

Stornoway Quarrying

Raeburn Quarry

Development Proposal and Environmental
Management Plan

APPENDIX F

North Barker Phytophthora and Weeds Report

John Miedecke

Stornoway Quarry Raeburn Pit

On November 2nd 2007 the Raeburn Pit was inspected to ascertain its status with regard to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and environmental weeds.

The Raeburn Pit is located 1.5 km north east of Breadalbane. The pit produces basalt gravel. It is surrounded by pasture and cropping land with no native vegetation in the immediate vicinity.

The site was inspected by traversing within the operations area and the perimeter of the lease area. The overburden soil has been setback from the face so as to not contaminate the gravel with soil. The central pit has a range of size graded gravel stockpiles within it.

Phytophthora cinnamomi

Basalt soils are not conducive to the establishment of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Pasture grasses and most crops are not susceptible to infection with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and so do not provide host species for the pathogen.

No symptoms of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* were found anywhere on the lease.

The risk of establishment at the site is very low.

Minor puddling of water presents an opportunity for infected mud brought to the site on vehicles to be transferred to other vehicles leaving the site. Puddles should be filled with gravel and the surface kept as free of puddles as possible with regular maintenance of the surface.

Weeds

The overburden and parts of the surrounding vegetation have become dominated by weeds. Many of the weeds are common agricultural grasses and broadleaves while three are Declared weeds under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999* and others are environmental weeds known to be invasive where native vegetation is disturbed. There is also minor establishment of weeds on old stockpile and within the pit area.

The weeds include the **Declared** weeds:

Fennel
Slender Thistle
Blackberry*

Other weeds
Brassica
Reseda
Pinus radiata*
Hawthorn *
Rosa*
Privet*

The *Weed Management Act 1999* requires that the Declared weeds should not be allowed to invade land currently free of weeds and land that is the habitat of threatened species and vegetation types.

The woody* weeds listed above should be removed or sprayed with herbicide. The herbaceous weeds should be controlled with herbicide. All vegetation within the operations area (within the quarry faces) and particularly on stock piles should be removed and maintained vegetation free.

The recommended control procedures for many weeds can be found on the DPIW web page.

www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/SSKA-73U3QA?open

These actions will reduce the risk of contamination of the gravel products with weed seeds and thus reduce the risk of spread from the site.

Philip Barker

Photos: Examples of weed distribution.



Variety of thistles at southern margin in particular.



Variety of thistles at southern margin in particular.



Thistle and brassica infestation on overburden storage in south.



Fennel and pine invading margins.



Example of weeds establishing at stockpiles



Example of weeds on stock piles



Example of weeds on stock piles



Rosa (Briar rose) at margins in south west.



Blackberry on overburden storage



Set back of overburden