



Our reference: MD13/500

Ms Margaret Wilkinson  
Honorary Secretary  
Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc  
c/- [keithandmargw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:keithandmargw@ozemail.com.au)

Dear Ms Wilkinson

I refer to your email to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, regarding the proposed alternative haul route for the Mackas Sand proposal at Salt Ash. The Minister has referred your letter to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and I am responding on her behalf.

I appreciate you bringing your concerns to the attention of the Minister.

On 20 September 2009, Mackas Sand received Major Project Approval under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for its quarry operations at Salt Ash. The proposal was considered under Part 3A and was not a designated development.

During 2012, Mackas Sand applied to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to modify the approval to allow for a new access route, and to increase the depth of extraction. The Department of Planning and Infrastructure will assess the modification application prior to making a recommendation.

The EPA understands that as the approval was granted under Part 3A the proposed modification will be considered by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under that part of the Act. The EPA has an advisory role to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

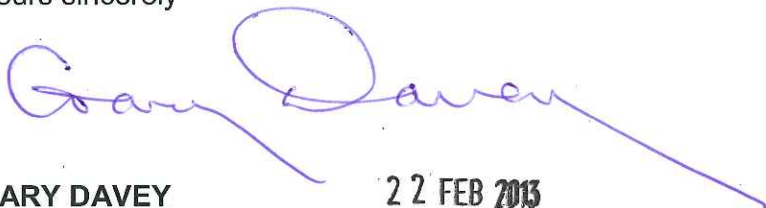
The EPA's statutory interest in the revised project is limited to potential noise and air impacts associated with the new haul route and potential impacts on groundwater from the proposed increased extraction depth. The EPA has reviewed the revised proposal and provided detailed advice on these issues to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for its consideration.

The EPA notes that most of the issues you have raised relate to traffic and safety impacts of the proposed haul route. The EPA has no statutory authority to comment on these issues. I suggest that you raise these issues directly with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Roads and Maritime Services.

The last paragraph of your letter refers to the production limit listed on the Environment Protection Licence issued to Mackas Sand. The current production limit is 500,000 tonnes per annum (t/a) from both sites. This limit is based on current production levels. Condition A1.2 of the licence makes it clear that Development Consent 08\_0142 permits extraction of up to 1,000,000 t/a from Lot 218 and 1,000,000 t/a from Lot 220. The licensee may at any time apply to increase the extraction limit up to the amount permitted by the development consent.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Mr Peter Jamieson, Head Regional Operations Unit, EPA on (02) 4908 6818.

Yours sincerely



**GARY DAVEY**  
**Director North**  
**Environment Protection Authority**

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