

Position: 55 S 552085 5306836 ( $\pm 4.7\text{m}$ )  
 Altitude: 293m ( $\pm 3.4\text{m}$ )  
 Datum: AUSTRALIAN GEOCENTRIC 1994 (GDA94)  
 Azimuth/Bearing: 250° S70W 4444mils True ( $\pm 11^\circ$ )  
 Elevation Angle:  $-03.3^\circ$   
 Horizon Angle:  $+00.8^\circ$   
 Zoom: 1.0X



## Southern Midlands Council Stonehenge Quarry Increase in Production – Notice of Intent

Prepared By: Barry Williams

Date: 6 November 2024

Issue	Date	Recipient	Organisation
Issue 1	21 June 2024	David Richardson	Southern Midlands Council
Issue 2	6 November 2024	David Richardson	Environment Protection Authority

1 PROPONENT DETAILS

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Name	Southern Midlands Council – Works and Technical Services
Address	PO Box 21 71 High Street OATLANDS Tas 7120
Contact	David Richardson
Mobile	0473 043 577
Email	drichardson@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au

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2 PROJECT NAME

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Name	Stonehenge Quarry – production increase	
Location	The site is located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Tunnack.	
Mining lease	Number	1977 P/M
	Status	Granted
Property ID	9196051	
Title Reference	113533/1 ‘Stonehenge’	
Title Reference	175080/1 ‘Stonehenge’	

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3 PROPONENT BACKGROUND

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Experience	The Southern Midlands Council (Proponent) operates several quarries in the municipality. The mining lease for Stonehenge Quarry was granted in 2015. The proponent has sound experience with running gravel pits and quarries to supply materials to council and private projects throughout the municipality.
Tenements	The Proponent operates four other quarry sites within the municipality: 1881P/M, 2042P/M, 2063P/M, 2085P/M

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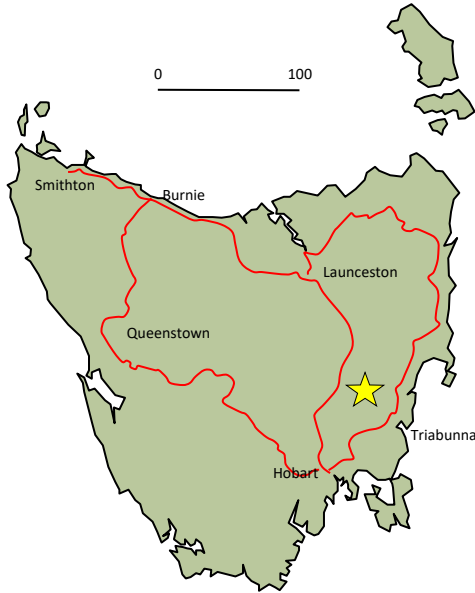
 4 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY
 

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Proposal	<p>The product from council quarries is used to maintain and construct essential infrastructure in the Southern Midlands municipality. The council operates Stonehenge Quarry to provide road construction and maintenance materials for the eastern portion of the municipality without needing to cart heavy products long distances.</p> <p>Stonehenge Quarry is a level 1 quarry with a maximum annual extraction limit of 5,000 cubic metres and processing limit of 1,000 cubic metres. These production limits were adequate but in recent years road construction materials specifications have mandated more highly engineered gravel products. Mobile crushers and screens are required to produce the higher specification materials.</p> <p>With a small number of quarries and low overall annual demand it is not economical for Southern Midlands Council to own the required machinery. It is also not economical to mobilise a contract crusher and screen setup for a production run volume of 1,000 cubic metres.</p> <p>To maintain compliance with environmental legislation, the Proponent is required to apply for a permit for a Level 2 activity. The Level 2 activity permit will allow a contract crusher / screener to be deployed once every two or three years to run sufficient road gravel to satisfy the annual capex and maintenance requirements for that period.</p> <p>A consequence of this approach will be that an entire production run (20,000 cubic metres) will have to be stockpiled on site. Stockpiling this volume of product will require an increase in area of the quarry footprint.</p>
Permitting	<p>Stonehenge Quarry is currently permitted via Council Permit DA 2014/95 as a level 1 activity.</p> <p>The quarry currently has an annual extraction limit of 5,000 cubic metres and a processing limit of 1,000 cubic metres.</p>
Type of operation	<p>Stonehenge Quarry extracts and processes predominantly weathered dolerite rock. The weathered rock is ripped and pushed into source rock stockpiles.</p> <p>The quarry operates on a campaign style basis. Contract crushers and screens are mobilised to site once every two or three years to process source rock into specification gravels which are stockpiled on site. Earth moving machines are mobilised to site periodically throughout the year to load trucks from the stockpiles to service maintenance and capital projects.</p> <p>The Proponent is not seeking to change extraction or processing activities at Stonehenge Quarry.</p>
Production	<p>The proponent is seeking to increase the annual extraction limit and annual processing limit to 20,000 cubic metres. For the purposes of regulation, the bulk density of the specification gravel is assumed to be 1.6 tonnes / cubic metre.</p>
Equipment	<p>The site will utilise the following machines; dozer, excavator, wheel loader, various on-road truck and trailer combinations. No permanent infrastructure will be established on site. Periodically contract mobile crushers and screens will be mobilised to the site.</p>

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5 PROJECT LOCATION



Stonehenge Quarry is located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Tunnack. The quarry access road intersects with Swanston Road approximately 650 metres east of the intersection with Stonehenge Road.

Swanston Road, Stonehenge Road are council maintained unsealed gravel roads typical of the district and are maintained and sheeted in the product from Stonehenge Quarry.

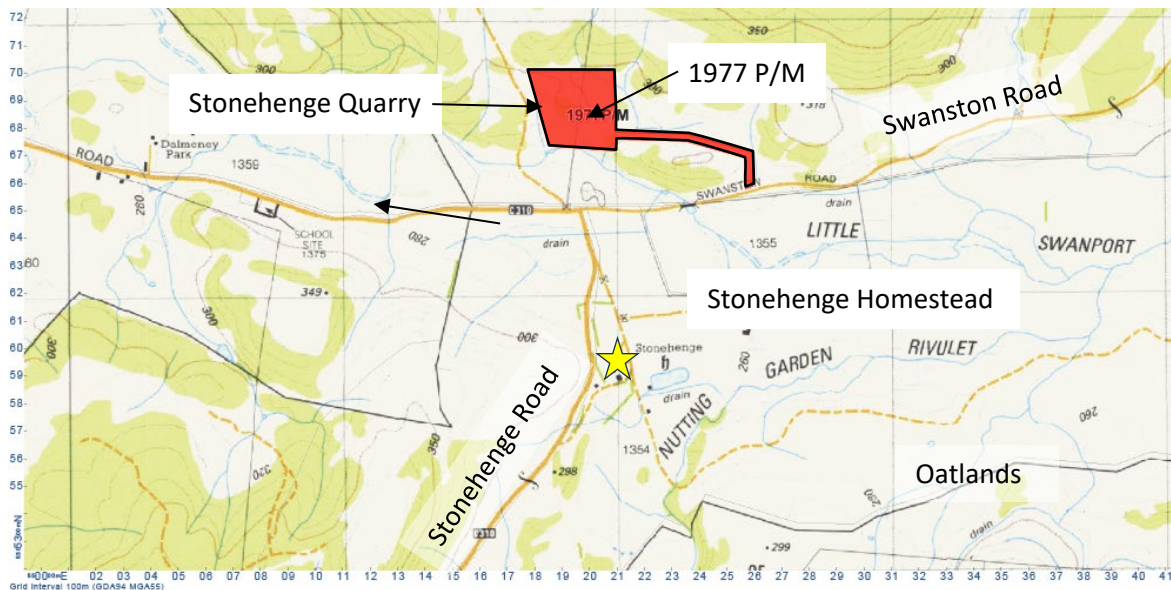


FIGURE 1: STONEHENGE QUARRY - LOCATION MAP

6 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The proposal to increase production at Stonehenge Quarry will be the subject of a Development Application (DA) to be lodged with Southern Midlands Council acting as the Planning Authority and an application for a new environmental permit will be lodged with the Environment Protection Authority.

Environment Protection Authority will receive this notice of intent (NOI), from which a class of assessment and project specific guidelines will be determined and issued to guide the production of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) detailing the environmental implications of the proposal.

The Southern Midlands Council will receive a Development Application (DA), which will be assessed following public advertising of the DA plus the EIS. Additionally, a notice declaring the application will be posted on the land and neighbours directly adjoining the property will be notified by written communication.

Any feedback from interested stakeholders will be taken into consideration by the EPA and Council in the determination to issue a permit or otherwise.

## 7 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Topography	Stonehenge Quarry is situated on the southern basal slope of a low hill in the Old Hut Hill group of hills. The quarry floor is currently at elevation 280 metres AHD <sup>1</sup> . The top of the upper face is around elevation 300 metres.
Geology	The geology in the vicinity of Stonehenge Quarry is mapped as being Cenozoic cover sequences. The actual geology is slightly to highly weathered Jurassic dolerite rock. The margin between the cover sequences and dolerite mapping is slightly misrepresented in this location.
Vegetation	The quarry site is set in a large area mapped as being Agricultural land (FAG). A small area of remnant standing trees mapped by TasVeg 4.0 as <i>Eucalyptus amygdalina woodland on dolerite</i> (DAD) has been partly cleared as part of the previously approved quarry development plan. A margin between FAG and lowland grassland complex (GCL) is mapped on the east boundary. None of these communities are listed as threatened under legislation.
Hydrology	<p>A watercourse mapped as running across the northeast and again on the south east corner of the mining lease is classified as having a Conservation Management Priority Immediate of medium (M) by the Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values (CFEV<sup>2</sup>) project. The watercourse is ephemeral and appears as a shallow depression in the paddock. This watercourse is directed away from the quarry footprint and is carried under the access road through a pipe culvert.</p> <p>The quarry footprint drains west and is carried south through an indistinct drain towards the Little Swanport River. A sediment trap has been constructed to intercept drainage before being discharged of the quarry site. The Little Swanport River intrudes on the mining lease southern boundary. A major irrigation dam captures the flow from the Little Swanport River just upstream of the quarry site. A small outlet pipe from the irrigation dam provides for environmental flow in the Little Swanport River.</p>

<sup>1</sup> AHD – Australian Height Datum metres above sea level

<sup>2</sup> CFEV – Conservation of Freshwater Ecosystem Values project which is a nationwide audit of freshwater ecosystems.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Natural Values	Clearing related to this proposal and in addition to that already approved will be confined to the improved pasture area north of the existing quarry footprint. This area is mapped by Tas Veg 4.0 as Agricultural Land (FAG).
Hydrological	The current and proposed quarry plan for Stonehenge Quarry will not affect drainage paths and is unlikely to impact on groundwater. The area of disturbance associated with the new quarry footprint will increase. The capacity of run off management infrastructure will have to increase to accommodate a larger catchment and related increased flows.
Greenhouse gas emissions	Utilising heavy construction materials from Stonehenge Quarry to undertake capital and maintenance projects in the district will save a significant amount of GHG emissions that would have been generated carting materials from other more remote sources.
Health	<p>Stonehenge Quarry is a gravel quarry periodically employing mechanical crushers and screens to process the source rock into engineered gravels. The source rock has a high clay component which when dry and handled can generate dust emissions, which can be injurious to the health of workers on the site.</p> <p>Stonehenge Quarry is remote from sensitive receptors. The closest being the Stonehenge homestead which 750 metres away to the south.</p>
Economic	Southern Midlands Council is responsible for maintaining the road infrastructure in the Stonehenge district. The cost of providing this service would increase significantly if the road gravel had to be purchased from an alternative supplier and carted in to the work sites. Stonehenge Quarry is retained and operated to provide a saving to the municipality’s ratepayers and help spread a limited budget over a more roads and maintain roads to a higher standard.
Social	Any construction materials won from the Stonehenge Quarry will offset product imported from other sites which will remove heavy vehicle movements on regional and local roads. This will bring a road safety benefit and reduce wear and tear on roads maintained by the Southern Midlands Council and State Road Authority.

9 EXPERT SURVEYS AND STUDIES

No new expert studies will be required due to the very limited change to the currently permitted operation under this proposal.

## 10 PROPOSAL TIME LINE

EIS and DA	Advertising	EPA assessment	SMC assessment	Issue Permit
Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Apr. '25	Jun. '25

### 1 STATUS UNDER *ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999* (EPBC ACT)

The minor nature of this proposed change means it is highly unlikely to impact a Matter of National Environmental Significance or to Commonwealth land.

### 2 EPBC ACT REFERRAL

The proposal will not be referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

### 3 SECTION 45 EPBC ACT REQUIREMENT

The Tasmanian EPA will not need to undertake its assessment under the Bilateral Agreement, section 45 of *EPBC Act 1999*.

### 4 STATUS UNDER LUPA ACT

- a) Southern Midlands Council will require a Development Application for the proposed increase in production at Stonehenge Quarry.
- b) A single development permit will be required to change the production limit for Stonehenge Quarry.
- c) An application for a permit under LUPA Act Division 2, Section 51 will be made to the Southern Midlands Council (Planning Authority).
- d) Stonehenge Quarry is deemed within the use class 'Extractive Industry' in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS). The site resides within the area classified as Agriculture Zone under the TPS. Extractive Industry is a 'discretionary' activity within the Agriculture Zone meaning that the planning authority has the discretion to issue a permit. No re-zoning is required.
- e) The existing activity is a fully permitted Level 1 Activity. This proposal is an intensification of that activity.
- f) The Planning Authority has determined that the proposal is a substantial intensification under the LUPA Act Section 12 (7) and is hence subject to a development application.

### 5 ENVIRONMENTAL LICENCE

This application is not for an Environmental Licence with reference to the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.