Environmental Impact Statement
Project Specific Guidelines
For
AG & BJ Riley
Nook Quarry Expansion
Nook, Sheffield

November 2019

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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1. Information for the Proponent

Purpose

The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (the EMPC Act) requires the Board of the Environment Protection Authority (the Board) to provide guidance to the proponent about what should be included in the case for assessment.

The Board assesses the environmental aspects of the proposal, while the relevant Planning Authority (Council) assesses planning aspects. The Board has authorised EPA Tasmania to undertake administrative tasks and establish the information base to inform decision making on its behalf.

These project specific guidelines have been prepared based on a Notice of Intent for the proposed Nook quarry expansion by Riley AG & BJ.

Instructions

- This document must be read in conjunction with the *General Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement* (the General Guidelines).
- The General Guidelines provide detailed instructions on preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as well as other information to be provided to the Board for its assessment. These Guidelines are available on the EPA website at http://epa.tas.gov.au/assessment/assessment-process/guidance-documents.
- Please ensure you refer to the latest version of the General Guidelines by downloading them directly from the EPA website link above.
- This project specific guidelines document:
    - identifies the key issues which must be addressed in the EIS;
    - the minimum survey requirements and studies required as part of the EIS for key issues; and
    - other information to be supplied for the purpose of the Board's assessment, in addition to that required by the General Guidelines, for both key issues and other issues.

The EIS should be prepared using a risk-based approach. Not all issues nominated in the guidelines will have the same degree of relevance to all proposed activities. Depending on the nature of the proposed activity and its location, some issues may be more relevant than others. **The level of detail provided on each issue should be appropriate to the level of significance of that environmental issue to the proposal.** Refer to the General Guidelines for further instructions on preparing the EIS.

The issue of guidelines should not be interpreted as excluding other matters that emerge as significant from environmental studies, public comments or otherwise during preparation of the EIS. The assessment process may also change the level of risk associated with some of the issues. The level of detail provided in the EIS may therefore change to reflect the level of significance of that environmental issue to the proposal.

NOTE: An assessment cannot proceed to public consultation until the Board has received an EIS that meets the requirements of the General and Project Specific Guidelines, and provides sufficient information to assess the proposed activity (subject to any additional information required in response to public consultation).

Further information on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is provided in the *Guide to EIA* available on the EPA website at http://epa.tas.gov.au/assessment/assessment-process/guidance-documents.

2. Key Issues

The key issues identified for this proposal, which should be the focus of the EIS, are:

Key Issues	
1	*Potential effects on surrounding residences from air blast over pressure and vibration as a result of blasting.*
2	*Potential noise emission effects from onsite activities such as crushing, screening, rock drilling and onsite haulage.*
3	*Potential effects on flora and fauna from habitat clearing.*

Please refer to the General Guidelines and Sections 3 and 4 below for the information requirements associated with these key issues.

3. Survey and Study Requirements for Key Issues

The following surveys and studies will be required as part of the EIS.

Key Issue	Surveys Required	Survey requirements	Relevant Section(s) of General Guidelines
1. Flora/fauna	• Flora/fauna and habitat survey of the development footprint	• Survey must be undertaken in accordance with Guidelines for Natural Values Surveys (see section 6.7 below)	5.2 and 6.7
2. Noise/ Blasting	• Estimate of noise levels from onsite activities at nearby residences, at key stages in the development of the quarry	• Predict the noise levels at nearby residences from activities such as rock drilling, crushing, and screening taking into account the likely location(s) of the noise sources at key stages in the development of the quarry	6.4
	• Quantitative estimate of effects of blasting on nearby residences, at key stages in the development of the quarry	• Predict the air blast over pressure at nearby residences, at key stages in the development of the quarry • Predict the peak particle velocity vibration at nearby residences, at key stages in the development of the quarry	

4. Key Issue Information Requirements

The following information is required <u>in addition to the requirements of the General Guidelines for key issues</u>. Some of these requirements will support completion of the surveys and studies as detailed above.

<u>The section numbers correspond to the relevant section of the General Guidelines.</u>

6.4 Noise

- Proposed operating hours for the following activities: loading and transport, extraction, crushing and screening, and drilling and blasting.
- Description of all major sources of noise on site, including: drill hole preparation, blasting, materials handling (loading of material, stockpiling and transportation of the material within the land), and materials processing (crushing and screening).
- Site layout including any attenuating structures and/or topography and the locations of all major noise sources shown at key stages of the quarry development. Note, it is understood that various equipment, e.g. crushing equipment, will be located at different areas of the quarry at different times. The site lay out plans must clearly show the most likely location for each major noise source during quarry development.
- Description of land use and ownership in the vicinity of the site and those areas which may be affected by the proposal. All residences within 1.2km of the quarry boundary must be identified and documented on a map. The distance between the major noise sources and nearby residences at key stages of the quarry development must be provided.
- Discussion of the predicted noise levels at nearby residences at key stages in the quarry development, and the potential for noise emissions from onsite activities (such as crushing, screening and rock drilling) to impact the residences.
- Measures to mitigate or off-set the potential impacts of operational noise upon nearby residences.
- Description of existing and proposed blasting, including charge and frequency.
- Discussion of the predicted air blast over pressure and peak particle velocity at nearby residences at key stages in the quarry development, and the potential for blast effects to impact the residences.
- Measures to mitigate the potential for blast effects to impact upon nearby residences.
- Discussion of the potential for heavy vehicle movement to and from the site to cause a noise nuisance.

6.7 Biodiversity and Natural Values

It is noted that no flora and fauna surveys have been conducted as part of this proposal, and that it is the intent to rely on information gathered from previous surveys undertaken seven years ago (2012). The *Guidelines For Natural Values Surveys - Terrestrial Development Proposals* (DPIPWE 2015) (https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Natural%20Values%20Surveys%20related%20to%20Development%20Proposals.pdf) state that "*Survey reports are generally regarded as current for **up to two years** from the date of the field survey, provided no significant changes have occurred on or around the survey area and no new, relevant information has become available. Beyond two years, the information provided may be out of date and will usually need to be re-verified on the site.*"

It is recommended that a revised flora/fauna survey be carried out to determine the species and vegetation communities currently present on site, with a focus on those areas within the proposed development footprint. The flora/fauna survey should take into account the following:

- A flora survey should be conducted within the development footprint, to determine whether any threatened species are present. This should occur at an ecologically suitable time of year (e.g. when candidate species are most identifiable – e.g. February for *Pterostylis atriola*).

- According to TasVEG, the threatened vegetation community *Eucalyptus amygdalina forest and woodland on sandstone (DAS)* occurs in the northern part of the lease. It is understood that the intention is to retain this vegetation, which is supported. It should be noted however, that TasVEG mapping is not always accurate, and therefore it is recommended that the flora/fauna survey verify the extent of this community within the mining lease.

The following surveys (preclearance surveys) should be undertaken prior to vegetation disturbance. The preclearance surveys may be undertaken as part of the flora/fauna survey outlined above, or at a later date (forming part of the EIS management measures) depending on the staged development of the quarry:

- It is possible that the Tasmanian Devil (endangered TSPA) and Spotted-Tailed Quoll (vulnerable TPSA) utilise habitat within the lease area. A den search should be carried out prior to any vegetation being cleared. *The Survey Guidelines and Management Advice for Development Proposals that may impact on the Tasmanian Devil (Sarcophilus harrisii)* (Devil Guidelines) contains information and advice on survey techniques and appropriate management recommendations.
- The Masked Owl (listed as endangered under the TSPA) is a hollow-dependent species whose range overlaps the site, and has been recorded from within 5 km of the quarry. It is recommended that large trees be checked for hollows (equal or greater than 15 cm entrance diameter) prior to clearing. Trees over 100 cm d.b.h. with such hollows (equal or greater than 15 cm entrance diameter) should be retained where possible. If such trees need to be removed, they should first be checked for masked owl activity.

The Wedge-Tailed Eagle (WTE) listed as endangered under the TSPA, is highly sensitive to disturbance and is known to occur in the Badgers Range/Bonney Tier area (3 WTE nests are located within 3 km of the lease area). An area of habitat identified as highly suitable for nesting on The List Map occurs within 1 km of the quarry to the east. As the area of the quarry will be expanded, the EIS must address the potential for impacts to this species, with particular reference to the high quality-nesting habitat within 1 km of the quarry.

As noted above, it is possible that the Tasmanian Devil (endangered TSPA) and Spotted-Tailed Quoll (vulnerable TPSA) utilise habitat within the nearby area. In accordance with the Devil Guidelines, it is recommended that where traffic movements on local access roads are expected to increase by 10% or more, a roadkill assessment be carried out and appropriate mitigation measures put in place to address potential roadkill impacts. The EIS must therefore provide information on the expected increase in traffic on Old Gravel Road and Nook Road as a result of the proposal and discuss the potential for roadkill, taking into account the recommendations in the Devil Guidelines.

5. Other Information Required

The following information is required in addition to the requirements of the General Guidelines for issues, other than key issues.

The section numbers correspond to the relevant section of the General Guidelines.

2 Proposal Description

2.1 General

- Detailed quarry plan illustrating and describing the key stages in the quarry development through to the end of the life of the quarry (i.e. proposed mining limit RL 260, as indicated in the Notice of Intent). It must include clearly labelled maps and figures showing the location of all major items of equipment, offices/maintenance bays, internal haul roads, site

drainage features, stockpiles and quarry benches (location and orientation) at key stages of the quarry development.

- Details of the proposed transport route(s), mode of haulage, and current and expected truck movements per day (including expected maximum movements).

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