



ML12/10456

Mr Dick Appleby
Vice President
Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc
PO Box 290
NELSON BAY NSW 2315

Dear Mr Appleby

Thank you for your email to the Minister for Roads and Ports on behalf of the Tomaree Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc about Major Project Application 08-0142 MOD1. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

In September 2009 major project approval was granted to Mackas Sand Pty Ltd (Mackas Sand) by the then Minister for Planning for the extraction of up to two million tonnes of sand per year from Lots 218 DP 1044608 and 220 DP 1049608. That is, one million tonnes per year from each site.

I understand that the access arrangements from the sites to Nelson Bay Road were from Lot 220 via Oakvale Drive to the roundabout on Nelson Bay Road, Salt Ash and from Lot 218 via a private road and then via Lavis Lane to the roundabout on Nelson Bay Road, Williamtown, returning via the same routes.

In June 2012, Mackas Sand requested that Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) give consideration to an alternative vehicular access to Lot 218 via a new intersection arrangement on Nelson Bay Road between Medowie Road and Richardson Road. Mackas Sand advised that there were issues in finalising the access arrangements, as previously approved; noting that sand extraction at Lot 218 has not commenced operations at this time.

Following RMS discussions with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, and Port Stephens Council, and consideration of the traffic generating impacts on the State road network, RMS provided preliminary advice to Mackas Sand that it would support a new left in / left out access arrangement to Lot 218.

In response to a request for comment on a modified application by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, RMS provided its requirements to that department on 27 November 2012 supporting the new left in/left out intersection connection to Nelson Bay Road.

Roads & Maritime Services

Subject to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure approving the modification, the new access is to be designed and constructed to RMS requirements at full cost to the developer.

The current Environmental Protection License allows for a combined total of 500,000 tonnes to be extracted from both sites per annum. On application to the Office of Environment and Heritage, Mackas Sand may increase the extraction levels under license to a maximum of two million tonnes per annum.

Presently only Lot 220 is operating based on the current 500,000 tonnes limit and the approved operating hours, about three loaded trucks per hour on average would enter, with three empty trucks exiting Nelson Bay Road. If full production on one million tonnes is achieved, six loaded and six empty trucks per hour would be using the Lemon Tree Passage Road roundabout.

RMS requirements provided to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure has considered the impacts of the traffic generated by the proposed development on the State road network.

RMS will continue to liaise with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure about any changes to the approvals for the development.

I hope this has been of assistance. For more information please contact Mr David Young, Manager, Land use Development Impacts, at RMS on (02) 4924 0688.

Yours sincerely

 21.12.2012

Peter Duncan
Chief Executive