ben Ridge Quarry is an existing operational quarry with multiple work elements occurring as part of the activity that generate noise emissions that have the potential to travel beyond the Activity Area and cause environmental nuisance. These include:

- Drilling and blasting
- Ripping and excavation
- Loading of material into trucks and stockpiling of materials
- Processing of material – crushing and screening
- Carting of material from the site
- Truck movements and use of ancillary equipment associated with quarry operations.

Table 14 in the EER lists the sound power levels of the various vehicles and equipment that will be used to undertake the above activities. The EER notes that the actual type of equipment varies depending on availability and the contractors appointed for the works.

There are no sensitive receptors located within 3 km of the mining lease boundary. The nearest sensitive receptor is 90 Mud Flat Road, 3.9km to the northwest.

The EER separates the discussion of potential for environmental harm or nuisance from site activities into 'noise emissions' (drilling, crushing, screening and cartage), and blasting. The EER states that the quarry operates on a campaign style basis. At the proposed maximum extraction rate, the quarry has a design life of 40 years.

Noting the remote location of the quarry, infrequent use and very infrequent blasting activity, there is unlikely to be any potential for noise produced from increased quarry operations to cause nuisance or harm to nearby sensitive receptors.

6.3.2 Management measures proposed in EER

The EER notes the remote location of the quarry and states that no specific noise attenuation measures are warranted. Notwithstanding, the EER considers noise emissions through:

- Complying with the QCP to control emissions from blasting.
- Committing to maintaining the existing hours of operation for the quarry to between 7am and 7pm and as further detailed below.

Operating Hours	Weekdays	Saturday	Weekends and holidays
Quarry operations	7.00 am to 7.00 pm	8.00 am to 4.00 pm	No work.
Cartage	7.00 am to 7.00 pm	8.00 am to 4.00 pm	No work.
Blasting	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	No work.	

- Committing to the use of late model machinery with exhaust silencers fitted to ensure noise emissions are as low as possible.

6.3.3 Public and agency comment and responses

No public representations were received in relation to noise impacts. During early agency consultation Public Health noted the proposal related to a modest increase in production and did not require any further information regarding potential public health impacts associated with the proposal.

6.3.4 Evaluation

Blasting

Infrequent operation of the quarry in a remote location will continue in a similar manner under this proposal. The increase in production from 5,000 cubic metres to 10,000 cubic metres will require a larger

blast than previously employed onsite and is expected to produce a maximum instantaneous charge of 50kg.

To mitigate the any potential nuisance and harm of noise emissions (and as included in the EER), condition **B1** requires that blasting activity must only take place between the hours of 1000 and 1600 Monday to Friday and blasting on weekends or Public Holidays must not take place unless prior written approval is obtained from the Director.

Noise Emissions

To further support the mitigation of noise emissions causing nuisance, condition **N1** is included specifying operating hours for the quarry consistent with those recommended in the QCP.

Adherence to the imposed conditions will ensure that harm or nuisance from blasting and other noise emissions to sensitive receptors can be reasonably mitigated over the life of the quarry.

6.3.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

B1 Blasting times

N1 Operating hours

6.4 Issue 4: Natural Values

6.4.1 Potential Impacts

Clearing of 0.3 hectares of native vegetation (*Acacia dealbata* forest) and other activities associated with operation of a quarry have the potential to disturb, injure or kill threatened fauna or flora species and vegetation communities, if not managed appropriately. The movement of vehicles and machinery on and off-site, particularly during nighttime periods, has the potential to increase risk of injury or death of threatened fauna species.

To understand the values present, a natural values assessment of the site was undertaken by Environmental Consulting Options Tasmania in November 2023. The assessment combined a desktop assessment and site visit and resulted in the following findings:

- No plant species listed as threatened under State or Commonwealth legislation were detected.
- No fauna species listed as threatened under State or Commonwealth legislation were detected.
- The area supports potential habitat for the Tasmanian devil, spotted tailed quoll and eastern quoll although no evidence of dens or habitation were detected.
- The site does not support vegetation communities that could be interpreted as "priority vegetation" as defined in the Tasmanian Planning Provisions.
- No declared weed species were detected although one species considered by the report author to be an environmental weed was detected (Digitalis purpurea, foxglove).
- There was no evidence of Phytophthora cinnamomi (root rot), myrtle wilt or myrtle rust.
- The study area does not support habitat conducive to frog chytrid disease except at a highly localised scale.

There are two recorded sightings of a Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) and a single record of an Eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii)* within 500 m of the site. There are five known raptor nests located within 5km of the site, with the closest at 2.2km. There are no nests within 1,000m line of sight of the proposed quarry expansion.

There is a single 1961 record of a blue pincushion (*Brunonia australis*) within 5km of the site (2.8km), however potential habitat is absent at the quarry and the location of this record is considered potentially erroneous. Since completion of the natural values assessment, there have also been multiple records of the Greygreen Cottonleaf (*Argyrotegium poliochlorum*) located approximately 2.8km to the west of the quarry (available via the LIST map and dated 19 July 2024). This species was not detected during inspection of the quarry and surrounding Mining Lease.

An increase in nighttime traffic associated with the intensification of use at the quarry could lead to an increased incidence of roadkill impacting threatened fauna species including quolls and the Tasmanian devil.

6.4.2 Management measures proposed in EER

The EER proposes the following management measure to mitigate impacts on natural values:

- A 10m buffer of undisturbed vegetation will remain between activities and the mining lease boundary against the rainforest community on the eastern perimeter of the site.

The EER references the following recommendations made in the natural values assessment, however it is unclear whether they will be individually implemented for management of the Ben Ridge Quarry in the future:

- When clearing is taking place, any trees felled shall be felled into the quarry disturbed area and not out into the intact vegetation.
- Stripping and topsoil windrows will not be placed adjacent to the forest area supporting *Nothofagus cunninghammii* (myrtle).

6.4.3 Public and agency comment and responses

One public representation provided information on the natural values of the Federal Creek catchment ecosystem which abuts the quarry to the west. Quarry operations will not impact these values as all

drainage from the site is to the east, outside the Federal Creek catchment. During the assessment process, the Conservation Assessments Branch reviewed the EER and attached natural values assessment report and supported the findings and mitigations contained within. There were no outstanding matters identified.

6.4.4 Evaluation

Based on the information provided, the natural values that occur on the site can be appropriately managed to mitigate potential harm from the quarry activity. The area to be cleared for the proposed footprint expansion currently hosts *Acacia dealbata* forest (TASVEG code NAD), reflective of a disturbance history including fire, logging and the original clearing for the quarry. To protect the vigour of vegetation retained onsite including *Nothofagus cunninghammii* (Myrtle), condition **FF1** will be applied to avoid damage through the felling of trees into retained vegetation and to minimise the risk of introducing diseases such as Myrtle wilt.
The EER has committed to maintaining the existing hours of operation for the quarry, meaning it is unlikely the proposal will increase the proportion of nighttime traffic. Additionally, the EER states that most of the activity at the quarry will occur during the construction season when day length is longer (thus further limiting traffic during nighttime hours overall). This position is supported.

6.4.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following condition:

FF1 Protection of Remnant Vegetation

6.5 Issue 5: Weeds and Disease Management

6.5.1 Potential Impacts

The movement of vehicles, plant, and equipment on and off-site associated with the quarry has the potential to introduce or spread weeds and diseases to, from or around the site if not managed appropriately. Product stockpiles can also be contaminated with weeds or diseases which may then be transported to other areas if not managed appropriately.
The EER states that no declared weed species were detected at the quarry as part of the natural values assessment. One species considered to be an environmental weed, the foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), was found onsite.

6.5.2 Management measures proposed in EER

The EER states that during normal operations the operator, employees and contractors observe the quarry stockpiles and surrounding areas for emergent weeds and if present, initiate controls as required. The EER has also committed to implement a weed and disease hygiene protocol in accordance with the measures described in Appendix 1 of the Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines (DPIPWE, March 2015). Section 4.2.2 of the EER recommends the top bench of the quarry should be scalped clean of topsoil and vegetation for at least a machine width, to reduce the risk of topsoil (and potentially weeds/seeds) contaminating the quarry products.

The EER has also recommended treatment of occurrences of *Digitalis purpurea* (foxglove) prior to the increase in production.

6.5.3 Public and agency comment and responses

No public representations were received in relation to weed and disease management. During the assessment process Conservation Assessments Section made comments in support of ongoing management of weeds and diseases on the site.

6.5.4 Evaluation

The development of a Weed and Disease Management Plan is supported. Condition **OP1** requires the development and submission of a Weed and Disease Management Plan to the Director for approval. Condition **OP2** requires that, prior to entering the Activity Area, machinery must be washed in accordance with the Weed and Disease Guidelines. Condition **OP3** requires the Activity Area to be kept substantially free of weeds.

The management measures proposed are considered appropriate and the inclusion of the above conditions will ensure they are implemented to minimise the risk of introducing or spreading weeds and diseases. Condition **G9** addresses any requirement the Director may have to amend plans relating to these conditions over time.

6.5.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

OP1 Weed and Disease Management Plan
OP2 Machinery washdown
OP3 Weed Management
G9 Amendment of required plans and reports

6.6 Issue 6: Waste and Environmentally Hazardous Substances

6.6.1 Potential Impacts

Solid wastes from the activity can escape into the surrounding environment, causing environmental nuisance or harm if not suitably stored or disposed of. Inappropriate storage, handling, refuelling and disposal of environmentally hazardous substances including fuels and oils, has the potential to contaminate soil, surface water and groundwater.

6.6.2 Management measures proposed in EER

The EER advises that machinery will be taken off site for servicing and maintenance and that waste generated from breakdowns and routine lubrication will be retained in the worker's utilities and removed from site at the end of the working day for appropriate disposal. Litter from lunches and other amenities will be retained in enclosed containers and periodically disposed of to an approved disposal site. Section 7.1 of the EER notes mobile equipment will be refueled using a utility mounted refueling facility on site. Section 7.2 indicates that the operator will provide a hydrocarbon spill kit ready for immediate deployment if a hydrocarbon leak or spill occurs. A hydrocarbon boom will be available for deployment across the surface of the sediment trap should a hydrocarbon spill or leak enter the sediment control infrastructure. Any herbicides used will not be stored at the site and will remain in the contractors' vehicles during the works.

6.6.3 Public and agency comment and responses

No public representations or agency submissions were received in relation to waste management or environmentally hazardous substances.

6.6.4 Evaluation

The quarry's broad adherence to the QCP waste standards is supported and required through condition **G8**, however, no specific waste management conditions are considered necessary. Condition **H1** requires appropriate spill kits to be kept in appropriate locations and maintained in a functional condition. Conditions **H2** and **H3** require hazardous materials to be contained and managed appropriately to prevent contamination of soil, groundwater, and waterways including when refuelling. Standard information condition **LO2** is included to ensure the proponent is aware of legislation relating to storage and handling of dangerous goods and substances. Based on the information provided in the EER, the management measures proposed and the inclusion of the above mentioned conditions, it is considered that the potential risks from waste, dangerous goods and environmentally hazardous substances can be appropriately managed to limit the potential for environmental harm or nuisance to occur.

6.6.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

H1 Spill kits

H2 Hazardous materials (< 250 litres)

H3 Handling of hazardous materials – mobile

Other information included in the permit:

LO2 Storage and handling of dangerous goods, explosives, and dangerous substances

6.7 Issue 7: Decommissioning and Rehabilitation

6.7.1 Potential Impacts

Temporary or permanent cessation of quarrying operations has the potential to cause ongoing impacts to the environment if rehabilitation is not managed appropriately. Rehabilitation is necessary to ensure the long-term stability of the site, prevent erosion and sedimentation, reduce uncontrolled dust emissions, provide native flora and fauna habitat, and minimise the potential for establishment of weeds.

Ben Ridge Quarry is located within the South Esk Regional Reserve, which is land set aside for "*Mineral exploration and the development of mineral deposits in the area of land, and the controlled use of other natural resources of that area of land, including special species timber harvesting, while protecting and maintaining the natural and cultural values of that area of land*". The EER states the land is zoned for Environmental Management.

No rehabilitation activities have commenced at the quarry to date.

6.7.2 Management measures proposed in EER

Progressive Rehabilitation

This proposal includes immediate progressive rehabilitation of an area of the current quarry footprint which is considered not suitable for future extraction (the northern sub-catchment, refer Fig 2 of this EAR). Future progressive rehabilitation will be confined to the external perimeter of the existing disturbed area. This future rehabilitation will take place only when the existing quarry face has reached its fullest extent.

Decommissioning

The EER advises that once all remaining marketable materials have been recovered, the Operator will initiate decommissioning and rehabilitation through the following actions:

- All machinery, sheds and equipment will be removed from the site.
- Faces will be reduced to maximum height of 5 metres.
- The access track, quarry floor and remaining benches will be ripped to enhance infiltration.
- Overburden stockpiles will be spread over the ripped surfaces and placed against the toe of remaining faces to further reduce the height.
- Topsoil stockpiles will be spread on the finished surface and any remaining stripping pulled back over this.
- Both the northern and southern sediment traps will be retained until a self-sustaining vegetation cover is achieved and then allowed to gradually fill and become a wetland.
- The gate securing the site will be retained and remain locked until full rehabilitation is complete.

Until such time as the site is considered rehabilitated, the Operator will continue to monitor/undertake the following aspects of the rehabilitation:

- Weed control using herbicide spray or cut and paint for emerging weeds
- Sediment traps will be inspected for capacity and cleaned out if accumulated sediment has reduced trap effectiveness.
- Broadcast native seed mix if revegetation/recruitment of natural vegetation is unsuccessful.

6.7.3 Public and agency comment and responses

MRT have advised during the assessment process they will continue to regulate the mining lease as per the requirements set out under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* and conditions of the mining lease. It is likely that the activity will require an updated mining plan, a review of the security deposit and potential change to the maximum permitted unrehabilitated area that is currently set at 2.5 hectares.

6.7.4 Evaluation

The measures proposed in the EER align with the QCP and are considered sufficient to manage risks associated with site decommissioning and rehabilitation. Condition **DC1** requires the proponent to notify the Director of any permanent cessation of the activity. Noting that the quarry operator is not the landowner, condition **DC2** is included for the development of a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan

(DRP) for the Director's approval. Progressive rehabilitation is required by condition **DC3**, which also limits the maximum disturbed area to 2.25 hectares at any time (note this figure is distinct from the maximum unrehabilitated area of 2.5 hectares currently established under the mining lease for the site). Stockpiling of surface soil for rehabilitation is required by condition **DC4**. Condition **DC5** requires rehabilitation to be carried out in accordance with the QCP and within 12 months of cessation and monitored for at least three years. Condition **DC6** requires the person responsible to notify the Director of temporary suspension of the activity and imposes care and maintenance requirements.

6.7.5 Conditions

The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:

DC1 Notification of cessation

DC2 DRP requirements

DC3 Progressive rehabilitation

DC4 Stockpiling of surface soil

DC5 Rehabilitation on cessation

DC6 Temporary suspension of activity

7. Issues not assessed by the Board

The following issues have been raised during the assessment process but are not the responsibility of the Board under the EMPCA. These may be issues which are more appropriately addressed by another regulatory agency.

1. Aboriginal Heritage – Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) advised on 25 October 2023 that there is no known Aboriginal heritage recorded within the mining lease. Due to disturbance from existing quarry operations, it is believed there is a low likelihood of Aboriginal heritage being impacted by the proposed capacity increase. On that basis AHT have recommended that the works should be supported by AHT's Unanticipated Discovery Plan. This will be communicated directly to the proponent. The proponent will be encouraged to contact AHT to discuss this matter as required.
2. Mine Plan – during the assessment process Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) commented that they would need to approve any mine plan as part of the intensification of works at the site, including the assessment of the maximum permitted unrehabilitated area. This will be communicated directly to the proponent. The proponent will be encouraged to contact MRT to discuss this matter as required.
3. Crown consent for Development Application – during the assessment process the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) queried whether Crown consent to the Development Application may be required under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. PWS have engaged separately with MRT and the proponent (Dorset Council) to resolve the matter.

8. Report Conclusions

This assessment has been based on the information provided by the proponent, Dorset Council, in the permit application and the case for assessment (the EER).

This report incorporates specialist advice provided by EPA scientific and regulatory staff, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, and other government agencies, and considers issues raised in public submissions.

It is concluded that:

1. the RMPS and EMPCS objectives have been duly and properly pursued in the assessment of the proposal; and
2. the assessment of the proposal has been undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Principles; and
3. the proposal is capable of being managed in an environmentally acceptable manner such that it is unlikely that the RMPS and EMPCS objectives would be compromised, provided that the Permit Conditions - Environmental No. 11690 appended to this report are imposed and duly complied with.

9. Report Approval

Environmental Assessment Report and conclusions, including environmental conditions, adopted:

HELEN MULLIGAN

MANAGER, ASSESSMENTS

Acting under delegation from the Board of the Environment Protection Authority

Date: 19 December, 2024

10. References

DPIPWE (March 2015). *Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines - Preventing the spread of weeds and disease in Tasmania.* Hobart: Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

ECOtas (2023). *Natural Values Assessment of Ben Ridge Road Quarry (Capacity Increase), Mining Lease 4M/2017, Mathinna Plains, Tasmania.* Report by Environmental Consulting Options Tasmania (ECOtas) for Dorset Council, 11 November 2023.

Environment Protection Authority (2017) *Quarry Code of Practice 3rd Edition*; Hobart Tasmania.

Integrated Land Management and Planning (2024). Environmental Effects Report Revision 2 (dated 16 February 2024) for *Ben Ridge Quarry - Environmental Effects Report*, prepared by Integrated Land Management and Planning; Lindisfarne, Tasmania.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of public and agency submissions

Appendix 2 Table of proponent management measures

Appendix 3 Permit conditions No: 11690

Appendix 1: Summary of public and agency submissions

Table 1: Matters raised during public consultation period

Representation No. / Agency	Comments and Issues	Further Information Requested	EPA Comments
1.	Concern regarding treatment and direction of sediment and water runoff disposal with reference to avoiding impact on the Federal Creek ecosystem. Information provided on natural values present within the ecosystem.	None.	The Ben Ridge mining lease straddles the boundary of two surface water catchments – Federal Creek draining into the Ringarooma River and an unnamed tributary draining into the South Esk River. The catchment for Federal Creek includes forested land immediately to the west of the Ben Ridge Quarry site. At section 2.2 of the EER, it states that drainage to west has now been redirected to the east of the quarry. This means the current and proposed operations at the quarry will not impact the Federal Creek ecosystem. The installation of sediment basins on both quarry drainage outlets as part of this proposal is relevant for increased protection of water quality.

Appendix 2: Table of proponent management measures

Table 1: Summary of Proponent management measures (Part D of EER)

Number	Action	Timing
1	The quarry operator will actively manage trafficked surfaces and the surface of stockpiles to keep dust emissions to a minimum.	During operational campaigns
2	Sediment traps with a capacity to accommodate a 1 in 20 year event will be constructed to capture run off from the northern and southern catchments.	On issue of a permit
3	A 10 metre buffer of undisturbed vegetation will remain between activities and the mining lease boundary and rainforest community on the eastern perimeter.	On issue of a permit
4	A weed and disease hygiene protocol in accordance with the measures described in Appendix 1 of the Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines (DPIPWE, March 2015) will be implemented.	On issue of a permit
5	A hydrocarbon spill kit and a hydrocarbon boom will be available and ready for immediate deployment in the event of a leak or spill.	During operational campaigns

Appendix 3: Permit conditions – Environmental No: 11690

PERMIT PART B
PERMIT CONDITIONS - ENVIRONMENTAL No. 11690

Issued under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*

Activity: **The operation of a quarry and materials handling (ACTIVITY TYPE: Crushing, grinding, milling or separating into different sizes (rocks, ores or minerals))**
BEN RIDGE QUARRY, BEN RIDGE ROAD
TRENAH TAS 7263

The above activity has been assessed as a level 2 activity under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Acting under Section 25(5)(a)(i) of the EMPCA, the Board of the Environment Protection Authority has required that this Permit Part B be included in any Permit granted under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* with respect to the above activity.

Municipality: **DORSET**
Permit Application Reference: **PLA/2024/91**
EPA file reference: **23/7229**

Date conditions approved: 19 December 2024

Signed:

DELEGATE FOR THE BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

DEFINITIONS

Unless the contrary appears, words and expressions used in this Permit Part B have the meaning given to them in **Schedule 1** of this Permit and in the EMPCA. If there is any inconsistency between a definition in the EMPCA and a definition in this Permit Part B, the EMPCA prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The person responsible for the activity must comply with the conditions contained in **Schedule 2** of this Permit Part B.

INFORMATION

Attention is drawn to **Schedule 3**, which contains important additional information.

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Attachments

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Schedule 1: Definitions

In this Permit Part B:-

10,000 cubic metres is considered equivalent to 16,000 tonnes.

Aboriginal Relic has the meaning described in section 2(3) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

Activity means any environmentally relevant activity (as defined in Section 3 of EMPCA) to which this document relates, and includes more than one such activity.

Activity Area means the area to be used for the Activity when these conditions take effect, as depicted in Attachment 1.

Authorized Officer means an authorized officer under section 20 of EMPCA.

Best Practice Environmental Management or '**BPEM**' has the meaning described in Section 4 of EMPCA.

Director means the Director, Environment Protection Authority holding office under section 18 of EMPCA and includes a delegate or person authorised in writing by the Director to exercise a power or function on the Director's behalf.

DRP means Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan.

EER means the Environmental Effects Report Revision 2 (dated 16 February 2024) for Ben Ridge Quarry, prepared by Integrated Land Management and Planning; Lindisfarne, Tasmania.

EMPCA means the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Environmental Harm and **Material Environmental Harm** and **Serious Environmental Harm** each have the meanings ascribed to them in Section 5 of EMPCA.

Environmental Nuisance has the meanings ascribed to it in Section 3 of EMPCA.

Environmentally Hazardous Material means any substance or mixture of substances of a nature or held in quantities which present a reasonably foreseeable risk of causing serious or material environmental harm if released to the environment and includes fuels, oils, waste and chemicals but excludes sewage.

EPA Board means the Board of the Environment Protection Authority established under section 13 of EMPCA and includes a delegate or person authorised in writing by the EPA Board to exercise a power or function on the EPA Board's behalf.

Heavy Vehicles means any vehicle or machinery used for the activity to which this document relates that has a gross vehicle mass (GVM) or aggregate trailer mass (ATM) exceeding 4.5 tonnes.

Maximum Disturbed Area means the area disturbed to facilitate the activity and includes but is not limited to; vegetation disturbance, soil disturbance, access roads, hardstand, working area, vehicle parking and infrastructure (i.e. buildings, site office, sheds etc).

Person Responsible is any person who is or was responsible for the environmentally relevant activity to which this document relates and includes the officers, employees, contractors, joint venture partners and agents of that person, and includes a body corporate.

Planning Authority means the Council(s) for the municipal area(s) in which the Activity Area is situated.

Pollutant has the meaning ascribed to it in section 3 of EMPCA.

Quarry Code of Practice means the document of this title published by the Environment Protection Authority in May 2017, and includes any subsequent versions of this document.

Stormwater means water runoff as a consequence of a rainfall event, whether surface flow, piped flow, or flow within conduits, including any contaminants collected by the water during its passage.

Weed means a plant species that has, or is likely to have, an adverse impact on the environment because of the introduction, spread or increase in population size of the species in an area; and includes a declared weed as defined in the *Biosecurity Act 2019* and subordinate regulations.

Weed And Disease Guidelines means the document titled *Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines - Preventing the spread of weeds and diseases in Tasmania*, by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, dated March 2015, and any amendment to or substitution of this document.

Schedule 2: Conditions

Maximum Quantities

Q1 Regulatory limits

1 The activity must not exceed the following limits :

1.1 10,000 cubic metres per year of rocks, ores or minerals processed.

1.2 10,000 cubic metres per year of rocks, ores or minerals extracted.

General

G1 Activity Area

The activity must be confined to the Activity Area.

G2 Access to and awareness of conditions and associated documents

A copy of these conditions and any associated documents referred to in these conditions must be held in a location that is known to and accessible to the person responsible for the activity. The person responsible for the activity must ensure that all persons who are responsible for undertaking work within the Activity Area, including contractors and sub-contractors, are familiar with these conditions to the extent relevant to their work.

G3 Incident response

If an incident causing or threatening environmental nuisance, serious environmental harm or material environmental harm from pollution occurs in the course of the activity, then the person responsible for the activity must immediately take all reasonable and practicable action to minimise any adverse environmental effects from the incident.

G4 Change of responsibility

If the person responsible for the activity intends to cease to be responsible for the activity, that person must notify the Director in writing of the full particulars of any person who will become the person responsible for the activity, before such cessation.

G5 Proposed change to activity

1 The person responsible must notify the Director in writing prior to implementing any change to the activity authorised by this document that may cause or increase the emission of a pollutant or which may result in environmental harm or environmental nuisance (even temporarily). A change includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

1.1 an increase in the discharge of a pollutant, or the location of its discharge.

1.2 the construction, installation, alteration or removal of any structure or equipment used in the course of carrying out the activity.

1.3 any clearance of native vegetation or earthworks.

1.4 a change in the quantity or characteristics of materials used in carrying out the activity.

2 The notification must be in an approved form and include the following:

2.1 details of the proposed change;

2.2 an assessment of the environmental impacts that may result from the change;

2.3 any relevant approvals held by the person responsible; and

2.4 any advice from the relevant planning authority to the effect that approval is not required.

3 The person responsible must provide additional information as requested by an Authorized Officer.

4 The proposed change must not be implemented until the Director has confirmed in writing that they are satisfied that no other approval or variation of this document is required.

5 For the avoidance of doubt, a notification of a proposed change under this provision is not required if the proposed change is part of a referral to the EPA Board for assessment under sections 24, 25 or 27 of EMPCA.

G6 Change of ownership

If the owner of the Activity Area changes or is to change, then, as soon as reasonably practicable but no later than 30 days after becoming aware of the change or intended change in the ownership of the Activity Area, the person responsible must notify the Director in writing of the change or intended change of ownership.

G7 Complaints register

1 A public complaints register must be maintained. The public complaints register must, as a minimum, record the following detail in relation to each complaint received in which it is alleged that environmental harm (including an environmental nuisance) has been caused by the activity:

1.1 the date and time at which the complaint was received;

1.2 contact details for the complainant (where provided);

1.3 the subject matter of the complaint;

1.4 any investigations undertaken with regard to the complaint; and

1.5 the manner in which the complaint was resolved, including any mitigation measures implemented.

2 Complaint records must be retained for a period of at least 3 years.

G8 Quarry Code of Practice

Unless otherwise required by these conditions or required in writing by the Director, the activity (or activities) undertaken within the Activity Area must comply with the Acceptable Standards provisions of the *Quarry Code of Practice.*

G9 Amendment of required plans and reports

1 The plans and reports required by these conditions must be amended to address any matter required by the Director, as advised by notice in writing.

2 Amended plans and reports must be resubmitted within the timeframe that the Director specifies.

Atmospheric

A1 Covering of vehicles

Vehicles carrying loads containing material which may blow or spill must be equipped with effective control measures to prevent the escape of the materials from the vehicles when they leave the Activity Area or travel on public roads. Effective control measures may include tarpaulins or load dampening.

A2 Control of dust emissions

Dust emissions from within the Activity Area must be controlled to the extent necessary to prevent environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of the Activity Area.

A3 Control of dust emissions from crushing and screening plant

1 Dust produced by the operation of all crushing and/or screening plant must be controlled by the use of one or more of the following methods to the extent necessary to prevent environmental nuisance:

1.1 the installation of fixed water sprays or use of mobile water sprays at all crushers and/or screening plant and at all necessary points where processed material changes direction due to belt transfer;

1.2 the installation of dust extraction equipment at all crushers and/or screening plant and at all necessary points where processed material changes direction due to belt transfer;

1.3 the enclosure of the crushing and/or screening plant and the treatment of atmospheric emissions by dust extraction equipment; or

1.4 any other method that has been approved in writing by the Director.

Blasting

B1 Blasting times

Blasting within the Activity Area must take place only between the hours of 1000 hours and 1600 hours Monday to Friday. Blasting must not take place on Saturdays, Sundays or public holidays unless prior written approval of the Director has been obtained.

Decommissioning And Rehabilitation

DC1 Notification of cessation

Within 30 days of becoming aware of any event or decision which is likely to give rise to the permanent cessation of the activity, the person responsible for the activity must notify the Director in writing of that event or decision. The notice must specify the date upon which the activity is expected to cease or has ceased.

DC2 DRP requirements

1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) for the activity must be submitted for approval to the Director within 30 days of the Director being notified of the planned cessation of the activity. The DRP must be prepared in accordance with any guidelines provided by the Director. This requirement will be deemed to be satisfied only when the Director indicates in writing that the submitted document adequately addresses the requirements of this condition.

2 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, decommissioning and rehabilitation must be undertaken in accordance with the approved DRP.

3 The person responsible may apply to the Director to vary or substitute the DRP. Any variation or substitution of the plan approved by the Director, by notice in writing, replaces the earlier approval with affect from the date specified in the notice.

DC3 Progressive rehabilitation

Worked out or disused sections of the Activity Area must be rehabilitated concurrently with extractive activities on other sections of the Activity Area. Progressive rehabilitation must be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Quarry Code of Practice*, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director. The maximum disturbed area of land which may remain, at any time, without rehabilitation is 2.25 hectares.

DC4 Stockpiling of surface soil

Prior to commencement of extractive activities on any portion of the Activity Area, surface soils must be removed in that portion of the Activity Area to be disturbed by the conduct of the activity and stockpiled for later use in rehabilitation of the Activity Area. Topsoil must be kept separate from other overburden and protected from erosion or other disturbance.

DC5 Rehabilitation on cessation

1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, rehabilitation upon permanent cessation of the activity must be undertaken in accordance with relevant provisions of the *Quarry Code of Practice* and in accordance with the following:

1.1 rehabilitation earthworks must be substantially completed within 12 months of cessation of the activity; and

1.2 rehabilitated areas must be monitored and maintained for a period of at least three years after rehabilitation works have been substantially completed, after which time the person responsible for the activity may apply in writing to the Director for a written statement that rehabilitation has been successfully completed.

DC6 Temporary suspension of activity

1 Within 30 days of becoming aware of any event or decision which is likely to give rise to the temporary suspension of the activity, the person responsible for the activity must notify the Director in writing of that event or decision. The notice must specify the date upon which the activity is expected to suspend or has suspended.

2 During temporary suspension of the activity the Activity Area must be managed and monitored by the person responsible for the activity to ensure that emissions from the Activity Area do not cause serious environmental harm, material environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

3 If required by the Director, a Care and Maintenance Plan for the activity must be submitted to the Director for approval, by a date specified in writing by the Director. This requirement will be deemed to be satisfied only when the Director indicates in writing that the submitted document adequately addresses the requirements of this condition.

3.1 The plan must be prepared in accordance with any guidelines provided by the Director.

3.2 Once approved the person responsible must act in accordance with the approved Care and Maintenance Plan.

3.3 The person responsible may apply to the Director to vary or substitute the Care and Maintenance Plan. Any variation or substitution of the plan approved by the Director, by notice in writing, replaces the earlier approval with effect from the date specified in the notice.

4 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, if the activity on the Activity Area has substantially ceased for 2 years or more, rehabilitation of the Activity Area must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of these conditions as if the activity has permanently ceased.

Effluent Disposal

Flora And Fauna

FF1 Protection of Remnant Vegetation

1 When clearing vegetation within the activity area, any trees felled must be felled into the quarry disturbed area and not out into the intact vegetation.

2 Material produced through stripping and topsoil stockpiled into windrows must not be placed adjacent to the forest area supporting *Nothofagus cunninghammii* (Myrtle).

Hazardous Substances

H1 Spill kits

Spill kits appropriate for the types and volumes of materials handled within the Activity Area must be kept in appropriate locations and maintained in a functional condition to assist with the containment of spilt environmentally hazardous materials.

H2 Hazardous materials (< 250 litres)

1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, each environmentally hazardous material, including chemicals, fuels and oils, stored within the Activity Area in discrete volumes not exceeding 250 litres, but not including discrete volumes of 25 litres or less, must be stored within bunded containment areas or spill trays which are designed and maintained to contain at least 110% of the volume of the largest container.

2 Bunded containment areas and spill trays must be made of materials that are impervious to any environmentally hazardous materials stored within the bund or spill tray.

H3 Handling of hazardous materials - mobile

1 Where mobile containment of environmentally hazardous materials is utilised for the fuelling or servicing of mobile or fixed plant within the Activity Area, all reasonable measures must be implemented to prevent unauthorised discharge, emission or deposition of pollutants:

1.1 to soils within the boundary of the Activity Area in a manner that is likely to cause serious or material environmental harm;

1.2 to groundwater;

1.3 to waterways; or

1.4 beyond the boundary of the Activity Area.

2 Reasonable measures may include spill kits, spill trays/bunds or absorbent pads, and automatic cut-offs on any pumping equipment.

Noise Control

N1 Operating hours

1 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Director, activities associated with the extraction of rock, gravel, sand, clay or minerals; heavy vehicles entering/leaving the Activity Area; loading of product; and crushing/screening, must not be undertaken outside the hours of 0700 hours to 1900 hours on weekdays and 0800 hours to 1600 hours on Saturdays.

2 Notwithstanding the above paragraph, activities must not be carried out on public holidays that are observed Statewide (Easter Tuesday excepted).

Operations

OP1 Weed and Disease Management Plan

1 Within 3 months of the date on which these conditions take effect, or by a date otherwise specified in writing by the Director, a Weed & Disease Management Plan must be submitted to the Director for approval. This requirement will be deemed to be satisfied only when the Director indicates in writing that the submitted document adequately addresses the requirements of this condition.

2 The plan must be consistent with the Weed and Disease Guidelines, or any subsequent revisions of that document.

3 Once approved the person responsible must act in accordance with the approved plan.

4 The person responsible may apply to the Director to vary or substitute the plan. Any variation or substitution of the plan approved by the Director, by notice in writing, replaces the earlier approval with affect from the date specified in the notice.

OP2 Machinery washdown

Prior to entering the Activity Area, machinery must be washed in accordance with the Weed and Disease Guidelines, or any subsequent revisions of that document.

OP3 Weed management

The Activity Area must be kept substantially free of weeds to minimise the risk of weeds being spread through the transport of products from the Activity Area.

Stormwater Management

SW1 Design and maintenance of settling ponds

1 Sediment settling ponds must be designed and maintained in accordance with the following requirements:

1.1 ponds must be designed to successfully mitigate reasonably foreseeable sediment loss which would result from a 1 in 20 year storm event;

1.2 discharge from ponds must occur via a stable spillway that is not subject to erosion;

1.3 all pond walls must be stable and treated with topsoil and vegetated or otherwise treated in such a manner as to prevent erosion; and

1.4 sediment settling ponds must be periodically cleaned out to ensure that the pond design capacity is maintained. Sediment removed during this cleaning must be securely deposited such that sediment will not be transported off the Activity Area by surface run-off.

SW2 Installation of settlement ponds

Settlement ponds designed in accordance with condition SW1 must be installed and operating effectively prior to the commencement of rehabilitation works in the rehabilitation area or the commencement of expansion works in the expansion area as defined by Figure 4 of the EER.

SW3 Stormwater

1 Polluted stormwater that will be discharged from the Activity Area must be collected and treated prior to discharge to the extent necessary to prevent serious or material environmental harm, or environmental nuisance.

2 Notwithstanding the above, all stormwater that is discharged from the Activity Area must not carry pollutants such as sediment, oil and grease in quantities or concentrations that are likely to degrade the visual quality of any receiving waters outside the Activity Area.

3 All reasonable measures must be implemented to ensure that solids entrained in stormwater are retained within the Activity Area. Such measures may include appropriately sized and maintained sediment settling ponds or detention basins.

Schedule 3: Information

Legal Obligations

LO1 EMPCA

The activity must be conducted in accordance with both the conditions in this document and the obligations of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) and subordinate regulations. The conditions of this document do not replicate legislated obligations; therefore, you should ensure you are aware of your obligations under EMPCA and subordinate regulations.

LO2 Storage and handling of dangerous goods, explosives and dangerous substances

1 The storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods, explosives and dangerous substances must comply with the requirements of relevant State Acts and any regulations thereunder, including:

1.1 *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* and subordinate regulations;

1.2 *Explosives Act 2012* and subordinate regulations; and

1.3 *Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2010* and subordinate regulations.

LO3 Aboriginal relics requirements

1 Aboriginal relics, objects, sites, places and human remains regardless of whether they are located on public or private land, are protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

2 Unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal heritage must be reported to Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on **1300 487 045** as soon as possible.

LO4 MRDA

Operations must be undertaken in accordance with a mining plan approved by the Director of Mines and a Mining Lease issued under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* (MRDA).

Other Information

OI1 Waste management hierarchy

1 Wastes should be managed in accordance with the following hierarchy of waste management:

1.1 waste should be minimised, that is, the generation of waste must be reduced to the maximum extent that is reasonable and practicable, having regard to best practice environmental management;

1.2 waste should be re-used or recycled to the maximum extent that is practicable; and

1.3 waste that cannot be re-used or recycled must be disposed of at a waste depot site or treatment facility that has been approved in writing by the relevant planning authority or the Director to receive such waste, or otherwise in a manner approved in writing by the Director.

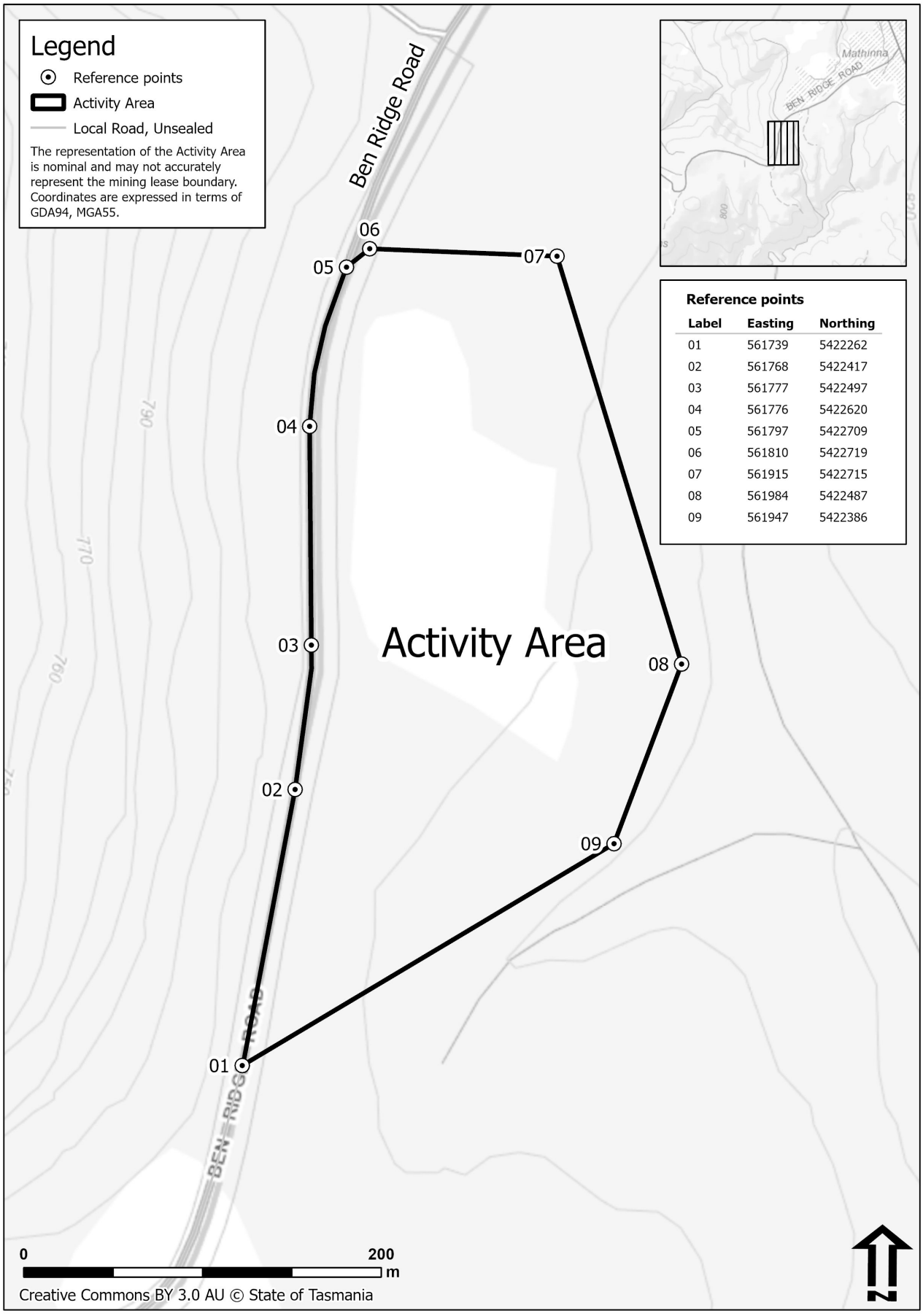
OI2 Notification of incidents under section 32 of EMPCA

Where a person is required by section 32 of EMPCA to notify the Director of the release of a pollutant, the Director can be notified by telephoning **1800 005 171** (a 24-hour emergency telephone number).

OI3 Release of Relevant Information

Under the provisions of section 23AA of EMPCA relevant information relating to monitoring of environmental impacts required under these conditions may be subject to publishing or public release by the Director.

Attachment 1: PCE 11690 - Ben Ridge Quarry Activity Area



Reference points

Label	Easting	Northing
01	561739	5422262
02	561768	5422417
03	561777	5422497
04	561776	5422620
05	561797	5422709
06	561810	5422719
07	561915	5422715
08	561984	5422487
09	561947	5422386

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY