

Date & Time: Thu, 14 Sep 2023 at 10:08:45 AEST
 Position: 55 S 561820 5422546 ($\pm 4.6m$)
 Altitude: 826m ($\pm 3.5m$)
 Datum: AUSTRALIAN GEOCENTRIC 1994 (GDA94)
 Azimuth/Bearing: 144° S36E 2560mils True ($\pm 12^\circ$)
 Elevation Angle: $+03.2^\circ$
 Horizon Angle: -00.2°
 Zoom: 1.0X



Ben Ridge Quarry- Notice of Intent

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Date: 2 October 2023

Issue	Date	Recipient	Organisation
Revision 0	26 September 2023	Mr Bernard Johnson	Dorset Council
Revision 1	2 October 2023		Environment Protection Authority



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1. APPLICANT / PROPONENT INFORMATION

Entity name	Dorset Council
ABN	68 027 137 155
Registered address	3 Ellenor Street SCOTTSDALE Tas 7260
Postal address	PO Box 21 SCOTTSDALE Tas 7260
Contact person	Bernard Johnson
Mobile	0417 107 323
Email	bjohnson@dorset.tas.gov.au

The proponent will also be the entity making application to the Dorset Council for a development permit.

2. SITE INFORMATION

Project name	Ben Ridge Quarry	
Mining lease	ML Number	4M/2017
	Lease Holder	Dorset Council
	Area	7 hectares
	Granted	16/07/2010
Property	Land tenure	South Esk Regional Reserve
	Property ID	0
	Land manager	Parks & Wildlife Service
Permitting	Dorset Council	Level 1 permit (held under existing use rights)
Regulatory limits	Extracted	5,000 cubic metres per annum
	Processed	1,000 cubic metres per annum
Area of disturbance	2.0 hectares (over the life of the quarry)	
Operating hours	Weekdays	7.00 am to 7.00 pm
	Saturdays	8.00 am to 4.00 pm
	Sundays and public holidays	No work

3. PROPONENT DETAILS

Background Dorset Council operates four quarries throughout the municipality (68/1987, 8M/1991, 1513PM and 4M/2017). These sites are strategically situated to provide essential materials for road construction and maintenance projects in close proximity to the works. Sourcing heavy construction materials close to the project saves money in cartage costs, saves greenhouse gas emissions in diesel exhaust from truck travelling longer distances and saves the existing road network infrastructure from excessive wear and tear.

4. PROJECT DETAILS

Background Ben Ridge Quarry (4M/2017) was originally a ‘forestry quarry’ established to provide road construction and maintenance materials to support forestry operations in the areas surrounding the quarry and in particular to construct Ben Ridge Road.

Dorset Council took over operation of the quarry in 2017 to win product to maintain council road infrastructure and other projects in the region.

Ben Ridge Quarry is a drilling and blasting quarry that is operated on a campaign style basis.

Proposal To produce road construction and maintenance material that meets specification, it is necessary to crush and screen the shot rock. A significant component of the overall cost to engage contract crushers and screeners is in the cost to mobilise the equipment. Engaging a contract crushing crew to process 1,000 cubic metres of rock is a waste of the Dorset Council Works Department funds.

Far better to engage a contract crusher crew to mobilise once to the site to run 10,000 cubic metres of product and store the product in stockpiles. The stockpiles can then be used to service construction and maintenance projects over a number of years. The mobilisation cost is then one tenth of the overhead across the entire product run.

Current permitting The current operation is permitted as a Level 1 activity. The quarry was established prior to the introduction of the current legislation and hence has a permit by virtue of ‘existing use rights’. The maximum annual capacity of a level 1 quarry is restricted to 5,000 cubic metres extracted of which 1,000 cubic metres can be processed by mechanical means.

New permit conditions sought The Proponent is seeking to increase the annual regulatory limits to:
10,000 cubic metres per year processed.
10,000 cubic metres per year extracted.

Operations The current intermittent style of operation will continue. No permanent infrastructure will be established at the site. A wheel loader will be mobilised to the site when a project is underway to load trucks for the cartage task.

The contract crushing crew will mobilise to the site every few years as the product stockpiles require replenishing.

5. LOCATION DETAILS AND MAPS

Proposal location Ben Ridge Quarry is located on Ben Ridge Road at Mathinna Plains. The quarry is approximately 7.5 kilometres south of Talawa.

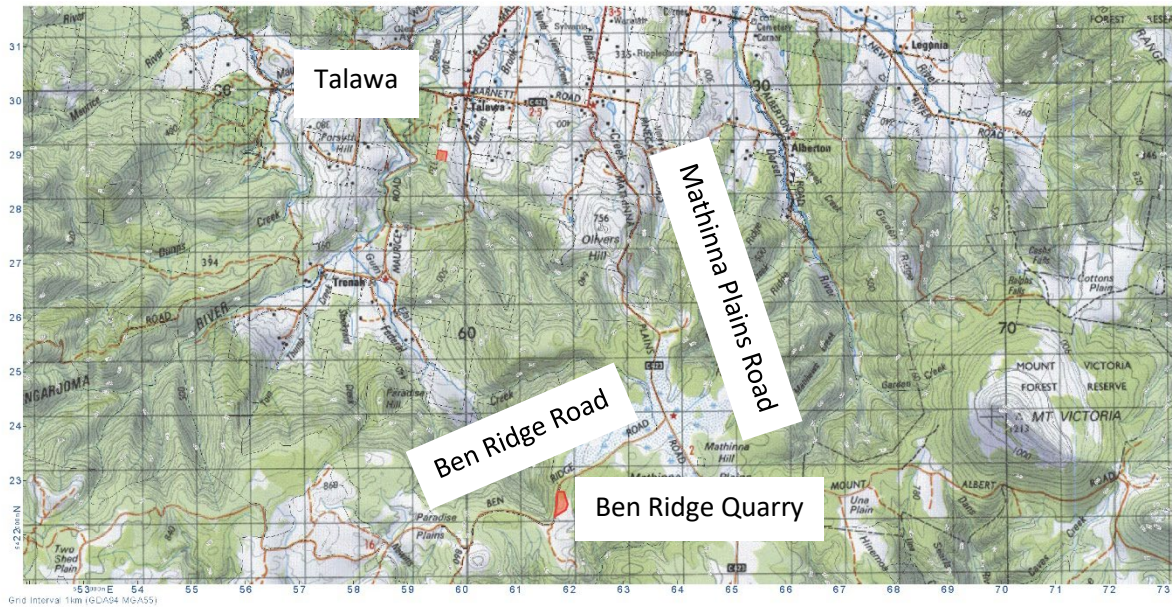


FIGURE 1: BEN RIDGE QUARRY SITE – LOCATION MAP (THE LIST 1:25K TOPOGRAPHIC)



FIGURE 2: BEN RIDGE QUARRY – DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EXTRACT THE LIST)

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Agencies	<p>The proponent received advice relating to permitting from the Dorset Council that a development application is required.</p> <p>Parks and Wildlife Service, as the land manager, will be asked to consider the proposal and sign the development application to acknowledge that the application is authorised.</p> <p>The proponent will submit a revised quarry development plan to Mineral Resources Tasmania for comment.</p> <p>This notice of intent is formally requesting the Environment Protection Authority to consider the proposal for assessment under the <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>The proposal will be advertised to the general public as required under the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>.</p>
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7. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Topography	<p>The quarry is situated on the edge of an elevated plateau encompassing Paradise Plains and Mathinna Plains. The site has a low slope towards the east with an elevation of approximately 825 metres (AHD¹) at the entrance and falling to 815 metres at the site discharge point on the south east corner.</p>
Geology	<p>Geological mapping shows the area of the mining lease described as Lone Star Siltstone which has been contact metamorphosed presumably by the underlying granite.</p> <p>The source rock is orange / yellow hard siltstone. When fired the rock fractures into relatively consistent cubic rectangular blocks around 150 to 200 mm nominal and smaller. Oversize is rare minimising the need to undertake secondary breaking.</p>
Soils	<p>The area is not covered by soil mapping. The soil exposed on old faces appears thin and stony. The surrounding vegetation is low <i>Acacia / Leptospermum</i> scrub with an occasional low <i>Eucalypt</i> indicating very thin soils, rocky outcrops, low nutrient levels and poor drainage.</p>
Vegetation	<p>TasVeg 4.0 maps the area that will be subjected to clearing as being <i>Acacia dealbata</i> forest and woodland (NAD). An area mapped as <i>Nothofagus – Leptospermum</i> short rainforest (RML) will not be affected and will remain adjacent to the progressive rehabilitation area.</p>

¹ AHD – Australian Height Datum for Tasmanian Mainland

8. KEY IMPACTS

Environmental Drill and blast techniques are used to extract rock from Ben Ridge Quarry. The shot rock is processed by contract mobile crushing / screening equipment. These activities will only occur infrequently but are normally associated with noise and dust emissions. Ben Ridge Quarry is remote from any sensitive uses. The nearest residence is over 3.9 kilometres away.

To rationalise the quarry arrangement an area of vegetated land protruding into the quarry footprint will be cleared. This area of clearing will be balanced by an area set aside for progressive rehabilitation.

The area of disturbance is currently not serviced by a sediment trap. Drainage on the site will be formalised to keep traffic areas clear and direct run-off to a new sediment trap.

Economic The Dorset Council have a capital and maintenance works program which includes regular maintenance of gravel roads throughout the municipality. Ben Ridge Quarry will continue to supply to the local projects. It is unlikely that extraction or production rates will change. The only change will be that following a blast the entire volume of shot rock will be processed in one campaign.

Social Dorset Council continues to identify efficiencies and savings in expenditure to benefit the ratepayers of the municipality. Reducing the overhead paid to supply road construction and maintenance materials from Ben Ridge Quarry is one such economic efficiency gain.

9. SURVEYS AND STUDIES

Ecological An area of the native *Acacia Dealbata* woodland will be cleared to facilitate the rationalisation of the quarry development plan. A search of the Natural Values Atlas reveals isolated records of threatened flora and fauna species in close proximity to the site. An ecological study will be undertaken as part of the information gathering for assessment documentation.

Noise Ben Ridge Quarry is remote from any sensitive receptors. A noise study is not considered necessary.

Air quality Ben Ridge Quarry is remote from any sensitive receptors. A dust study is not considered necessary.

Erosion and sediment control The site currently has only a dedicated drain to carry runoff water away from the workings. A site drainage and runoff management plan will include an appropriately designed sediment trap to treat site run off before it is discharged off site.

10. PROJECT TIMELINE

Period	October '23	January '24	March '24	May '24
Milestone	Prepare documents	EPA assessment	Council assessment	Permit

11. SECTION 27B(2)(K)

1)	It is unlikely that increasing the quantity of product run through a crusher in one campaign will impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance.
2)	The proposal will not be referred to the Commonwealth Government for a determination on whether approval is required under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
3)	Assessment under a Bilateral Agreement will not be required.
4)a)	The Dorset Council will require a single development permit application.
b)	The Dorset Council will require a single development permit application.
c)	The application will be made under Part 4 Division 2 of the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> (LUPA Act).
d)	The proposal site is contained wholly within the 23. Environmental Management Zone.
e)	The proposal is for an intensification of an existing Level 1 activity.
f)	Ben Ridge Quarry has a permit by virtue of existing use rights with Dorset Council but this proposal constitutes a 'substantial intensification' under Subsection 12 (7) of the LUPA Act.
5.	The proposal is not for an activity that requires an Environmental Licence under the <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i> .