



## Environmental Assessment Report

Proponent	B C & J L McConnon
Proposal	McConnon's Quarry – Production Increase
Location	Buckland Road, Buckland
NELMS no.	PCE No. 9960
Permit Application No.	DA 2019/29 (Glamorgan Spring Bay Council)
Electronic Folder No.	EN-EM-EV-DE-256353
Document No.	M456882
Class of Assessment	2A

## Assessment Process Milestones

15 August 2018	Notice of Intent lodged
27 August 2018	Guidelines Issued
14 February 2019	Permit Application submitted to Council
18 February 2019	Application/Referral received by the Board
9 March 2019	Start of public consultation period
25 March 2019	End of public consultation period
16 April 2019	Date draft conditions issued to proponent
4 May 2019	Statutory period for assessment ends

## Acronyms

Board	Board of the Environment Protection Authority
EER	Environmental Effects Report
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
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>
LUPA Act	<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>
MRT	Mineral Resources Tasmania
PCAB	Policy and Conservation Advice Branch, DPIPWE
QCP	<i>Quarry Code of Practice, EPA 2017</i>
RMPS	Resource management and planning system
SD	Sustainable development
TSP Act	<i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i>

## Report Summary

This report provides an environmental assessment of B & J McConnon's proposed production increase from McConnon's Quarry.

The proposal is to produce up to 12,500 cubic metres (approximately 20,000 tonnes) per annum of rock and gravel, an increase from 5,000 cubic metres. Mechanical crushing and screening are not proposed as part of this application.

This report has been prepared based on information provided in the permit application, 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. Other issues are discussed in section 7. The report conclusions are contained in section 8.

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

## Contents

1	Approval Process .....	6
2	SD Objectives and EIA Principles .....	7
3	The Proposal .....	8
4	Need for the Proposal and Alternatives .....	13
5	Public and Agency Consultation .....	14
6	Evaluation of Environmental Issues .....	15
7	Other Issues .....	24
8	Report Conclusions .....	25
9	Report Approval .....	26
10	References .....	27
11	Appendices .....	27

## 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 15 August 2018.

An application for a permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPA Act) in relation to the proposal was submitted to Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on 14 February 2019.

The proposal is defined as a 'level 2 activity' under clause 5(a), schedule 2 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPC Act), being a quarry seeking to extract rock or gravel and produce 5,000 cubic metres or more per year.

Section 25(1) of the EMPC Act required Council to refer the application to the Board for assessment under the Act. The application was received by the Board on 18 February 2019.

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 27 August 2018.

Several drafts of the EER were 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 a 14-day period commencing on 9 March 2019. An advertisement was placed in *The Mercury* and on the EPA website. The EER was also referred to relevant government agencies for comment. No public representations were received.

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## 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 existing quarry operates under a Level 1 planning permit issued by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, allowing extraction up to 5,000 cubic metres per annum. The proposal is to increase annual production to a maximum of 12,500 cubic metres. The activities undertaken include extraction, with separation of gravel via a static (non-mechanical) ‘grizzly’ screen. No blasting, mechanical crushing or screening is proposed as part of this application. The disturbed area is proposed to be extended marginally uphill to the west and south.

The main characteristics of the proposal are summarised in Table 1. A detailed description of the proposal is provided in Section 3 of the EER.

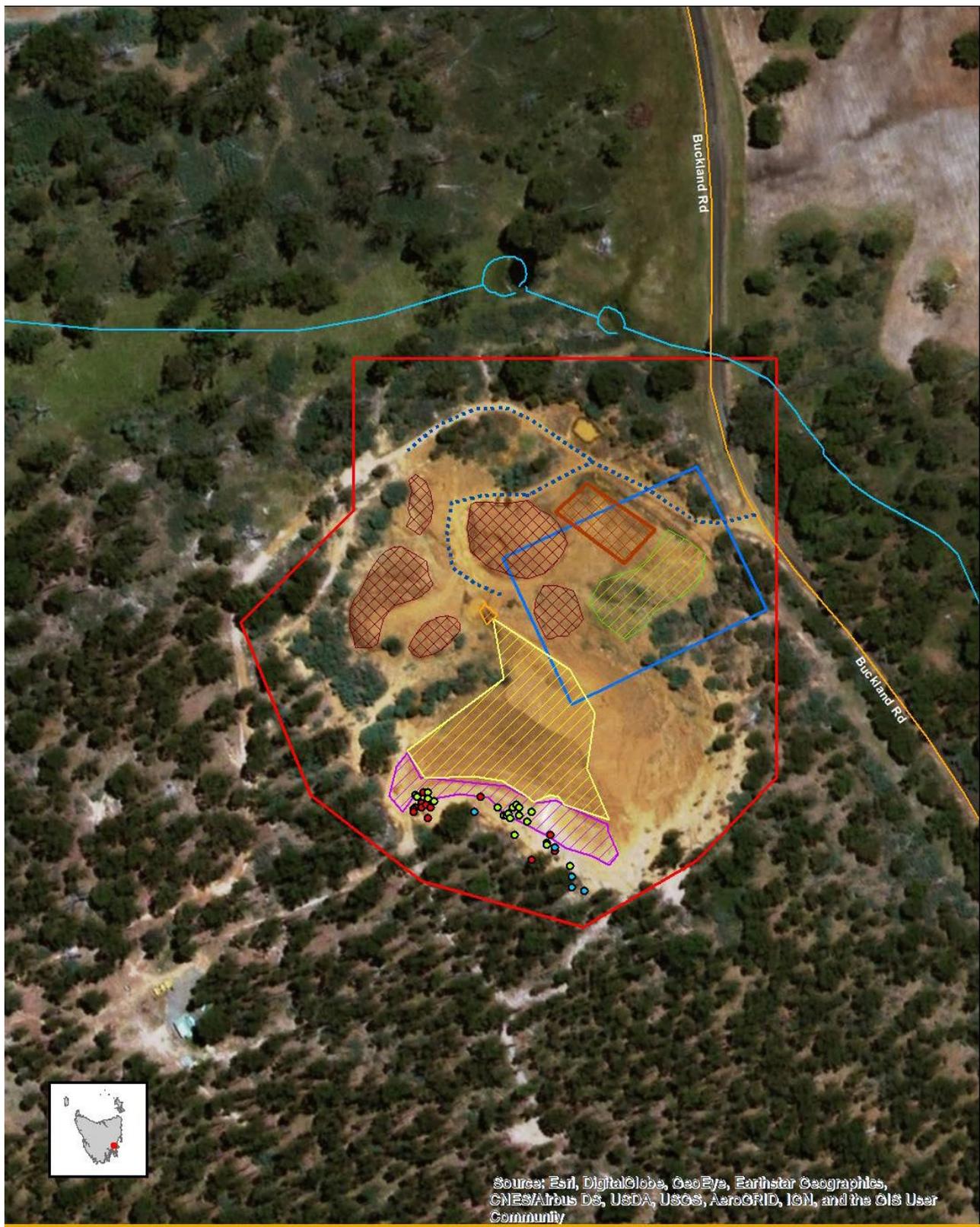
**Table 1: Summary of the proposal’s main characteristics**

Activity	
Extraction of a maximum of 12,500 cubic metres of gravel per annum.	
Location and planning context	
<b>Location</b>	Off Buckland Road, CT 120085/1, PID 5970671 (internal parcel PID 5970698), 6km northwest of Buckland
<b>Land zoning</b>	Rural Resource under the <i>Glamorgan Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme 2015</i>
<b>Land tenure</b>	Private freehold, with small internal parcel of Crown Land
<b>Mining lease</b>	1995P/M
<b>Lease area</b>	6 hectares
<b>Bond</b>	\$10,000 based on maximum open area of 3.5 hectares
Existing site	
<b>Land Use</b>	The site has operated as a Level 1 quarry for some time.
<b>Topography</b>	Slope facing northeast – existing steep cuts and benches.
<b>Geology</b>	Dolerite with locally developed granophyre (Jd).
<b>Soils</b>	Podzolic Soils on Sandstone and Dolerite I. No likelihood of ASS identified.
<b>Hydrology</b>	Drainage from site runs NNE towards Mitchells Creek, which traverses the north-eastern corner of the mining lease as it crosses Buckland Road.

<b>Natural Values and species of conservation significance</b>	Largely cleared, fringed by native vegetation. Vegetation is mapped as <i>Eucalyptus pulchella</i> forest and <i>E. amygdalina</i> forest, which are not listed as threatened under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> , but noted on site to constitute primarily blue gums ( <i>E. globulus</i> ) and so mapped classification may be incorrect. Blue gums provide potential feeding and nesting habitat for the swift parrot ( <i>Lathamus discolor</i> ), which is listed as critically endangered under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) and Endangered under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i> (TSP Act). There are also records of the swift parrot within 500 metres of the quarry site. There are older records within 500 metres of the quarry for the eastern quoll ( <i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i> ) and the Tasmanian devil ( <i>Sarcophilus harrisi</i> ), both of which are also listed as Endangered under both the EPBC Act and the TSP Act.
<b>Local region</b>	
<b>Climate</b>	Annual rainfall average 669mm; monthly average of 44-66mm.  Wind direction predominantly south-westerly in the morning and south-easterly in the afternoon.
<b>Surrounding land zoning, tenure and uses</b>	The mining lease is located centrally within a 403 hectare property, in an area designated as 'quarry site' on the Title Plan (noting that this same plan shows Buckland Road to be in a different location from its actual route). The property and all surrounding properties are zoned Rural Resource, with another mining lease, for what appears to be another small quarry, located ~1.6km to the east. The nearest residence on another property is located ~2.6km to the southeast. The area is largely forested, with some portions used for agriculture.
<b>Proposed infrastructure</b>	
<b>Major equipment</b>	Dozer as required to extract gravel.  Front wheel loader for tipping through grizzly screen and loading.  Static grizzly screen (non-mechanical).  30 tonne trucks to move material offsite.
<b>Other infrastructure</b>	None
<b>Inputs</b>	
<b>Water</b>	No onsite water supply needed.
<b>Energy</b>	Diesel used for mobile plant. No onsite energy supply needed.
<b>Wastes and emissions</b>	
<b>Liquid</b>	Stormwater runoff from extraction and stockpile areas.
<b>Atmospheric</b>	Dust from internal traffic, and blow-off from stockpiles. Vehicle emissions.
<b>Solid</b>	General refuse including food scraps, paper and packaging, to be removed regularly. Machinery maintenance not proposed to be undertaken onsite.
<b>Controlled wastes</b>	Waste engine oil.
<b>Noise</b>	From excavator on site, and vehicles on site and going to and from the site.

<b>Greenhouse gases</b>	The proposal will result in a minor localised increase in emissions during extraction work resulting from operation of diesel and petro-fuelled equipment and transport.
<b>Construction, operation and rehabilitation</b>	
<b>Proposal timetable</b>	Not specified – in response to client demand.
<b>Operating hours (ongoing)</b>	0700 to 1900 hours Monday to Friday





Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55  
 1:2,500 When Printed at A4  
 0 20 40 60 80 Meters

Map ref: HB18334 R1  
 Revision: 01  
 Author: klawrence  
 Date: 24/10/2018  
 Data sources:  
 Base image from Esri imagery  
 Lease data from Mining Resource Tasmania  
 Base data from LIST (C) State of Tasmania

- Legend**
-  Mitchells Creek
  -  Buckland Road
  -  Site access
  -  Current Stockpiles
  -  Screen
  -  Future rehabilitation
  -  Proposed Sediment Basin
  -  Current Bench & Operations
  -  Future Bench
  -  Mining Lease 1995 P/M
  -  Blue gum seedling
  -  Blue gum remnant
  -  Silver wattle juvenile
  -  Crown Lease

**pitt&sherry**  
 McConnon's  
 Quarry  
 Site Plan

**Figure 2: Site plan (from Figure 2 in EER) – future bench shaded purple.**

## 4 Need for the Proposal and Alternatives

The EER states that the proposed production and handling increase will enable the proponent to respond to future local demand, market conditions and large projects (e.g. major road upgrades).

Alternatives to the project include continuing with the current production limit of 5,000 cubic metres or ceasing the quarry activities. The EER states that the former would not enable the proponent to service large projects that require above 5,000 cubic metres of material. Ceasing quarry activities would result in the loss of income for the proponent, and potentially limit the availability of material to local councils and industries.

## 5 Public and Agency Consultation

No public representations were received.

The EER was referred to a number of government agencies/bodies with an interest in the proposal. Submissions were received from the following:

- Mineral Resources Tasmania, Department of State Growth

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

- Regulator, EPA Tasmania
- Noise specialist, EPA Tasmania
- Policy and Conservation Advice Branch, Natural and Cultural Heritage Division

## 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. Natural values and weed management
2. Surface water quality
3. Waste and hazardous substances
4. Air Emissions
5. Noise Emissions
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** Quarry Code of Practice

<b>Issue 1: Natural values and weed management</b>
<b>Description of potential impacts</b>
<p>The proposed production increase includes extending the existing quarry footprint uphill to the south, requiring clearing of some native vegetation, which could result in the loss of feeding of nesting habitat for the swift parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>). An arboricultural assessment commissioned by the proponent identified 39 individual trees in the south-western operating area. These included 25 blue gums (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>), mostly saplings with five being remnant trees (greater than 20 years old), plus a number of juvenile silver wattle (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>). The EER states the proposal would result in the removal of 20 young blue gums and two of the remnant blue gums, where essential for safety and benching works, as well as number of juvenile silver wattle. No hollows, suitable for swift parrot nests, were identified in any blue gums in close proximity to the proposed quarry extension, and hollow bearing capacity of these trees was determined to be low.</p> <p>Quarrying operations can impact on potential nesting habitat for Tasmanian devils (<i>Sarcophilus harrisii</i>) and eastern quolls (<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>). The EER states that no suitable denning/nesting habitat exists within the quarry site. Movement by heavy vehicles to and from the site can also result in roadkill. No raptor nests have been recorded within 1 km of the site.</p> <p>Movement by people, vehicles and equipment into and within the site can result in the introduction and spread of weeds. The Natural Values Atlas carries records of two listed weed species within 500m of the quarry – Spanish heath (<i>Erica lusitanica</i>) and gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>), with the latter also observed within the site. Also present is great mullien (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>), an environmental weed listed in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan.</p>
<b>Management measures proposed in EER</b>
<p>The proposed increase in the quarry disturbed area will be restricted to approximately 2000m<sup>2</sup> on the southern upper edge of the existing disturbed area, as depicted by the purple hashed area in Figure 2. Relevant commitments include:</p> <p>Commitment 1 - The development, operation and rehabilitation of the quarry will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the EPA <i>Quarry Code of Practice 2017</i> (applicable to other issues also).</p> <p>Commitment 2 - An Environmental Management Plan will be prepared for the project (applicable to other issues also). The EMP will include management measures in relation to erosion and sediment control, dust, noise, flora and fauna, and emergency management.</p> <p>Commitment 3 - Tree 15 (the triple leader blue gum – identified in Appendix E of EER) will be removed to enable safe operations. The remaining remnant blue gums will not be cleared. The fill around the structural root zones and tree protection zones will be removed where possible. The blue gum seedlings and silver wattle will be cleared from the current bench.</p> <p>Commitment 4 - Any animal burrows that may provide denning habitat for Tasmanian devils or spotted-tailed quolls identified during operations will be reported to DPIPWE.</p> <p>Commitment 5 - Weed and disease protocols will be consistent with <i>Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines – Preventing the spread of weeds and diseases in Tasmania (DPIPWE, 2015)</i>. All operations will follow the Weed and Pathogen Management Plan (Appendix F to EER).</p>

Public and agency comment
<p>PCAB noted the records of the Swift Parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>), listed as endangered under the TSPA and critically endangered under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBCA), from within 500m of the property. It emphasised that although the Aborigicultural Assessment did not identify any suitable breeding habitat for the Swift Parrot within the study area, the property supports a number of <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> (blue gum) trees which are valuable foraging habitat. PCAB supports commitment 3 in the EER to remove fill from around some of the trees to increase their likelihood of survival, and recommended retaining as many <i>E. globulus</i> trees on the property as practicable in order to maximise foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot.</p>
Evaluation
<p>Although the mapped vegetation communities in the area are not listed as threatened, given the observed predominance of blue gums on the site it is likely that the vegetation mapping is incorrect and that the community to be disturbed constitutes <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> dry forest (DOB), which is listed as threatened under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>. Nevertheless, the clearing proposed is minimal and largely confined to recently regrown trees on the edge of the existing disturbed area, constituting a small proportion of the blue gum-dominated vegetation in the area. The EER proposes retention of the vast majority of trees on the site, with those to be removed already compromised by existing benching. The clearing will not result in the loss of any hollow-bearing trees, and so will only affect, to a small degree, the feeding habitat of the swift parrot, rather than potential nesting.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is therefore considered acceptable, provided it is limited to the area proposed and the given commitments are adhered to. Condition <b>FFI</b> limits clearing to the area specified in the EER, as prescribed in Attachment 2 to the conditions, with visible fencing to delineate the edge of approved works.</p> <p>As the area is largely forested, and has records of the Tasmanian devil (<i>Sarcophilus harrisi</i>) and eastern quoll (<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>), both of which are listed as endangered under the TSPA, there is a reasonable threat of roadkill from heavy vehicle movements through the area. Therefore condition <b>OP2</b> limits cartage to and from the site to within daylight hours.</p> <p>The proposed procedures for limiting and managing pathogen and weed infestation are accepted. Implementation of Commitment 5 from the EER is considered appropriate to minimise the introduction and spread of weeds and soil-borne diseases. Condition <b>FF2</b> requires that the Weed &amp; Pathogen Management Plan, submitted with the EER, must be implemented and followed.</p>
Conclusion
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p> <p><b>FFI</b> Protection of swift parrot foraging habitat</p> <p><b>OP2</b> Cartage hours</p> <p><b>FF2</b> Weed &amp; Disease management</p>

<b>Issue 2: Surface water quality</b>
<b>Description of potential impacts</b>
<p>High rainfall events have the potential to cause erosion of exposed areas in quarries and extractive pits, leading to pollution from sediment and other water borne contaminants, such as oil. The intensifying activity will create additional exposed surfaces.</p> <p>The existing quarry floor drains to a sediment pond with bunding. Beyond the bund, native vegetation provides a natural swale between the site and the nearest waterway, Mitchells Creek, which crosses the north-eastern corner of the mining lease. The intensified activity will create exposed surfaces that could be vulnerable to erosion and sediment loss during rainfall events.</p>
<b>Management measures proposed in EER</b>
<p>A new basin is proposed to be constructed for sediment control within the existing quarry floor. Its proposed size is based on a calculated area of 4.66 hectares which includes the maximum open quarry area of 3.5 hectares, and some adjoining vegetated areas. Relevant commitments include:</p> <p>Commitment 6 - Sizing and construction of all sediment control systems will be in accordance with <i>Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control</i> published by the International Erosion Control Association (IECA), 2008, and the system outlined in Section 4.3.</p> <p>Commitment 7 - Erosion and sediment control ponds will be inspected weekly.</p>
<b>Public and agency comment</b>
None
<b>Evaluation</b>
<p>The proposed onsite management of surface water is generally consistent with the acceptable standards of the Quarry Code of Practice (EPA Tasmania, May 2017) (QCP) in regard to drainage and erosion control. Limiting the surface water quantity to be managed is an important consideration and will require maintenance of appropriately located perimeter drains or bunds required by condition <b>SW1</b>. When the disturbed area of the quarry is increased, more capacity for sediment runoff will be required.</p> <p>The proposed stormwater management measures in the EER are considered appropriate to mitigate the increase in stormwater loads. Conditions <b>SW2</b> and <b>SW3</b> require maintenance of suitably sized sediment ponds to contain 1 in 20 year rainfall events, and implementation of other measures as needed to ensure polluted stormwater is not discharged. The application of these conditions in conjunction with existing site measures is considered adequate to minimise the discharge of sediment or other pollutants in stormwater from the site.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p> <p><b>SW1</b> Perimeter drains and bunds</p> <p><b>SW2</b> Stormwater</p> <p><b>SW3</b> Design and maintenance of settling ponds</p>

<b>Issue 3: Waste and hazardous substances</b>
<b>Description of potential impacts</b>
Spillage of any oil or fuel has the potential to result in contamination of soil and water if not adequately contained. The quarry will not require any permanent storage of hazardous substances, and fuel for mobile equipment will be contained in vehicle mounted tanks. Operation of the quarry has the potential to produce small amounts of waste such as litter.
<b>Management measures proposed in EER</b>
There will be no on-site storage of any fuels. Other relevant commitments include: Commitment 9 - Solid waste will be removed from site for disposal at a suitably licensed facility. Commitment 11 - Refuelling will be performed off site and fuel clean-up equipment will be stored in all vehicles.
<b>Public and agency comment</b>
None
<b>Evaluation</b>
The proposed management measures are adequate to ensure that waste is collected from the site and appropriately disposed of, in accordance with the QCP. Given that no hazardous substances are proposed to be stored on site overnight, there are unlikely to be any impacts from such substances, provided that the management measures canvassed in the EER and permit conditions are complied with. Permit conditions <b>H1</b> and <b>H2</b> are necessary in order to ensure compliance with the QCP in regard to mobile and non-mobile storage of chemicals and fuel.
<b>Conclusion</b>
The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions: <b>H1</b> Storage and handling of hazardous materials <b>H2</b> Handling of hazardous materials – mobile

<b>Issue 4: Air emissions</b>
<b>Description of potential impacts</b>
<p>The quarry operation is likely to generate dust in dry weather conditions at each stage of the extraction and handling process. The nearest sensitive receiver (a dwelling) is approximately 2.7km from the site to the southeast. The nearest property boundary to the edge of the proposed quarry footprint is approximately 500m to the south. However, Buckland Road functions as a public road and is only approximately 25m from the eastern edge of the disturbed area within the quarry site. Therefore there is some minor potential for dust to cause an environmental nuisance to users of the road.</p>
<b>Management measures proposed in EER</b>
<p>Commitment 8 - Dust will be managed in accordance with the EPA <i>Quarry Code of Practice, 2017</i> which may include (as required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricting vehicle speed,</li> <li>• Watering down loads to reduce load dust during travel,</li> <li>• Covering loads as required,</li> <li>• Use of water to keep bare areas moist,</li> <li>• Minimising groundcover disturbance,</li> <li>• Minimising the duration and extent of stockpiling, and</li> <li>• Temporarily halting dust generating activities on hot and windy days if required.</li> </ul>
<b>Public and agency comment</b>
None
<b>Evaluation</b>
<p>It is unlikely that the proposal will result in any dust nuisance, given substantial distances to the nearest sensitive receivers. However, the proponent has an obligation to minimise the opportunity for dust to cross property boundaries as per the acceptable standards of the QCP. In order to ensure this, it is necessary to impose <b>condition A1</b> requiring covering vehicles transporting excavated materials, and <b>condition A2</b>, containment of dust to prevent it causing a nuisance.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p> <p><b>A1</b> Covering of vehicles</p> <p><b>A2</b> Control of dust emissions</p>

<b>Issue 5: Noise emissions</b>
<b>Description of potential impacts</b>
<p>Noise emissions from the quarry activity have the potential to cause nuisance to neighbouring properties if not appropriately mitigated or managed. Noise will be generated by the movement of the dozer and trucks, and the act of tipping material through the static (non-mechanical) screen. The nearest sensitive receiver (dwelling) is 2.7 km from the site to the southeast. The EER states that blasting is not anticipated, and crushing may be conducted every 5-10 years with further approvals as required. The current operations result in approximately 10 truck movements accessing the site per week, which is anticipated to increase to approximately 26 movements with the proposed activity. The EER identifies the potential for noise impacts from operations on avifauna during breeding times. However, it also indicated that the likelihood of such impacts is low, as operations will not occur daily and noise will not be constant.</p>
<b>Management measures proposed in EER</b>
<p>Commitment 10 - Site noise will be managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating within operating hours (0700-1900)</li> <li>• Reducing loading and screening if bird nests are identified onsite</li> </ul>
<b>Public and agency comment</b>
<p>None.</p>
<b>Evaluation</b>
<p>Although the EER mentions that approval for mechanical crushing and screening may be sought in the future, the proposed activity does not seek such approval at this time.</p> <p>The QCP recommends a buffer of 300 metres from an extractive activity without mechanical screening or crushing to the nearest sensitive receiver to avoid unreasonable noise impacts. The nearest existing sensitive receiver to the quarry is approximately 2.7 km, well outside this distance. As there is no residentially zoned land adjacent to or within proximity of the site, the potential for future conflict of use is limited.</p> <p>Proposed operating hours are within those recommended as acceptable in the QCP. However, it is appropriate to impose condition <b>OPI</b>, defining operating hours to clarify the scope for the approved proposal. Condition <b>BI</b>, prohibiting blasting unless approved in writing by the Director is also necessary to control this aspect of quarrying activity which is most likely to result in noise impacts.</p> <p>Although there is the potential for birds to be nesting near the site, a quarry of this relatively small scale, which has been operating for some years within virtually the same footprint, is considered a low risk to bird life in terms of noise disturbance. It is noted that no nests have been recorded on or near the site, and the majority of trees near the site are too young to bear hollows which could provide nesting habitat for the swift parrot. Therefore requirements to force reduced production if bird nests are identified on the site are not considered warranted.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following conditions:</p>

**OPI** Operating hours

**BI** No blasting without approval

<b>Issue 6: Decommissioning and rehabilitation</b>
<b>Description of potential impacts</b>
<p>Quarrying activities have the potential to cause ongoing environmental impacts after cessation. Rehabilitation is necessary to ensure long term stability of the site, prevent sedimentation and erosion, provide native flora and fauna habitat, and minimise the potential for establishment of invasive flora species.</p>
<b>Management measures proposed in EER</b>
<p>The EER proposes a rehabilitation objective for the quarry site focused on revegetating with natives and creating grazing areas to restore to the post-extraction land use considered suitable to the landowner. The stormwater system, including sediment basins, will be retained for the long term and maintained for the first year after rehabilitation, and local reeds will be planted around drainage works. Rehabilitation will involve restoring all excavated slopes to a maximum grade of 15%, then reseeding with a native mix using hydro-mulch. The parcel of Crown Land and all flat areas will be seeded with a mix of local natives similar to the neighbouring woodlands. After reseeding and topsoiling, monitoring will be undertaken quarterly for a minimum of two years. A weed control program will be ongoing for two years after activity ceases, to ensure that a self-sustaining pasture cover is developed over the site. The landholder will then manage gorse emergence in the rehabilitated quarry as for the rest of the property.</p>
<b>Public and agency comment</b>
None
<b>Evaluation</b>
<p>Progressive rehabilitation may not always be feasible due to the constrained site, however rehabilitation should be implemented where sections of the quarry are genuinely worked out or disused. To ensure appropriate treatment of surface soil and implementation of progressive rehabilitation, permitting a maximum open area of 3.5 hectares, conditions <b>DC1</b> and <b>DC2</b> are required.</p> <p>Condition <b>DC3</b> requires care and maintenance of the site during temporary suspension of the activity, and rehabilitation if the activity is suspended for 2 years or more. Condition <b>DC4</b> requires notification of the Director if permanent cessation of the activity becomes likely. Condition <b>DC5</b> requires that rehabilitation be undertaken in accordance with the relevant provisions of the QCP.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>
<p>The proponent will be required to comply with the following standard conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DC1</b> Stockpiling of surface soil</li> <li><b>DC2</b> Progressive rehabilitation</li> <li><b>DC3</b> Temporary suspension of activity</li> <li><b>DC4</b> Notification of cessation</li> <li><b>DC5</b> Rehabilitation on cessation</li> </ul>

## 7 Other Issues

The following issues have been raised during the assessment process and are discussed briefly here. These are issues which are not the Board's responsibility under the EMPC Act, or issues which are more appropriately addressed by another regulatory agency.

### 1. Transport Impacts

While the impact of traffic on noise levels, air emissions and natural values is within the scope of the Board's assessment under the EMPC Act, the issue of increased traffic in regard to network capacity, access functionality and road condition is within the scope of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council's assessment under the *Glamorgan Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme 2015*. Any relevant permit conditions would be applied by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council in its planning permit.

### 2. Aboriginal Heritage

Aboriginal heritage is within the purview of Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*. AHT advised the proponent that there are no Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within or close to the property on which the quarry is situated, that there is a low probability of any such heritage being present, and therefore that there is no requirement for any further investigation.

The EER makes the following commitment in relation to Aboriginal heritage:

Commitment 12 – Aboriginal heritage including previously undetected archaeological sites or artefacts will be managed in accordance with Aboriginal Artefacts – Unanticipated Discovery Plan.

The proponent has an obligation to comply with Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975 which stipulates a requirement to report any found artefacts.

## 8 Report Conclusions

This assessment has been based on the information provided by the proponent, B & J McConnon 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. 9960 appended to this report are imposed and duly complied with.

The environmental conditions appended to this report are a new set of operating conditions for the entire, intensified activity that will supersede the existing permit conditions.

## 9 Report Approval

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



Martin Read

**ACTING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

**Acting under delegation from the Board of the Environment Protection Authority**

24 April 2019:

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## 10 References

Lawrence, K; *McConnon's Quarry, Buckland Rd, Buckland Production Increase Environmental Effects Report* (dated 29/10/2018), Pitt & Sherry, Hobart, Tasmania

## 11 Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of public and agency submissions

Appendix 2 Table of proponent commitments

Appendix 3 Permit conditions

## Appendix I – Summary of public representations and agency submissions

Agency	Comments and issues	Additional information required
Conservation Assessment Section, PCAB, DPIPWE	<p>There are records of the Swift Parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>), listed as endangered under the TSPA and critically endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBCA), from within 500 metres of the property. Although the Aborigicultural Assessment did not identify any suitable breeding habitat for the Swift Parrot within the study area, the property supports a number of <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> (blue gum) trees which are valuable foraging habitat. PCAB supports the recommendation in the Aborigicultural Assessment to remove fill from around some of the trees to increase their likelihood of survival. PCAB also recommends retaining as many <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> trees on the property as practicable in order to maximise foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot.</p>	<p>None. The EER proposes retention of the vast majority of trees on the site, with those to be removed already compromised by existing benching. A condition will be imposed which limits the extent of clearing and requires a visible fence to be erected at the clearing limit.</p>
Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania, DPIPWE	<p>Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) has reviewed the EER for McConnon's Quarry Upgrade and can confirm the Aboriginal heritage information included within the EER is correct. There are no recorded Aboriginal heritage sites within or near the quarry area. Provided all works are conducted under the guidance of the Unanticipated Discovery Plan, there is currently no requirement for an Aboriginal heritage assessment and AHT have no objection to the project proceeding.</p>	<p>None.</p>

## Appendix 2 – Table of proponent commitments

Commitment	Description	Period
1	The development, operation and rehabilitation of the quarry will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the EPA <i>Quarry Code of Practice, 2017</i> .	For the duration of the project
2	An Environmental Management Plan will be prepared for the project. The EMP will include management measures in relation to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevention of impacts upon surface water and waterways (erosion and sediment control);</li> <li>• dust control measures;</li> <li>• noise control measures;</li> <li>• flora and fauna management;</li> <li>• emergency management.</li> </ul>	For the duration of the project
3	Tree 15 (the triple leader blue gum) will be removed to enable safe operations. The remaining remnant blue gums will not be cleared. The fill around the SRZ and TPZ will be removed where possible. The blue gum seedlings and silver gums will be cleared off the current bench.	For the duration of the project
4	Any animal burrows that may provide denning habitat for Tasmanian devils or spotted tailed quolls identified during operations will be reported to DPIPWWE.	For the duration of the project
5	Weed and disease protocols will be consistent with <i>Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines - Preventing the spread of weeds and diseases in Tasmania</i> (DPIPWE, 2015). All operations will follow the attached Weed and Pathogen Management Plan (Appendix F).	For the duration of the project
6	Sizing and construction of all sediment control system will be accordance with <i>Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC)</i> published by the International Erosion Control Association (IECA), 2008, and the system outlined in Section 4.3.	For the duration of the project
7	Erosion and sediment control ponds will be inspected weekly to ensure best practice.	For the duration of the project
8	Dust will be managed in accordance with the EPA <i>Quarry Code of Practice, 2017</i> which may include (as required): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricting vehicle speed;</li> <li>• Covering loads as required;</li> <li>• Use of water to keep bare areas moist;</li> <li>• Minimising groundcover disturbance;</li> </ul>	For the duration of the project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimising the duration and extent of stockpiling;</li> <li>• Cover of longer term topsoil stockpiles with hessian or similar material, or seeding with pasture grass species; and</li> <li>• Temporarily halting dusty activities on hot and windy days if required.</li> </ul>	
9	Solid waste will be removed from site for disposal at a suitably licensed facility.	For the duration of the project
10	<p>Site noise will be managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operating within operating hours (0700-1900)</li> <li>• Reducing loading and screening if bird nests are identified onsite</li> </ul>	For the duration of the project
11	Refuelling will be performed off site and fuel clean-up equipment will be stored in all vehicles.	For the duration of the project
12	Aboriginal heritage including previously undetected archaeological sites or artefacts will be managed in accordance with <i>Aboriginal Artefacts – Unanticipated Discovery Plan</i> .	For the duration of the project

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## Appendix 3 – Permit conditions – Environmental



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY