

Appendix 9

Amended Social Impact Assessment

prepared by

Element Environment Pty Ltd

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Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd

ABN: 28 000 157 808



CLEARY BROS

Albion Park Quarry Extraction Area Stage 7 Extension Amended Social Impact Assessment

Prepared by



Element Environment

April 2023

Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium

Part 10



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

R.W. Corkery & Co. acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands comprising NSW and Australia on which our projects are located. We appreciate the knowledge, advice and involvement of the Elders and extended Aboriginal community that contribute to our Projects and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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Albion Park Quarry Extraction Area Stage 7 Extension Social Impact Assessment

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

This amended Social Impact Assessment (amended SIA) has been prepared in response to the Department of Planning and Environment's Request for Additional Information #3 (22 December 2022) relating to the proposed extension of the current extraction area within the Albion Park Quarry (the Quarry) – the Albion Park Quarry Stage 7 Extension Project (the Project).

In February 2022, Element Environment prepared a Social Impact Assessment (2022 SIA) that was included in the application's EIS which the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) exhibited from 20 May 2022 to 16 June 2022.

This amended SIA provides additional information on the engagement that informed the 2022 SIA and a revised assessment of some of the identified potential social impacts that considers any revised conclusions of technical studies prepared for noise, blasting, heritage, and visual amenity. This amended SIA should be read in conjunction with the 2022 SIA.

1.2 THE AMENDED PROJECT

Since the EIS was exhibited, a range of matters have been raised by government agencies and an Amendment Report has been prepared to describe the proposed amendments to the Project (RWC 2023a). Principal amendments to the Project include:

- a reduction in the area of the proposed Stage 7 Extraction Area (the Amended Extraction Area or the Amended Project Area); and
- An increase in the width of the visible terminal faces on the western and northern face of the Amended Extraction Area from 3m wide to 10m wide.

The Amended Project Area is located within the elevated rural land south and west of the Princes Highway, within the Wentworth Hills. The main ridge within the Amended Project Area trends north-northwest to south southeast and varies in elevation from approximately 125m AHD in the north to 75m to 105m AHD on the south-eastern boundary of the Amended Project Area.

The Project Area has been amended since exhibition of the EIS as follows.

- the southern boundary has been relocated to the north, from a minimum elevation of approximately 80m AHD to approximately 90m AHD; and
- the eastern boundary has been relocated to the west, from a minimum elevation of approximately 70m AHD to 90m AHD, apart from a small section in the vicinity of Watercourse 5 at 75m AHD.

The effect of these amendments has, to the extent practicable, resulted in the crest of the Amended Extraction Area being relocated to the break in slope of the central ridgeline, with an additional 10m to 20m of visual barrier provided.

1.3 APPROACH TO AMENDED SIA

This amended SIA has been carried out in consideration of the DPE's Social Impact Assessment Guideline (DPE, 2021) (the Guideline). The following approach has been adopted in the preparation of this report:

- outlining the consultation approach that informed the SIA, including the current experience of the existing operation for each stakeholder group identified in the 2022 SIA;
- comparing the social impacts identified in the 2022 SIA against any changes to social impacts resulting from the revised conclusions of technical studies prepared for noise, blasting, heritage, and visual amenity; and
- further considering the potential impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage and connection to country.

The report presents the amended social impacts in a summary table to demonstrate the residual social impacts and the change in social impact (if applicable). It considers each element in terms of the extent, duration, sensitivity or concern.

It is also noted that since the drafting of the 2022 SIA, Cleary Bros has entered into an agreement with one impacted landowner. This agreement was developed exclusively for the Project and is considered a mitigation measure applied to reduce the potential social impacts. The details of the agreement are confidential and for the amended SIA, Element has relied upon Cleary Bros advice in relation to the agreement.

2 ENGAGING FOR SIA

2.1 OVERVIEW OF SIA CONSULTATION

As outlined in the 2022 SIA the locally specific Project stakeholders are known to Cleary Bros courtesy of its long-term presence in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region. A range of methods were selected for the SIA to address one or more of the matters determined by the DPEs scoping tool, to require further social impact investigations as shown in Chapter 6 of the 2022 SIA.

As noted in the EIS, the Applicant also undertook several engagement activities during both the scoping and EIS phase of the Project. The outcomes of these activities were also used to inform the assessment of likely social impacts and community sentiments.

This section provides a breakdown of the following:

- an overview of the tools used to achieve the desired SIA consultation outcomes and the timing (Table 2.1);
- overview of how the SIA considered operational engagement outcomes and findings including reference to the assessed social impacts in the SIA (Section 2.2); and
- overview of how the SIA used targeted engagement as a primary source of information to further inform the impact assessment (Section 2.3).

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Table 2.1 Engagement tools and timing

Audience	Purpose in SIA	Dissemination	Responsibilities	Reach
Engagement Technique: Targeted interviews (SIA specific engagement)				
Nearby neighbours	<i>Consulting to collect information and insights</i> Purposive sampling to deepen understanding about what people value about the area they live in and the likely impacts of the project on them.	Targeted phone calls	Element contacted neighbours directly to arrange an interview. Interviews conducted over the phone by Element, with outcomes recorded. Element provided feedback to Cleary Bros. Element analysed outcomes and data for the SIA.	5 private properties and 1 business
Engagement Technique: Online survey and survey tool (SIA specific engagement)				
Community groups Nearby neighbours Broader community	<i>Consulting to collect information and insights</i> An 'opt-in' methodology to collect qualitative feedback about what those living in close proximity to the Project value about the area they live in. Also provided an opportunity to understand further how people expect the Project to impact them that served to further help inform assessment of social impacts.	Emailed to nearby neighbours, local community groups (Albion Park Chamber of Commerce), Council Shared on Cleary Bros website and promoted on social media platforms	Element developed survey instrument for distribution by Cleary Bros using their social media platforms, website and contact database. Element also shared with local community groups and nearby neighbours via email. Element analysed outcomes and data for the SIA.	44 total responses
Engagement technique: Community Consultative Committee (broader project engagement)				
Shellharbour City Council Representatives Nearby communities	<i>Sharing information and consulting to collect information and insights</i> Deepen understanding about what people value about the area they live in and the likely impacts of the Project on them.	Established committee	Cleary Bros organised and hosted the meetings. Element analysed outcomes of meeting notes for the SIA	3 Community representatives including Fig Tree Hill representative

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Audience	Purpose in SIA	Dissemination	Responsibilities	Reach
Nearby neighbours				Community Shellharbour City Council
Personal meetings (broader project engagement)				
Nearby neighbours	<p><i>Consulting to collect information and insights</i> Deepen understanding about what people value about the area they live in and the likely impacts of the project on them. Discuss potential mitigation measures.</p>	Targeted phone calls and emails	These were attended by Cleary Bros and technical staff.	5 private properties (nearby neighbours)

2.2 EXISTING OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

As noted in Table 4.6 of the 2022 SIA, Cleary Bros has an ongoing community engagement program which involves a range of information provision and engagement mechanisms that include personal meetings and telephone liaison; Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings; key stakeholder meetings and briefings; a community complaints line; and company website.

Through implementation of their ongoing engagement program and established relationships, Cleary Bros has developed a good understanding of key community issues in relation to their activities which were considered in planning for the Project. The outcomes of these activities were used to further inform the assessment of likely social impacts.

Table 2.2 provides a summary of community sentiments from the existing operational engagement, ascertained through a review of CCC meeting minutes, operational complaints records, briefings and meetings with Cleary Bros and media analysis. The table also outlines the related scoped social impacts as per Chapter 6 of the SIA. It should be noted that the findings of these secondary sources were further investigated through targeted consultation and the collection of primary data through the targeted interviews (refer Table 2.1).

Table 2.2 Summary of social impacts identified during operational engagement

Identified social impact	Stakeholders					2022 SIA reference
	Nearby	Local residents	Council	Community	Local business	
Amenity and changes to the way people experienced their surroundings due to blasting, noise, dust, vibration and fumes.	x	x				6.1.1 Increase in operational dust, noise and vibration causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel
Visual impact and changes to the visual landscape, something that people value and degradation of the rural landscape.	x	x				6.1.3 Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life
Cumulative impacts associated with the nearby Albion Park Rail bypass, primarily relating to dust and noise.	x		x	x		6.1.6 Cumulative Impacts from surrounding quarries resulting in reduced social amenity and wellbeing for nearby neighbours
Communications and decision making, and the perceived lack of ability for people to have their say in matters important to them	x					6.1.7 Lack of trust in systems used to influence operational management systems and project design
The community benefit in terms of the role that Cleary Bros play in contribution to the local communities through donations, sponsorship and employment.			x		x	6.1.4 Enhanced community wellbeing from continuation of job opportunities and community investment

Identified social impact	Stakeholders					2022 SIA reference
	Nearby	Local residents	Council	Community	Local business	
						6.1.5 Distributive equity of economic benefits, between the region and nearby neighbours

2.3 SIA ENGAGEMENT

While the SIA used outcomes of the broader Project engagement to inform the assessment of social impacts, additional targeted engagement was also carried out to further inform the understanding of the potential impacts of the Project as shown in Table 2.1. The outcomes of this engagement and the relevance to the SIA assessment are shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 SIA EIS engagement

Stakeholder	Summary of feedback and sentiment	SIA reference
Mechanism: Targeted interviews (4 of the 6 interviewed expressed negative sentiment towards the Project)		
5 nearby neighbours 1 business	The visual impacts and changes to their surroundings.	6.1.3 Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life
	Community benefit and the belief that the community and individual landholders will not be compensated or receive fair and adequate benefits.	6.1.5 Distributive equity of economic benefits, between the region and nearby neighbours
	Amenity impacts and changes to the way people experience their surroundings.	6.1.1 Increase in operational dust, noise and vibration causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel
	Health and wellbeing, including the stress associated with uncertainty regarding the Project.	6.1.1 Increase in operational dust, noise and vibration causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel
	The removal of heritage item listed on the local LEP, being Belmont Homestead.	6.1.8 Further changes to land use affecting community character, inducing a sense of loss of European heritage
	Changes to groundwater including natural springs	6.1.10 Further changes to land use affecting the availability of naturally occurring groundwater used for livestock, impacting livelihoods
	The use of existing dust monitors and whether they reflect the lived experience.	6.1.7 Lack of trust in systems used to influence operational management systems and project design

Stakeholder	Summary of feedback and sentiment	SIA reference
	The potential impacts on property values as well as the damage to properties, and impacts on livelihoods	6.1.2 Expansion of existing land use resulting in a disadvantage to personal property (negative) for nearby neighbours
Method: online survey 44 total responses (8 completed)		
Local business	Positive sentiment towards the Project Benefits of both employment and community contribution by Cleary Bros to the surrounding communities. More local employment at the quarry and associated supply chain The benefit of Cleary Bros being a locally owned business, in contrast to other nearby quarries that have international ownership.	6.1.4 Enhanced community wellbeing from continuation of job opportunities and community investment 6.1.5 Distributive equity of economic benefits, between the region and nearby neighbours

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3 AMENDED SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This chapter addresses the request from DPE for a revised SIA that considers any revised conclusions of technical studies prepared for noise, blasting, heritage, and visual amenity.

It also further considers the potential impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage and connection to country and recognises private negotiated agreements with adjacent neighbours as mitigation measures.

At the conclusion of this Chapter there is summary of the amended mitigated social impacts in relation to the Amended Project.

The risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with the social impact significance matrix contained in Table 6 of the Social Impact Assessment Guideline Technical Supplement (February, 2023) copied below.

Table 6 Social impact significance matrix

		Magnitude level				
		1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood level		Minimal	Minor	Moderate	Major	Transformational
A	Almost certain	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
B	Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
C	Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
D	Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E	Very unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

3.1 AMENDED SOCIAL IMPACTS

3.1.1 Increase in operational dust, noise and vibration causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel

Noise

SLR Consulting prepared a response to the request for further information (noise matters) (20 March 2023). This response concluded that a revised Noise and Blasting Impact Assessment (NBIA) was not required. Subsequently, this amended SIA has only considered the changes to the assessed social impacts from the occupants of the residences on “Figtree Hill” resulting from the negotiated agreements.

Cleary Bros has consulted extensively with the owners of “Figtree Hill” during preparation of the EIS and in recent years. The parties have negotiated an agreement that addresses a range of matters, including air quality, noise, blasting and visual impacts. Under that agreement, the owners have agreed to accept Project-related impacts to the extent identified in the air quality, noise and blasting, and visual assessments as presented in the EIS. The agreement also provides:

- that Cleary Bros will only perform operations within the Stage 7 Area on a maximum of 16 Saturdays per calendar year from 7:00am to 1:00pm (note there are no changes to operations on Monday to Friday);

- that Cleary Bros will limit blasting to one blast per week;
- that the “additional noise management and mitigation measures” assessed by SLR (2022a, Section 7.3.3) would not be required; and
- a means whereby the proposed northern amenity barrier and adjoining tree screen would not be constructed, which is subject to further negotiations with the owners of “Figtree Hill”.

Agreements negotiated with impacted landowners are considered a mitigation measure. Before mitigation, the Project was expected to have a high negative impact (likely to occur with a ‘moderate’ magnitude). Considering mitigation, inclusive of the negotiated agreement and other measure agreed in the EIS, with mitigation, the Project is predicted to have a low social risk to “Figtree Hill” – it is ‘unlikely’ to occur with a ‘minor’ magnitude. This represents a change in the assessed mitigated social risk from ‘medium’ to ‘low’. Refer to Table 3.1 Assessment of increase noise causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel Table 3.1 for a summary of the revised assessment.

Dust

While additional assessment of air quality impacts was not required following the exhibition of the EIS, this amended SIA has been modified to reflect the negotiated agreement as a mitigation measure, given it also considered dust. Given the outcomes of the technical assessment, if all management and mitigation measures are applied by Cleary Bros, the Amended Project is unlikely to cause adverse air quality impacts for the community. It is possible in unpredicted weather conditions, that airborne dust could have an impact on the “Figtree Hill” landholding due to proximity and location of various stages of work, however with the negotiated agreement the mitigated social impact is low for “Figtree Hill” (unlikely and minor). There is no overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk presented in the 2022 SIA. Refer to Table 3.2 for a summary of the revised assessment.

Table 3.1 Assessment of increase noise causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel

Social Impact: Increase noise causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel					
Category: Way of life, surroundings, health and wellbeing					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Negative	Likely (B)	Moderate (3)	Operational life	High (B3)
Mitigation measures	Negotiated agreement Only perform operations within the Stage 7 Area on a maximum of 16 Saturdays per calendar year from 7:00am to 1:00pm (note there are no changes to operations on Monday to Friday) Cleary Bros will limit blasting to one blast per week				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:
Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Negative	Unlikely (D)	Minor (2)	Operational life	Low (D2)
Change from 2022 SIA	Change in the assessed mitigated social risk from ‘medium’ to ‘low’.				

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Table 3.2 Assessment of increase in dust causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel

Social Impact: Increase in dust causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel					
Category: Way of life, surroundings, health and wellbeing					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Negative	Possible (C)	Moderate (3)	Operational life	Medium (c3)
Mitigation measures	Negotiated agreement Mitigation measures as per the Air Quality Impact Assessment				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:
Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Negative	Unlikely (D)	Minor (2)	Operational life	Low (D2)
Change from 2022 SIA	No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk				

3.1.2 Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life

The Amended Project is located within a Significant Mineral Resource Area near several other quarry operations, operated by Boral, Holcim and Hanson. The character of the immediate visual environment is strongly influenced by existing quarrying operations, with quarrying making up a large part of the surrounding land use in the local area.

Since the time the application for development consent for the Project was originally exhibited a range of matters have been raised by government agencies and an Amended Visual Impact Assessment (Amended VIA) (RWC, 2023b) has been prepared for the Amended Project.

The Amended VIA notes that Cleary Bros have attempted to minimise visual impacts to the greatest extent practicable through the following.

- reduction in the area of Stage 7e to bring the eastern and southern boundaries of the Amended Extraction Area further up the ridgeline, effectively increasing the elevation of the eastern and southern crests by up to approximately 20m and 10m respectively;
- increase in the width of the visible benches from 3m wide to 10m wide. This would result in additional area for rehabilitation operations and establishment of trees and shrubs on the visible terminal faces; and
- establishment of two additional tree screens which are expected to exceed 10m high to the east of the Stage 7 Extraction Area.

This is in addition to the sequencing of extraction to minimise visual impacts to the communities to the east, and particularly to visual impacts when viewed from the “Figtree Hill” residences throughout the majority of the Amended Project life.

It is acknowledged that visual impacts can be quite subjective because they are influenced by individual perceptions, preferences, and experiences. What one person finds visually appealing or unappealing can be very different from another person's opinion. For example,

some people may find a modern, minimalist building design to be visually striking and attractive, while others may prefer a more ornate and traditional design. Additionally, factors such as cultural background, age, and personal biases can also affect how someone perceives visual impacts. As such, some people may not notice or be impacted by changes in the visual landscape because of the Amended Project, whereas others may find the proposed changes will impact how they experience their surroundings.

This Amended SIA has considered visual impacts with mitigation measures in place as per the amended VIA. In this scenario, occupants of the residences on "Figtree Hill" would still experience some visual impacts during the life of the Amended Project due to the topography and locations of the existing dwellings and the approved residence on the property, however, the magnitude would be lessened, given that these remaining visual impacts have been considered in the negotiated agreement with the owners of "Figtree Hill". In consideration of the Amended VIA and the negotiated property agreement, it is predicted that the Amended Project will have a medium mitigated social impact on "Figtree Hill" (possible to occur and low magnitude).

In terms of the wider LGA, for those west of Dunmore Road (including the proposed Shellharbour Hospital and the Shellharbour Anglican College), it is acknowledged that during Stages 7c to 7e, sections of the western terminal face would become visible and a greater section of the eastern area of the Holcim Albion Park Quarry would also become visible. The area of the Illawarra Escarpment that would be visible would also increase, however given the existing visual landscape and the findings of the Amended VIA, if the recommended mitigation measures in the Amended VIA are applied by Cleary Bros, it is assessed that the Amended Project will have a low mitigated social impact on road users. This is consistent with the assessed mitigated social risk in the 2022 SIA.

For those properties west of Dunmore Road, while the Amended Project would result in a change in the skyline and distant views, these views would be largely consistent with views of the Illawarra Escarpment to the south of the Amended Project Area when viewed from those properties and it is assessed that the project will also have a low mitigated social impact (possible to occur and minor magnitude).

During consultation, a second adjacent landowner also raised some concerns around visibility of the extraction area, however the VIA found that given the topography of the area, the property would not experience a negative visual impact from any current approved dwellings on the property, resulting in a low social impact.

Summaries of the aesthetic impacts described above are in Table 3.3 (Figtree Hill), Table 3.4 (road users), Table 3.5 (nearby neighbours).

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Table 3.3 Assessment of Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life – “Figtree Hill”

Social Impact: Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life					
Category: Way of life, surroundings					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Negative	Likely (B)	Major (4)	Operational life	High (B4)
Mitigation measures	Negotiated agreement As per the Amended VIA				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:
Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Negative	Unlikely (D)	Minor (2)	Operational life	Low (D2)
Change from 2022 SIA	No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk				

Table 3.4 Assessment of changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life – road users

Social Impact: Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life					
Category: Way of life, surroundings, health and wellbeing					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
Road users of Princes Highway and broader community	Negative	Possible (C)	Minor (2)	Operational life	Medium (C2)
Mitigation measures	As per the Amended VIA				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:
Road users of Princes Highway and broader community	Negative	Unlikely (D)	Minor (2)	Operational life	Low (D2)
Change from 2022 SIA	No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk				

Table 3.5 Assessment of changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life – nearby neighbours

Social Impact: Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life					
Category: Way of life, surroundings, health and wellbeing					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
Nearby neighbours to east and properties west of Dunmore Road	Negative	Possible (C)	Moderate (3)	Operational life	Medium (C3)
Mitigation measures	As per the Amended VIA				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:

Social Impact: Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life					
Nearby neighbours to east and properties west of Dunmore Road	Negative	Possible (C)	Minor (2)	Operational life	Low (C2)
Change from 2022 SIA	Change in scale definition from 'nearby neighbours to east and local community to the east beyond the Princes Highway' to 'Nearby neighbours to east and properties west of Dunmore Road' No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk				

3.1.3 Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of European heritage

In considering submissions, DPE requested further information on the broader cultural landscape and impacts of the proposal thereon and in response, a Historic Landscape and Heritage View Impact Analysis was prepared by Biosis (2023) (Biosis 2023 Impact Analysis).

The Biosis 2023 Impact Analysis found that “the heritage impacts to ‘Belmont’ will be major adverse impacts and will be irreversible. It is understood from the proponent that the Amended Project cannot proceed while still retaining ‘Belmont’ in its current setting. The impacts cannot be mitigated to any significant degree. Strategies are in place to manage the salvage of some elements of ‘Belmont’, and these are outlined in the HHA. However, given the current condition of ‘Belmont’, the relocation of the timber-framed building offsite would be feasible, and subject to community interest in the project and the relevant approvals in place (as required), would be an improved heritage outcome over demolition”.

It also found that “the impacts to the Wentworth Hills and Dunmore Valley Dairy Farming Landscape range from no impact to moderately adverse impacts. Principal impacts are on views associated with ‘The Hill’ Farm and the site of ‘Kyawana’. The Amended Project Area is in the mid- and foreground of views from ‘The Hill’ Farm and the site of ‘Kyawana’ to the west and south to the Illawarra Escarpment and Saddleback Mountain respectively. The intrusion into those views will be a minor sector that will be softened somewhat when the excavation is ultimately rehabilitated. Rehabilitation is the recommended mitigation measure”.

During the consultation with the nearby neighbours to inform the SIA (Element, 2022) one owner expressed concerns relating to the impact on heritage. Specifically:

- “The removal of the heritage item listed on the local LEP, being Belmont Homestead and Dairy”; and
- “Deterioration and destruction of heritage items/landscape, including the Wentworth Hills”.

In response to the submissions received, Cleary Bros identified four overarching heritage management actions including:

- Action Item 1 – Capturing the heritage value of ‘Belmont’ in its current setting;
- Action Item 2 – Identification of an alternative site for the ‘Belmont’;
- Action Item 3 – Retaining materials from the ‘Belmont’ and outbuildings; and
- Action Item 4 – Recovering residual heritage value.

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The Biosis 2023 Impact Analysis made additional recommendations including:

- a Heritage Interpretation Plan to assist interested parties in interpreting the former heritage values of the 'Belmont' in the Wentworth Hills and Dunmore Valley Dairy Farming Landscape should be prepared and its recommendations implemented—interpretive devices should include those as described in Action Item 1;
- the proposal to explore the retention and relocation of 'Belmont' homestead in accordance with Action Item 2 should be supported;
- if Action Item 2 does not result in the retention and relocation of the 'Belmont' homestead, then Action Item 3 should be followed; and
- Action Item 4 should be carried out in accordance with the archaeological recommendations of the HHA.

This amended SIA acknowledges that if a heritage-listed building is relocated, it can still have a significant impact on the community. Heritage buildings often have cultural, historical, and architectural significance, and are an important part of the community's identity and heritage. The relocation of such a building can disrupt this connection and sense of identity and can also lead to a loss of historical context.

Even if the building is relocated to a nearby location, it is possible that the community may still feel the impact of its absence from its original location. People may have emotional attachments to the building and may feel a sense of loss or sadness when it is moved.

Therefore, it is important that Cleary Bros carefully consider the potential impact on the community before relocating a heritage-listed building, and to engage with the community in the decision-making process. This can help to ensure that the community's views and concerns are considered, and that the relocation is carried out in a way that is respectful and sensitive to the building's heritage value and its significance to the community.

Given the findings of the technical assessment and implementation of mitigation measures, the social impact is medium for the occupants of the "Figtree Hill" residences and the community – it is likely to occur with a 'moderate' magnitude (see Table 3.6). This does not represent an overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk from the 2022 SIA.

Table 3.6 Assessment of further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of European heritage

Social Impact: Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of European heritage					
Category: Way of life, surroundings, health and wellbeing					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
"Figtree Hill" and the wider surrounding suburbs	Negative	Likely (D)	Moderate (3)	Operational life	High (D3)
Mitigation measures	Additional recommendations (as per Biosis 2023 Impact Analysis) Engage with the community in the decision-making process				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:
"Figtree Hill" and the wider Surrounding suburbs	Negative	Possible (C)	Moderate (3)	Operational life	Medium (C3)

Social Impact: Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of European heritage	
Change from 2022 SIA	Change in unmitigated impact likelihood from 'possible' to 'likely', resulting in High unmitigated impact. Change in the assessed mitigated social risk from 'medium B2' to 'medium C3'.

3.1.4 Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of Aboriginal Heritage

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) (Biosis 2021b) was undertaken for the EIS and provided an interpretation of past Aboriginal land use for the Project site. It noted that ethno-historical information 'indicates that the region was intensively occupied by the Wodi Wodi of the Dharawal language group before European occupation. Traditional stories tell of the arrival of the Wodi Wodi to Lake Illawarra, bringing with them the Dharawal or cabbage tree palm from which their language is named'.

It further notes that the proximity of the study area to a 'rich resource zone suggests that the area was a preferable location for Aboriginal people' and that 'tangible evidence of this occupation is reflected by the many sites recorded in the area with the majority of them being shell middens and artefacts'.

There are 92 registered Aboriginal sites within six kilometres of the study area, consisting of 'either artefacts, open camp sites, middens or potential archaeological deposits (PADs). The frequency of open camp sites and middens suggest intense use of a wide range of coastal and river resources and habitats'.

The ACHA made a number of recommendations that responded specifically to the wishes of the Registered Aboriginal Parties that included:

- Recommendation 1: No further archaeological assessment is required;
- Recommendation 2: Discovery of unanticipated Aboriginal objects;
- Recommendation 3: Discovery of Aboriginal ancestral remains; and
- Recommendation 4: Continued consultation with the registered Aboriginal stakeholders.

This Amended SIA notes that some time has elapsed since the ACHA process was undertaken and recommends that engaging with Aboriginal people about their connection to country should be an ongoing process, even after the Project is approved, if it was to be approved. It is recommended that Cleary Bros commit to:

Regular consultation: Regular consultation with Aboriginal people can help to ensure that their views and concerns are considered throughout the Amended Project's lifespan. This can include regular meetings, workshops or site visits with Aboriginal stakeholders, as well as ongoing communication via email or phone.

Cultural awareness training: Continue to provide cultural awareness training to employees and subcontractors to ensure that they have a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture and values and are better able to engage with Aboriginal people in a respectful and sensitive way.

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Acknowledgment and respect: It is important to acknowledge and respect the Aboriginal people's connection to country and their cultural heritage associated with the Amended Project. This can include acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land in Project documentation and signage and ensuring that any Aboriginal artefacts or cultural heritage sites are protected and preserved.

By continuing to engage with Aboriginal people throughout the Amended Project, it is possible to build positive relationships, foster mutual understanding, and ensure that the Amended Project is carried out in a way that is respectful and sensitive to the Aboriginal people's connection to country. If this was to occur, it is assessed that while there would be a low probability that the project would have an impact on cultural heritage and connection to country through the extended extraction area, the magnitude would be mitigated through the recommendations made in the ACHA and this amended SIA, which is assessed as 'minor' – resulting in an overall 'low' mitigated social risk. Table 3.7 summarises the Amended Project SIA.

Table 3.7 Assessment of further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of Aboriginal Heritage

Social Impact: Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of Aboriginal Heritage					
Category: Way of life, surroundings, health and wellbeing					
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Unmitigated:
Aboriginal people and the wider community	Negative	Possible (C)	Minimal (1)	Operational life	Low (C1)
Mitigation measures	As per the recommendations in the ACHA Implement a process that ensures that engaging with Aboriginal people about their connection to country is an ongoing process				
Scale:	Nature:	Likelihood:	Magnitude:	Time:	Mitigated:
Aboriginal people and the wider community	Negative	Unlikely (D)	minor (2)	Operational life	Low (D2)
Change from 2022 SIA	Change in the assessed mitigated social risk from 'Low D1' to 'Low D2'.				

3.2 SOCIAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Table 3.8 provides a summary of the residual social impacts (mitigated social impacts) in relation to the Amended Project. It also clearly identifies the change in social impact since the 2022 SIA (if applicable).

Table 3.8 Social impact summary

Impact to people	Social impact category	Affected parties	Residual impact significance	Impact significance change since 2022 SIA
Increase noise causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel	Surroundings Way of life Health and wellbeing	Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Low (D2)	Change in the assessed mitigated social risk from 'Medium' to 'Low'
Increase in dust causing a decline in social amenity, health or way of life for nearby neighbours and personnel	Surroundings Way of life Health and wellbeing	Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Low (D2)	No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk
Changes to the aesthetic value and amenity affecting surroundings and way of life	Surroundings Way of life	Adjoining property to the north (Figtree Hill)	Low (D2)	No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk
		Road users of Princes Highway and broader community	Low (D2)	No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk
		Nearby neighbours to east and properties west of Dunmore Road	Low (C2)	Change is scale definition from 'nearby neighbours to east and local community to the east beyond the Princes Highway' to 'Nearby neighbours to east and properties west of Dunmore Road' No overall change in the assessed mitigated social risk
Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of European heritage	Culture	"Figtree Hill" and the wider surrounding suburbs	Medium (C3)	Change in unmitigated impact likelihood from 'possible' to 'likely', resulting in 'High' unmitigated impact Change in the assessed mitigated social risk from 'Medium B2' to 'Medium C3'
Further changes to land use affecting community character inducing a sense of loss of Aboriginal Heritage	Culture	Aboriginal people and the wider community	Low (D2)	Change in the assessed mitigated social risk from 'Low D1' to 'Low D2'

4 REFERENCES

- Biosis (2021b) – Albion Park Quarry Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Biosis (2023) - Albion Park Quarry - Stage 7 (SSD-10369) Historic Landscape and Heritage View Impact Analysis
- DPE (2021) – Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects
- RWC (2023a) – Amendment Report (April 2023)
- RWC (2023b) – Amended Visual Impact Assessment (April 2023)