

**Environmental
Assessment Report**

**Increased production
Lynchford Rock
Processing Facility**

Mount Jukes Road, Queenstown

Gaspersic Contracting Pty Ltd

June 2020



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Environmental Assessment Report

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| Proponent | Gaspersic Contracting Pty Ltd |
| Proposal | Increased production - Lynchford rock processing facility |
| Location | 1.5km south of Lynchford, Mount Jukes Road, Queenstown |
| NELMS no. | PCE No. 10368 |
| Permit Application No. | DA 2020 / 00022 (West Coast Council) |
| Electronic Folder No. | EN-EM-EV-DE-259944 |
| Document No. | M666170 |
| Class of Assessment | 2A |

Assessment Process Milestones

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| 23 January 2020 | Notice of Intent lodged |
| 5 February 2020 | Class of Assessment determined |
| 14 February 2020 | Guidelines Issued |
| 13 May 2020 | Permit Application submitted to Council |
| 14 May 2020 | Application/Referral received by the Board |
| 23 May 2020 | Start of public consultation period |
| 9 June 2020 | End of public consultation period |
| 25 June 2020 | Date draft conditions issued to proponent |
| 15 July 2020 | Statutory period for assessment ends |

Acronyms

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| Board | Board of the Environment Protection Authority |
| EER | Environmental Effects Report |
| DPIPWE | Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment |
| DRP | Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan |
| EIA | Environmental impact assessment |
| EL | Environmental licence |
| EMPC Act | <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i> |
| EMPCS | Environmental management and pollution control system |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i> |
| ICV | Integrated Conservation Value |
| LUPA Act | <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> |
| QCP | <i>Quarry Code of Practice, May 2017</i> |
| RMPS | Resource management and planning system |
| SD | Sustainable development |

Report Summary

This report provides an environmental assessment of a proposal by Gaspersic Contracting Pty Ltd to increase production at its existing rock processing facility, at Lynchford.

It is proposed to increase production to 20,000 cubic metres of rock and gravel per annum from the existing approved limit of 1,000 cubic metres per annum. The facility receives material from other sources and the proposal does not include onsite extraction.

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

Further details of the assessment process are presented in section 1 of this report. Section 2 describes the statutory objectives and principles underpinning the assessment. Details of the proposal are provided in section 3. Section 4 reviews the need for the proposal and considers the alternatives. Section 5 summarises the public and agency consultation process and the key issues raised in that process. The detailed evaluation of environmental issues is contained in section 6. The report conclusions are contained in section 7.

Appendix 1 contains details of matters raised by the public and referral agencies during the consultation process. Appendix 2 contains a list of management measures proposed by the proponent. Appendix 3 contains the environmental permit conditions for the proposal.

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I Approval Process

A Notice of Intent in relation to the proposal was received by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board) on 23 January 2020.

An application for a permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPA Act) in relation to the proposal was submitted to West Coast Council and became valid on 13 May 2020.

The proposal is defined as a 'level 2 activity' under clause 6(a)(ii), schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act), being processing by crushing, milling or grinding of rock, ores and minerals at a rate in excess of 1,000 cubic metres per year.

Section 25(1) of the EMPC Act 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 14 May 2020.

The assessment has been undertaken by the Director, Environment Protection Authority under delegation from the Board.

The Board required that information to support the proposal be provided in the form of an Environmental Effects Report (EER) prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the Board on 14 February 2020.

A draft of the EER was submitted to EPA Tasmania for review against the guidelines before it was finalised. The final EER was submitted to Council with the permit application. The EER was released for public inspection for 14 days commencing on 23 May 2020. An advertisement was placed in *The Advocate* and on the EPA website. The EER was also referred to relevant government agencies for comment. No representations were received.

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 in the context of the objectives of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control System (EMPCS) (both sets of objectives are specified in Schedule 1 the EMPC Act). The functions of the Board are to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act, and in particular 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 the EMPC Act.

The assessment has been undertaken by the Director, Environment Protection Authority under delegation from the Board.

3 The Proposal

The proposal is to increase production of rock and gravel at the existing rock processing facility to a maximum loose bulk quantity of 20,000 cubic metres per year. The facility processes rock by crushing, screening and blending, and is currently operating under an existing use right for a Level 1 activity, which allows a maximum production of 1,000 cubic metres per year. No extraction occurs at the site, with materials being received from elsewhere in the form of quarried rock. The site is not subject to a mining lease, and the activity does not require one. No additional clearing or disturbance is proposed. Product is transported from the facility to be used elsewhere.

The main characteristics of the proposal are summarised in Table 1. A detailed description of the proposal is provided in Part B of the EER.

Table 1: Summary of the proposal’s main characteristics (from Part B-1 of EER)

| Proposed activity | |
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| Intensification of existing activity | The proposal is to increase production at an existing facility. |
| Material to be processed | The Lynchford rock processing facility will accept quarried rock and gravel from two sources. Shot rock will be sourced from the North Lyell Quarry (metamorphic source rock - quartzite) and Heemskirk Quarry (igneous source rock - dolerite). No rock will be extracted from the Lynchford site. |
| Maximum processing quantity | Maximum annual production will be 20,000 cubic metres (32,000 tonnes) of crushed, screened and blended quarry products delivered off site. The site will not have seasonal limitations and production will remain constant throughout the year. However, there will be seasonal need for use of the product, which will affect transport. |
| Material processing | Quarried rock will be delivered to the site from the source locations and stockpiled for a short time. Rock will be fed into the crusher circuit and different blends and sizes stockpiled onsite to service different markets. Product lines include clean aggregates for concrete and road sealing, blended gravels for pavement and shoulder applications. |
| Transport | Products will be loaded from stockpiles onto trucks for delivery to market and project locations. The cartage effort will most likely be completed with truck and trailer combinations with a conservative payload of 30 tonnes. Trucks delivering products to the processing facility will be likely backloaded with processed product out. The maximum annual production will require 1,070 loads or 2,140 truck movements. Up to 30 movements per day may be required to service particular contracts. The operator will predominantly conduct cartage operations in daylight hours. |
| Stockpiling | Processed product will be stockpiled on site and stockpiles will be depleted during each cartage campaign. |
| Area of disturbance | The disturbed area of the Lynchford rock processing site will remain unchanged from the existing operation at 4.0 hectares. |
| Major equipment | Mobile screen, excavator, primary crusher, secondary crusher, deck screen, wheel loaders, bobcat. |

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| Infrastructure | <p>The following infrastructure is in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrance junction on Mount Jukes Road and entrance road to processing area. • Internal roadways and hard stand areas for vehicle manoeuvring, processing equipment and stockpiles. • Exit junction with Mount Jukes Road and access road. • Weighbridge and weighbridge office. • Amenities block for employees. • Machinery shed with servicing bay. |
| Water inputs | <p>Water is used to apply a final rinse to the clean aggregate. Two offsite water sources are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small dam on the same parcel but off lease supplies a small quantity via gravity. • An offsite pump delivers water from the storage reservoir on the limestone quarry across the Queen River. <p>Both source supply to a small storage reservoir located alongside the mobile screener. The combined water input is 5,000 litres per minute.</p> |
| Proposal timeline | <p>The Lynchford rock processing facility will continue to operate at the current level until such time as a new permit is issued after which annual production will increase to a maximum of 20,000 cubic metres per annum.</p> |
| Operating hours | <p>Weekdays and Saturday – 6.00 am to 6.00 pm</p> |
| Location and planning context | |
| Location | <p>1.5 kilometres south of Lynchford. Eastern side of Mount Jukes Road, Queenstown. No certificate of title or street address.</p> |
| Definition of The Land | <p>The land is defined by a lease agreement with Crown Lands referring to an area previously used as a Hydro Electric Commission camp. The site is defined for the purposes of this assessment and any resulting permit by a boundary shown on the site plan and coordinates.</p> |
| Land zoning | <p>Rural Resource (<i>West Coast Interim Planning Scheme 2013</i>)</p> |
| Land tenure | <p>Crown land</p> |

| Existing site and surrounds | |
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| Land use | <p>Land parcel: Crown land under private lease agreement, used solely for the rock processing facility. The facility has been at this location for several years.</p> <p>The site was previously a Hydro Electric Commission (HEC) village. The ground surface had been improved by localised levelling and filling to suit HEC residential infrastructure including roads, footpaths and building slabs.</p> <p>Surrounding land (predominantly densely forested):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern boundary, Crown land under lease by West Coast Council for a waste transfer station. • Southern eastern boundary, Crown Land not under lease. • West boundary, Mount Jukes Road, previously managed by HEC now by West Coast Council. • 300 m southwest, a sawmill • 500m west, across Mount Jukes Road – Lynchford Limestone Quarry (Level 2 activity) <p>The nearest residence is located 1.3km to the north of the facility.</p> |
| Topography | <p>The Lynchford rock processing facility is located on a river flat associated with the Queen River at an elevation of approximately 10 metres above normal river level. The land has an elevation of between 75 and 80 metres AHD, sloping gently towards the west and the river. On the east boundary the land rises steeply to 200 metres AHD.</p> <p>The land is located within a river gully which is generally orientated north-south. The convergence of Queen River and Princess Creek is located adjacent to the site and on the western side of Mount Jukes Road.</p> |
| Climate | <p>Mean annual rainfall: 1,562 mm</p> <p>Mean max.-min. temperature: February 21.2 – 10.8 °C</p> <p>Mean max.-min. temperature: July 12.3 – 5.3 °C</p> <p>Predominant wind speed – direction am: 20-30 km/hr - 20% – N</p> <p>Predominant wind speed – direction pm: 20-30 km/hr – 20% - W</p> |
| Geology and Geomorphology | <p>The geology underlying the site is described as Western Volcano-Sedimentary Sequence and correlate further described as Rhyolite lava, typically quartz feldspar-phyric, with rare feldspar-phyric dacitic lava. Sites mapped as Western Tasmania Blanket Bogs, are located over 2 kilometres away to the east and west in separate gullies. The King River gorge is listed as a notable example of a deeply entrenched river gorge on the Henty Surface. This feature is located 2 kilometres to the east and south.</p> |
| Soils | <p>It is unlikely any natural soils remain based on the previous levelling and filling activities.</p> |
| Hydrology | <p>The site is located on the opposite side of the Mount Jukes Road from the Queen River. The Queen River has an Integrated Conservation Value (ICV) of Low on this reach and all reaches downstream except the last reach before the convergence with the King River which is mapped as having an ICV of High.</p> |

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| <p>Natural Values</p> | <p>The site is mapped as mainly Extra-urban miscellaneous (TASVEG code: FUM). A small area on the extreme southern boundary is mapped as Western regrowth complex (TASVEG code: SWR).</p> <p>The vegetation outside the site boundary on the eastern side is mapped as <i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> – <i>Acacia mucronata</i> forest (TASVEG code: NLA). The riparian vegetation alongside the Queen River is mapped as <i>Lagarostrobos franklinii</i> rainforest and scrub (TASVEG code: RHP).</p> <p>There are no records of threatened flora or fauna species within 500 metres of the site. Within 5,000 metres, there is one threatened flora species and several threatened fauna species.</p> |
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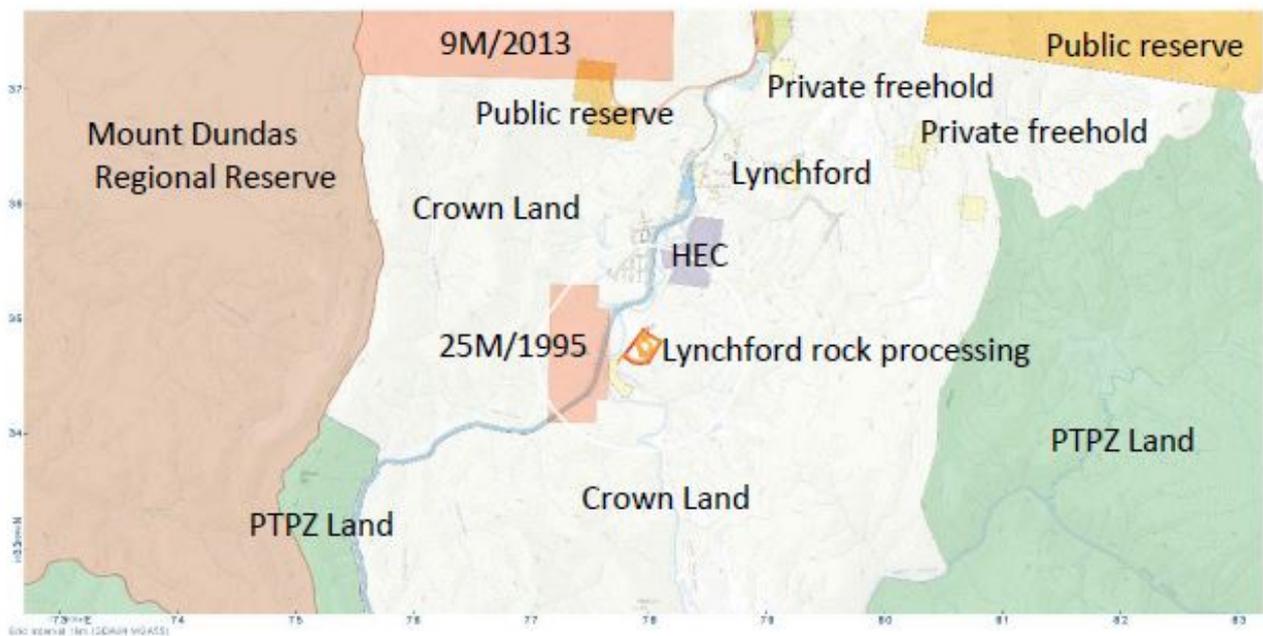


Figure 1: Locality plan of Lynchford rock processing facility (Figure 3 of EER).

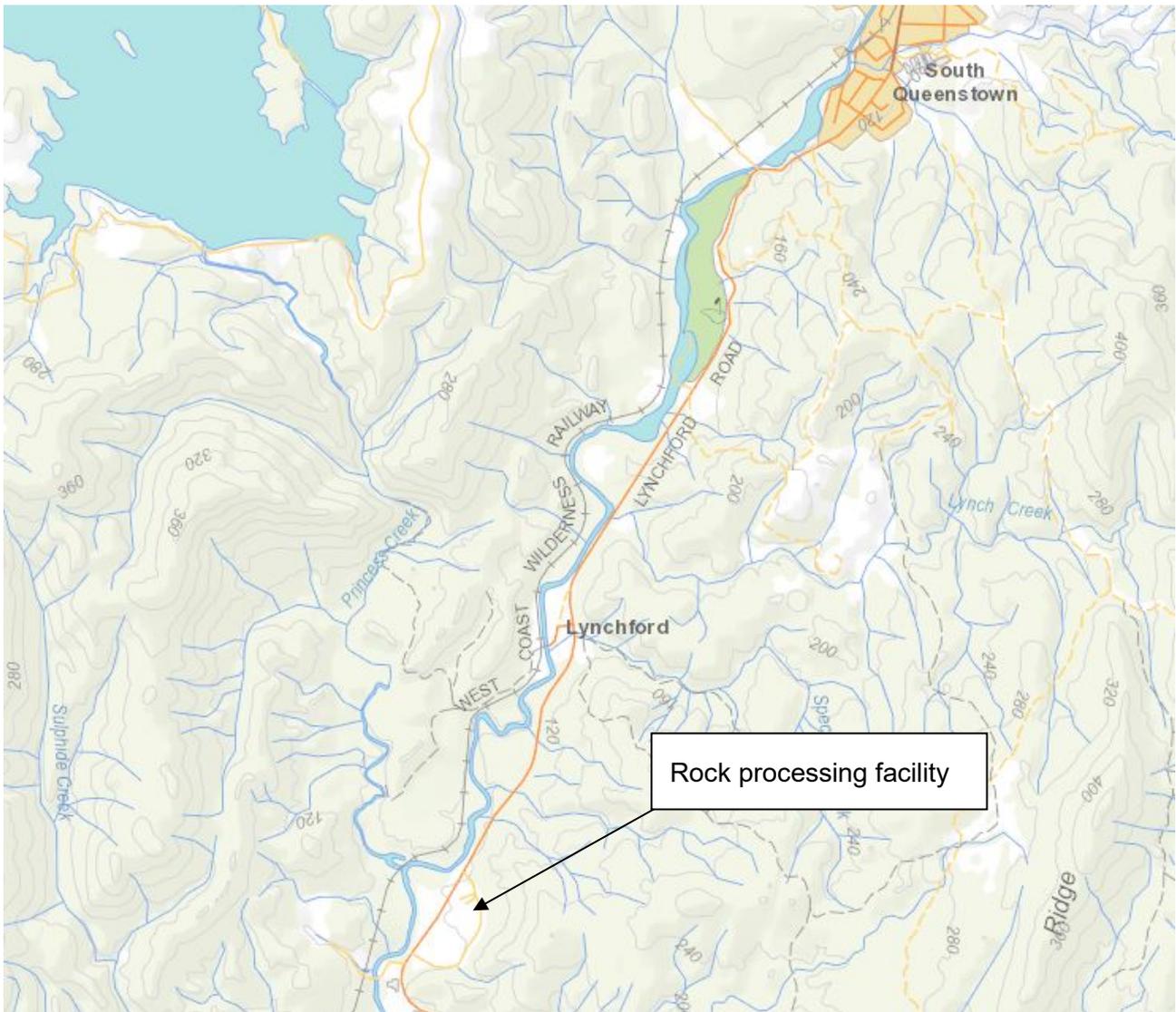


Figure 2: Locality plan showing Lynchford rock processing facility in relation to Queenstown (LISTmap).

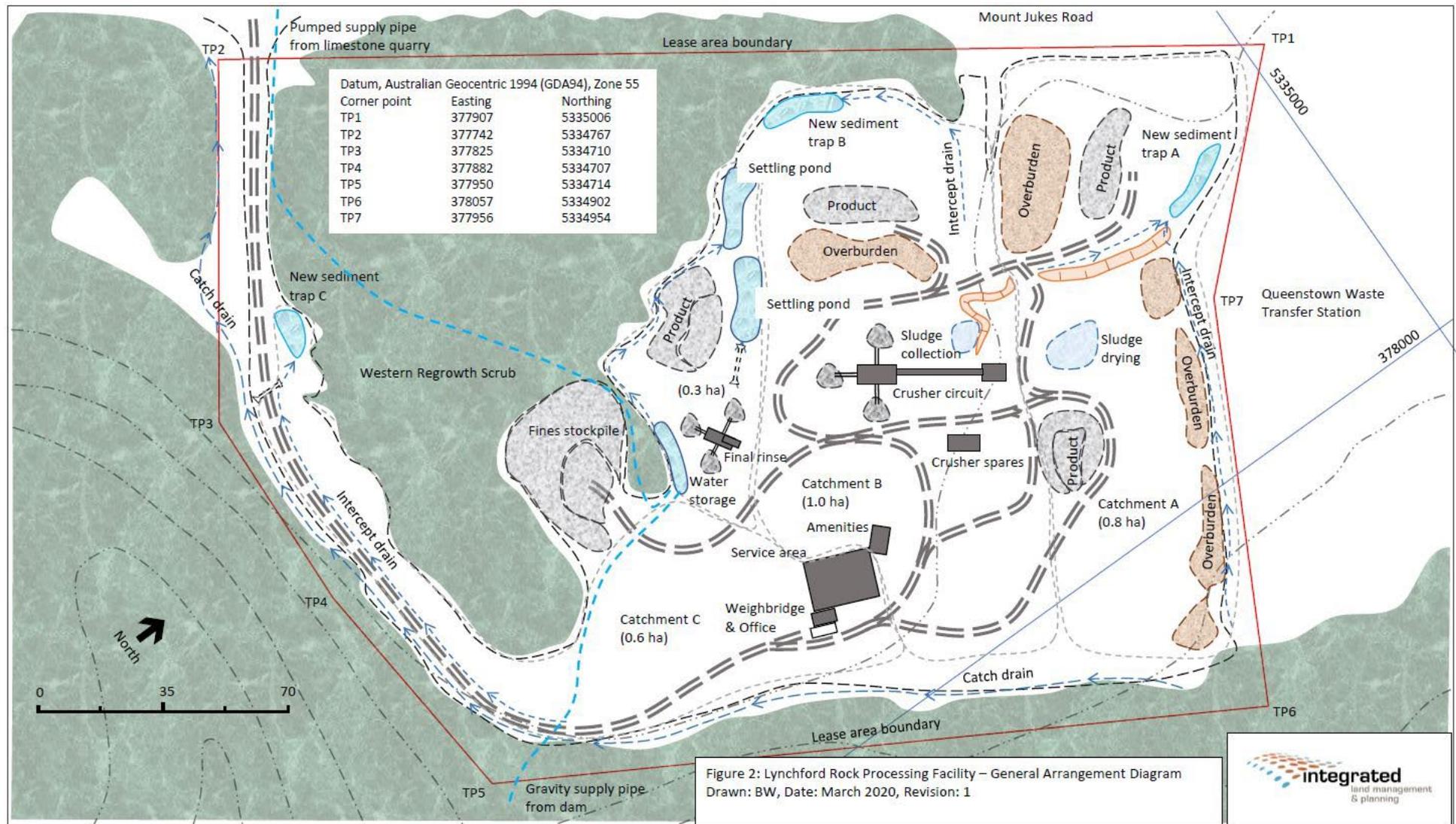


Figure 3: Site layout plan of Lynchford rock processing facility (Figure 2 of EER).

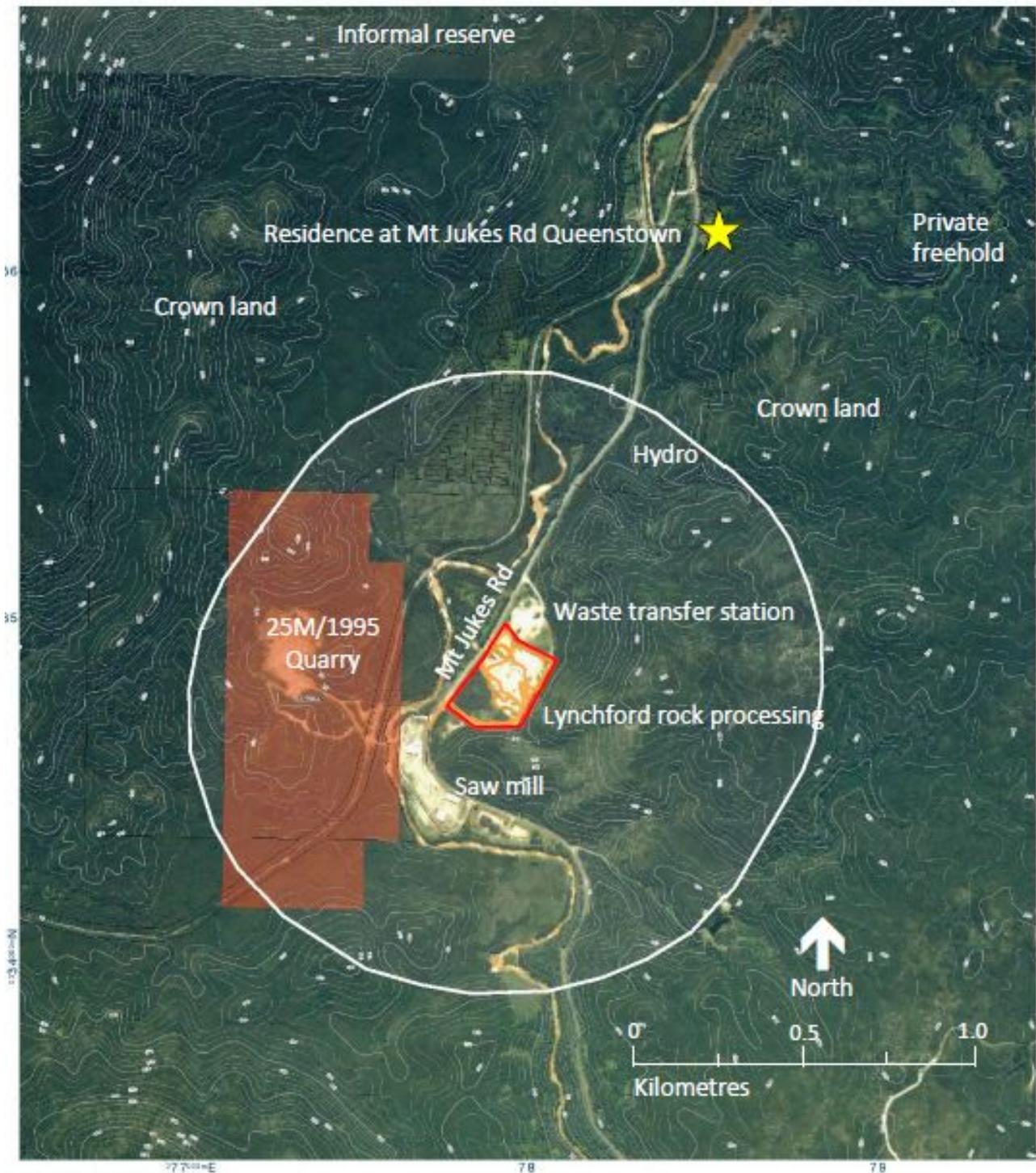


Figure 4: Plan showing location of nearest residence to the Lynchford rock processing facility at 1.3km. The white circle indicates the 750 metre buffer from the facility (Figure 1 of EER).

4 Need for the Proposal and Alternatives

The Lynchford rock processing facility has operated on the current site for many years and is fitted out with specific equipment for the purpose. It is used to process hard rock into road sealing aggregates from two quarries. The Lynchford crusher circuit has a variety of crushers which can be manipulated to exercise a high level of control. Tight controls on the particle size and shape is necessary to meet Tasmanian Government specification standards for sealing aggregates applied to the State's highways where high skid resistance is required. One of the rock types processed through the Lynchford site is one of a handful in the state that meet the specification for high skid resistance and must be processed to a consistent and high standard.

5 Public and Agency Consultation

A summary of the government agency/body submissions is contained in Appendix I of this report.

No public representations were received.

The EER was referred to government agencies/bodies with an interest in the proposal. No submissions were received other than agencies confirming they had no comment to make.

The following Divisions/areas of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) also provided advice on the EER:

- Regulatory officer, EPA Tasmania
- Noise specialist, EPA Tasmania
- Air specialist, EPA Tasmania
- Water specialist, EPA Tasmania
- Conservation Assessment Section, DPIPWE

6 Evaluation of Environmental Issues

EPA Tasmania has evaluated environmental issues considered relevant to the proposal. Details of this evaluation, along with the permit conditions required by the Director, are discussed below.

The following issues are discussed:

1. Surface water quality
2. Noise
3. Air emissions
4. Natural values
5. Waste and hazardous substances
6. Decommissioning and rehabilitation

General conditions

The following general conditions will be imposed on the activity:

Q1 Regulatory limits

G1 Access to and awareness of conditions and associated documents

G2 Incident response

G3 No changes without approval

G4 Change of responsibility

G5 Change of ownership

G6 Complaints register

G7 Quarry Code of Practice

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| Issue 1: Surface water quality |
| Description of potential impacts |
| <p>High rainfall events can cause erosion of exposed areas, leading to pollution from sediment and other water borne contaminants. Rinse water is used within the site to clean aggregate, taken from a small internal reservoir supplied by two existing dams, one nearby and the other at the limestone quarry on the other side of the Queen River. In addition, the facility has potential to cause contamination of surface water from pollutants such as oils.</p> |
| Management measures proposed in EER |
| <p>The EER states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean stormwater is diverted around the site by a substantial diversion drain which discharges to a drainage culvert along the access road; • all stormwater and process water which interacts with the facility footprint is currently diverted into two existing smaller settling ponds and informal sediment retention areas; • additional sediment control swale drains and sediment retention ponds, and enlargement of existing settling ponds, are proposed to ensure adequate trapping and treating of sediment-laden material within the site (as per Figure 2). The size of these has been calculated by the proponent based on catchment size, estimated water use on site, and to cater for 1 in 20 year rain events. It is proposed to clean out these structures once per year, if needed. |
| Public and agency comment |
| <p>None received.</p> |
| Evaluation |
| <p>In managing any quarry, the expected outcome of water quality measures is that water leaving the Land does not contain visible sediment or other pollutants. The proposal does not result in an increase in the existing disturbed area, and the substrate is not considered highly erodible, being largely disturbed and compacted into hardstand. However, the EER identifies that the existing sediment management structures on the site are not sufficient to adequately manage runoff. The proposed additional and improved sediment capture structures are supported.</p> <p>Condition SW1 requires the construction and maintenance of drains or bunds to prevent surface run-off from entering the area used by the activity.</p> <p>Condition SW2 requires management of any water-borne pollutants to ensure they are not discharged from the land. To do this, installation and maintenance of additional and larger sediment ponds is necessary. Condition SW3 specifies minimum size, structure and maintenance requirements, which current ponds do not meet, resulting in the need to construct additional ponds as proposed.</p> |
| Conclusion |
| <p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p> <p>SW1 Perimeter drains or bunds</p> |

SW2 Stormwater

SW3 Design and maintenance of settling ponds

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| Issue 2: Noise |
| Description of potential impacts |
| <p>During operation of the facility, noise is generated by heavy equipment and vehicles including screens, crushers, excavator, wheel loader and bobcat. Noise has the potential to cause an environmental nuisance for sensitive receptors such as residences.</p> <p>The nearest residence is located 1.3km north of the facility.</p> |
| Management measures proposed in EER |
| <p>The EER reports that no complaints have been received regarding the existing activity, including for noise. It does not propose any additional mitigation or management measures for this issue.</p> |
| Public and agency comment |
| <p>None received.</p> |
| Evaluation |
| <p>The Quarry Code of Practice (QCP) recommends a minimum separation distance of 750 metres between crushing activities and sensitive receptors. The nearest residence to the quarry is well outside this distance.</p> <p>There is also an historic subdivision for residential sized lots 330 metres to the north of the facility. The subdivision appears to have been designed around the West Coast Wilderness Railway Line, being primarily on the opposite side of the railway from Mount Jukes Road. The titles are currently covered in dense forest, and have all been zoned Rural Resource, indicating that West Coast Council does not anticipate that they will be used for residential purposes. In addition, the majority are still owned by the Crown, with the nearest title in private tenure being more than 1km north of the rock processing facility.</p> <p>The Council's Planning and Regulatory Services Co-Ordinator has confirmed in correspondence with EPA Tasmania that the mapping of the subdivision is very old and does not appear likely to be developed. Therefore, the subdivision does not appear to warrant consideration as sites for potential future sensitive receptors.</p> <p>It is noted that the proposed operational hours of 6am-6pm Monday-Saturday are outside those recommended in the QCP, seeking a one hour earlier start on weekdays, and two additional hours at the start and end of the day on Saturdays. Given that the nearest existing residence is well outside the recommended 750 metre buffer distance for crushing activities under the QCP, it is considered unlikely that increased operation of the facility will result in any nuisance for residents. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to impose a noise limit on the activity for sensitive receivers.</p> <p>Some residents near Mount Jukes Road have the potential to be affected by heavy vehicle noise. The nearest dwelling is about 40 metres from the road, 1.3km north of the site. However, traffic noise generated by the proposal is not considered likely to cause an environmental nuisance. The activity has been operating for some time, the road is already used by heavy vehicles for other industrial activities, such as the quarry and waste transfer station, and the majority of trucking movements will be undertaken during daylight hours.</p> <p>Condition OPI prescribes approved operational hours.</p> |

Conclusion

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

OPI Operating hours

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| Issue 3: Air emissions |
| Description of potential impacts |
| The rock processing facility is likely to generate dust in dry weather conditions at each stage of the mechanical process. Dust may cause a nuisance to users of nearby properties, or users of nearby roads. The nearest residence is approximately 1.3km to the north. |
| Management measures proposed in EER |
| The EER states that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop distances from tails of conveyors and when loading trucks will be kept as low as possible. • All traffic on the site will be restricted to a speed limit of 20 kilometres / hour. • Loads in truck trays will either be lower than the sides of the tray, will use a water spray to dampen the surface, or will have covers fitted. • On dry and windy days, a water cart will wet down all trafficked surfaces and stockpiles to suppress dust emissions. |
| Public and agency comment |
| None received relevant to this issue. |
| Evaluation |
| The risk of environmental nuisance is considered relatively low, as the site is in a remote and relatively industrial setting, with a waste transfer station on the northern side and sawmill to the southwest, with the nearest sensitive receptor 1.3 km to the north. In addition, the area has a high average rainfall, and prevailing winds tend to be northerly, blowing any dust to the south. The proposed mitigation measures are supported and considered adequate to control dust nuisance. It is noted that product taken offsite is generally washed beforehand and likely to be low in dust, making truck covers less necessary than for a normal quarry activity. Condition A1 requires that dust emissions from the Land be controlled to the extent necessary to prevent environmental nuisance beyond the boundary of The Land. Condition A2 requires that vehicles containing loads which may blow or spill, must be covered or otherwise controlled to prevent escape of materials. This condition allows for use of sprays instead of covers where appropriate. |
| Conclusion |
| The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions: <p>A1 Control of dust emissions</p> <p>A2 Covering of vehicles</p> |

Issue 4: Natural Values, including weeds and pathogens

Description of potential impacts

The activity site is within a highly forested area on the west coast, much of which has not been surveyed for natural values.

The proposal does not include any clearing beyond the existing disturbed footprint, which has been in place for some time. Available aerial imagery indicates there has been no clearing since at least 2012.

Vehicle movement on roads and access ways approaching the site may result in roadkill, particularly at dusk or at night.

Several listed weeds, including some targeted for eradication, have been recorded within 500 metres of the site. Rock processing, including vehicle movement, has the potential to spread weeds and pathogens to, from and within the site. No pathogens are known to be present on the site.

Management measures proposed in EER

The EER states that:

- no further vegetation clearing is proposed;
- the proposed increase in production will result in additional truck movements, although these will be primarily during October-March, when daylight hours are longer, so there will not necessarily be substantial additional truck movements at night;
- some other vehicle movements will be during non-daylight hours in winter; there is an existing speed limit of 60 km/h on Mount Jukes Road outside the site entrance, and 20km/h within the site;
- the proponent will continue to undertake annual weed control, with Zone A weeds such as pampas targeted for eradication;
- the sites from which source rock are imported have been certified as weed free and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* free;
- source quarries should be rechecked and recertified when current certification expires.

Public and agency comment

The Conservation Assessment Section (CAS) of DPIPWE made the following comments:

- it accepts the assessment by NorthBarker that there is no line of site from the quarry to the area mapped as having a moderate potential of supporting wedge-tailed eagle nesting habitat, and therefore there is no need to survey the area for nests.
- if the proposal will generate an increase of night-time traffic on Mount Jukes Road of more than 10%, this is considered significant in regard to likely impacts on the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*), in which case it is recommended that roadkill mitigation measures be implemented in accordance with the Tasmanian Devil Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals (the Devil Guidelines).
- there are several declared weeds under the *Weed Management Act 1999* (the Act) recorded within 500 metres of the proposed development, and a number of other declared weeds are recorded within 5km of the proposed development. As there will be cartage of material to and from other sites, there is a risk of spreading weeds or

diseases. It is important that good hygiene practices are put in place to minimise the risk of weeds and/or diseases being introduced to the property.

Evaluation

As no vegetation clearing is proposed, it is considered that the proposal will not impact on the habitat of any threatened flora or fauna species. **Condition FF1** specifies that no additional native vegetation clearing is permitted.

Although there are no known raptor nests within 1km of the site, habitat mapping on LISTmap indicates some low-moderate potential wedge-tailed eagle nesting habitat approximately 1.5km to the west. However, as the activity has been operational onsite for a very long time, an increase in production is considered unlikely to disturb breeding of eagles.

The EER states that the proposal will result in 2,140 heavy vehicle movements for product haulage to and from the site per annum, equating to an average approximately 48 movements per week or 8 per day (sometimes up to 30 per day in peak periods). The proposal seeks to increase the approved production limit from 1,000 cubic metres per annum to 20,000 cubic metres per annum, indicating that vehicle movements are likely to increase 20 fold from the approved level. However, the vast majority of these movements will be during longer daylight hours in spring and summer, when demand for product for the purpose of road sealing is substantially higher. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that night-time traffic will increase by more than 10% as a result of the proposal, and so the risk of road-kill is unlikely to substantially increase.

Weeds on the site need to be rigorously controlled to ensure there is no spread elsewhere. In addition, although rock sources are monitored, trucks may be entering the site from other places with weed infestations. **Condition FF2** requires that the Land be kept substantially free of weeds and **condition FF3** requires that machinery be washed down prior to entering the Land, in accordance with the *Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines* (DPIPWE, 2015).

Conclusion

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

- FF1** No additional vegetation clearing
- FF2** Weed management
- FF3** Machinery washdown

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| <p>Issue 5: Waste and hazardous substances</p> |
| <p>Description of potential impacts</p> |
| <p>Some types of source rock could be potentially acid forming when oxidised, creating a source of contamination of water and land.</p> <p>There is a risk of hydrocarbon spill where oil or fuel is used or stored onsite. Spillage of any oil or fuel has the potential to result in contamination of soil and water if not adequately contained.</p> <p>Packaging and other materials brought onto the site may result in litter or waterway contamination.</p> |
| <p>Management measures proposed in EER</p> |
| <p>The EER states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The source rock processed onsite is quartzite sourced from North Lyell quarry and dolerite sourced from Heemskirk quarry, neither of which have any history of pyritic inclusions and therefore are not considered to have any potential to be acid forming; • In any case, both quarries are subject to independent source rock assessments every two years for the purpose of ensuring appropriate supply for road sealing; • Fuel will be stored onsite in small amounts for the purpose of refuelling machinery; • A 20,000 litre tank is also located onsite which is used by clients of the facility to store pre-coating fluid; the tank is bunded to retain 110% of the tank's capacity; • Lubricants for the purpose of equipment maintenance are stored onsite on a bunded pallet in a secure container; • Waste oil and hydrocarbon fluid are retained in a fully bunded receptacle onsite; • A hydrocarbon spill kit will be kept onsite; • Waste oil and hydrocarbon fluid are collected by a waste oil contractor for disposal at an appropriate location; • The crushing process produces fines which are stored in stockpiles on site until subsequently used for bedding or select filling applications; • Any packaging brought onsite along with spares and redundant parts or litter associated with worker's lunches will be kept in sealed receptacles and disposed of to the appropriate stream of the waste transfer station next door; • The staff crib room and amenities building are connected to the original, fully functioning septic system that was utilised for the HEC camp amenities; • Any packaging suitable for recycling will be delivered into the appropriate recycling stream at the waste transfer station next door; • Redundant equipment will be retained onsite and cannibalised where possible to provide spares for maintenance and breakdowns. Equipment with no reuse potential will be broken down into various constituent materials and directed into the appropriate recycling stream. |
| <p>Public and agency comment</p> |
| <p>None received relevant to this issue.</p> |
| <p>Evaluation</p> |
| <p>There is a low risk of potentially acid forming material entering the facility rock source supply given the auditing and regulatory regime in place.</p> |

The proposed management measures are adequate to ensure that waste is either treated on site, reused, or collected from the site and appropriately disposed of, in accordance with the QCP. There are unlikely to be any impacts on the environment from hazardous substances, provided that the management measures in the EER are implemented. Permit conditions **H1** and **H2** are necessary in order to ensure compliance with the QCP in regard to mobile and non-mobile storage of chemicals and fuel.

Conclusion

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

- H1** Storage and handling of hazardous materials
- H2** Handling of hazardous materials - mobile

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| Issue 6: Decommissioning and rehabilitation |
| Description of potential impacts |
| Should the rock facility cease production or reduce its footprint, rehabilitation is necessary to ensure long term stability of the site, prevent sedimentation and erosion, protect native flora and fauna habitat, and minimise the potential for establishment of invasive flora species. |
| Management measures proposed in EER |
| <p>The EER states that there are no current plans to cease operation of the facility, but that if the operation were to be closed, the goal for rehabilitation will be to make the site suitable for another industrial use, rather than move to full vegetative rehabilitation. Steps would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment will be demobilised and footings and foundations broken up and removed with the resulting excavations filled and compacted with gravel from stockpiles. • The new surface will be contoured to produce hard stand benches with trafficable accesses between and without blind depressions that can potentially flood. • The sediment traps will remain in place but be cleaned out and the silt won will be used in the filling works. The catch drain on the upslope side of the site will be cleared and maintained. The sediment traps will continue to provide detention to runoff until the hard surfaces are stable. • During the rehabilitation phase the proponent will utilise weed treatment contractors to ensure any colonising weeds are controlled until the site is handed over to the land manager. |
| Public and agency comment |
| None received relevant to this issue. |
| Evaluation |
| <p>Although the QCP advocates progressive rehabilitation for extractive industry sites, this requirement is not warranted for the proposed activity as the entire site is used for rock processing, and there is no further clearing or extraction taking place.</p> <p>The proponent is proposing that, as the site has been used for industrial purposes for a long time, and has a site office with amenities, it would be appropriate to rehabilitate the site to a standard appropriate for use by another industrial activity, rather than aiming for full rehabilitation.</p> <p>The site is near a town, and has indeed been used for a long time, but remains surrounded by thick, relatively intact native vegetation.</p> <p>There is capacity to rehabilitate the site to native vegetation. However, whether it is appropriate to do so will depend whether at the time of closure it appears likely that another industrial activity will seek to use the site.</p> <p>Conditions DC1 and DC2 stipulate notification of the Director if there is temporary or permanent cessation of the activity.</p> <p>Conditions DC3 and DC4 require preparation of a Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan (DRP) in the case of permanent or long-term cessation, and that rehabilitation must be undertaken. The DRP will provide an opportunity for the proponent to provide justification</p> |

whether revegetation is required.

Conclusion

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

- DC1** Temporary suspension of activity
- DC2** Notification of cessation
- DC3** Rehabilitation following cessation
- DC4** DRP requirements

7 Report Conclusions

This assessment has been based on the information provided by the proponent, Gaspersic Contracting Pty Ltd, in the permit application and the case for assessment (the EER).

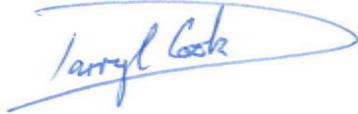
This report incorporates specialist advice provided by EPA Tasmania scientific specialists and regulatory staff, other Divisions of DPIPWE and other government agencies.

It is concluded that:

1. the RMPS and EMPCS objectives have been duly and properly pursued in the assessment of the proposal;
2. the assessment of the proposed activity has been undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Principles; and
3. the proposed activity is capable of being managed in an environmentally acceptable manner such that it is unlikely that the objectives of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (the RMPS and EMPCS objectives) would be compromised, provided that the Permit Conditions - Environmental No. 10368 appended to this report are imposed and duly complied with.

8 Report Approval

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



Darryl Cook

A/DEPUTY DIRECTOR, EPA TASMANIA

Acting under delegation from the Board of the Environment Protection Authority

Date: 8th July 2020

9 References

Barry Williams; *Rock Processing Facility – Lynchford – Environmental Effects Report* (dated 24 March 2020), Integrated Land Management and Planning, Lindisfarne, Tasmania.

EPA Tasmania; *Quarry Code of Practice 3rd Edition* (dated May 2017), Environment Protection Authority, Tasmania.

10 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Summary of public and agency submissions
- Appendix 2 Table of proponent management measures
- Appendix 3 Permit conditions

Appendix I – Summary of agency submissions

No public representations were received.

| Agency | EER section | Comments and issues |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Conservation Assessment Section, DPIPW | C6 – Natural Values | <p>Given the proposed development is on already cleared land that has been operating as a rock processing facility for 30 years and will not need to be expanded, there are no concerns regarding impact from clearing. Eagle habitat mapping indicates that there is a low likelihood of an eagle nest being present within 1 km of the site and it is accepted that there is no line of site to the activity.</p> <p>If the proposal will generate an increase of night-time traffic on Mount Jukes Road of more than 10%; this is considered significant in regard to likely impacts on the Tasmanian devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>). It is recommended that roadkill mitigation measures be implemented in accordance with the Tasmanian Devil Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals (the Devil Guidelines).</p> <p>There are a number of declared weeds under the Weed Management Act 1999 (the Act) recorded within 500 metres of the proposed development, and a number of other declared weeds are recorded within 5 km of the proposed development. As there are likely to be vehicles and machinery moving on and off the site then there is a risk of spreading weeds or diseases. It is important that good hygiene practices are put in place to minimise the risk of weeds and/or diseases being introduced to the property.</p> |
| Mineral Resources Tasmania, Department of State Growth | General | The proponent does not require a mining lease for processing as it is not adjacent to a mining activity. Therefore MRT does not need to be further involved in the activity. |

Appendix 2 – Table of proponent proposed management measures

| Issue | Measure no. | Action | Timeframe |
|---|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| Dust emission affecting nearby industrial users | 1 | 20 km/hr speed limit applied to all internal trafficked areas. | At all times |
| | 2 | A water cart will be used to suppress dust on extreme dry and windy days. | Ongoing as conditions demand |
| Uncontrolled runoff water discharge to environment | 3 | 3 sediment traps to contain flow from a 1 in 20 year event will be constructed for each of 3 catchment areas. | On issue of a permit |
| Uncontrolled release of silt entrained in rinse water | 4 | Two settling ponds will be constructed with a combined surface area of 144 m ² and a capacity of 72 m ³ . | On issue of a permit |
| Site becomes a vector for the spread of weeds and disease | 5 | Continue current regular weed control program. | Annually |
| | 6 | Have quarries supplying product re-certified weed and disease free. | As required |

Appendix 3 – Permit conditions – Environmental

[Insert proposed permit conditions/EPN/environmental licence as printed from NELMS, including all attachments.]



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY