

SEAHAM QUARRY PROJECT UPDATE: NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT – SECRETARY’S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS RELEASED

Boral Resources (NSW) would like to provide you with updated information about the proposed Seaham Quarry Project (the Project).

A Scoping Report was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in June 2023, requesting the Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). The SEARs have now been issued for the Project. They provide details of the environmental and other impact assessments to be undertaken for the Project, as part of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

As per the SEARs, the following potential impacts of the Project will be considered in the EIS:

- biodiversity
- traffic and transport
- noise, blasting and vibration
- surface and ground water
- land resources and rehabilitation
- air-quality
- economic
- visual
- hazards
- waste
- cultural heritage (Aboriginal and historic)
- social
- cumulative impacts of all three quarries.

Project overview

The Project proposes a long-term plan for the Seaham Quarry site, with operations to continue for an additional 30 years, to 2057. The Quarry has been operating since 1991 after planning approval was received in 1985. Geotechnical investigations have confirmed the proposed extension area contains high quality ignimbrite rock. This will allow an extraction which produces less low-grade materials and will produce aggregates to a high specification.

High quality aggregate is required in the region to support local councils including Mid Coast, Port Stephens, Maitland, Lake Macquarie and Newcastle. Upcoming projects requiring high specification aggregate include the M1 Extension from Beresfield, Nelson Bay Road Duplication, Singleton Bypass, Muswellbrook Bypass, Hexham additional lane, Newcastle container terminal and the Williamstown Airport upgrade.

Aggregate produced by the Project will:

- meet a high specification with minimal crushing and screening required, therefore, reducing energy usage in the production process;
- have a high yield (and low waste output) which means the volume of useable rock produced at the Quarry requires a smaller pit area, when compared to other quarries; and
- will be used in highly specialised products such as asphalt for road construction and concrete for high strength uses.

Key project elements (subject to change as the environmental assessments progress):

- increasing the lateral extraction area by an additional 30.6 hectares, extending southward, northward and eastward from the Quarry’s current pit;

- establishing a maximum annual production rate of up to two (2) million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) (NB the Quarry's Environment Protection licence (EPL) allows production up to 2 Mtpa and there is no current limit under the Quarry's development consent);
- increasing blasting frequency to one blast per week, between the hours of 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday; and
- preliminary investigations and initial community feedback has been received for the proposal to extend the quarry's operating hours to 24 hours, seven days per week. Further refinement to operating hours is occurring as part of impact assessments.

About the approvals process

- The Project is being assessed as a State significant development (SSD), under Part 4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Minister for Planning or the Independent Planning Commission is the consent authority for SSD applications.
- Following completion of the impact assessment investigations, an EIS will be submitted to DPE for assessment. As part of the approvals process, the EIS will be placed on DPE's website and publicly exhibited for 28 days, in which time the community can make a submission on the Project.

Next steps

Boral will be holding the first of two planned in-person drop-in Community Information Sessions in late August 2023, to provide information about the Project and preliminary findings of impact assessment investigations.

The session will provide an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the Project for consideration in the EIS. More information about these session details will be provided closer to the time.

For more information or enquiries about the Project, please contact the team via:

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