

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Cleary Bros Albion Park Quarry Community Consultative Committee
Held via Zoom videoconference
Thursday 22 July 2021 at 12:31 pm

Present:

Chairperson	Brian Weir (BW)
Fig Tree Hill Representative	Susan Dunster (SD)
Community Representative	John Murray (JM)
Shellharbour City Council Representative	Mark Miller (MM)
Cleary Bros Environmental Officer	Mark Hammond (MH)
Cleary Bros Representative	Todd Kalajzich (TK)

Welcome

BW welcomed all members and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and paid his respects to Elders past and present.

BW thanked everyone for making the effort to meet in these unusual times.

Item 1: Site Visit

The Chair stated that the group site visit, originally scheduled to be held prior to the meeting to allow viewing of the areas subject to the Stage 7 DA has had to be postponed due to the current coronavirus outbreak.

Item 2: Apologies

Nil

Item 3: Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Brian Weir indicated that he received a small sitting fee to chair the meeting.

Mark Hammond and Todd Kalajzich indicated they are employees of Cleary Bros.

Susan Dunster represents Fig Tree Hill, adjoining land owner.

Item 4: Record of Minutes & Business arising from previous minutes

Minutes accepted as an accurate record of meeting held 3/12/2020. No matters arising.

Item 5: Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Item 6: Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

The following report was provided to all members as an attachment to the agenda, and read out by MH:

i) Progress of the project

Currently excavating rock from Stages 5 and 6. For FY21 to 31 May 2021, 704,640 tonnes of hard rock products were produced on site (annualised rate of 768,698t), including approximately 438,782 tonnes of blue basalt products and 265,859 tonnes of red agglomerate. Production going forward is expected to remain at approximately the same rate.

MH stated that the production quantities for FY21 were 763,883 tonnes of latite and agglomerate.

ii) Issues arising from site visits

A site visit is planned to be undertaken as part of this meeting.

Previously addressed – See Item 1.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Dust

Depositional dust, which consists of larger dust particles that can settle out on surfaces, have varied across the site (12-month average), with the gauge closest to the site entrance recording 9.5g/m²/month due to additional contributions from the Albion Park Rail bypass earthworks directly adjacent. All other gauges have recorded between 1.3 and 2.4g/m²/month, which are lower than the previous report. This is likely related to improved regional air quality over the past 12 months compared with earlier periods, which were additionally affected by bushfires in the 2020 summer. It is expected that depositional dust levels at the site entrance will improve over the coming months as works associated with the Albion Park Rail bypass come to completion.

The High Volume Air Sampler records dust particles that are suspended in the air and are smaller than 10 micrometers, which is referred to as particulate matter (PM₁₀). There was one exceedance of the daily PM₁₀ criteria since the last CCC meeting which was reported to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. This incident resulted in an incremental impact of 52.6 µg/m³, which is marginally above the limit of 50 µg/m³. The rolling annual average (to the end of May 2021) has continued to improve from the last

report to 18.8µg/m³, in response to improved regional air quality in the previous 12 months, and is at its lowest level since 2017.

MH stated that the real time dust monitors continue to be problematic. Two of the three monitors have been working quite well over the past few months. MH outlined schematic for an updated air quality monitoring plan, including relocation of the HVAS monitor to Fig Tree Hill (pending agreement with owners) which will continue to be used for compliance assessment, and the distribution of the three real time monitors around the quarry, to guide reactive management response. The dust depositional gauges would be decommissioned. Cleary Bros intends to take this revised monitoring plan to the Department for approval, however wish to consult with the CCC beforehand.

JM asked whether it would provide more or less data.

MH explained that the real time monitors would provide more data that could be used at the time of any dust issue, rather than waiting for the results to come back at the end of the month. The dust deposition gauges would no longer be recording, however the ability to measure and respond in real time will make up for them.

TK clarified that it would allow the quarry to respond at the time, for example by getting the water cart to go to a certain area.

SD asked whether this will stop the issue of the dust gauges tipping over and not recording accurately.

MH stated that the dust gauges would no longer be used.

The Chairperson confirmed that the Committee concurred with this strategy.

Boreholes

Cleary Bros have continued regular sampling of groundwater bores since the last report. Groundwater levels have generally increased in the last 12 months in response to improved rainfall. This is especially pronounced in the two shallow monitoring bores (particularly MW1S), while the deeper bores remain at generally lower levels. The concentrations of some major salt components and overall salinity are still higher than the long term average, however have generally reduced over the previous 12 months.

Nothing further raised.

Blasting

All blast results have complied with EPA and DPIE limits. FY21 average and maximum blast overpressure (noise) at the nearest sensitive receptor (as at 22/6/2021) were recorded as 107.3 dB(L) and 114.8 dB(L) respectively. FY21 average and maximum blast vibration at the nearest sensitive receptor (as at 22/6/2021) were recorded as 2.33 mm/s and 7.39 mm/s respectively, with one blast above 5 mm/s and no blasts above 10 mm/s.

Nothing further raised.

Rehabilitation and Revegetation

Planted vegetation within the revegetation areas are now largely self-sufficient with no additional watering required. The focus in these areas is now on restricting annual weed growth around the smaller seedlings, to ensure they can compete. In Zones 2 and 3, tree growth has surpassed expectations, and is largely self-sufficient, with weeds generally controlled under the expanding canopy (see photo at entrance to Zone 3). Zone 4 has also seen considerable growth over the past 12 months, predominantly among the planted eucalypts and acacias. A broader diversity of mostly rainforest plants was selected for planting in Zones 1 (infill areas) and 5 (broad scale planting), which haven't performed as well, with poor growth and some plant loss. While these plants may just be taking time to set roots, we will look to replace those plants that haven't survived with those species that have worked well in other areas. This aims to create the canopy first, with natural (or assisted) colonisation of the broader rainforest species once weeds start to be shaded out.

Revegetation efforts since the last report have focused on holding back annuals and grasses around new plantings, while also controlling various weeds including Blackberry, Lantana, African Boxthorn, Cape Broom, and African Olive.

Entrance to Zone 3 – planted trees (2017) performing well include the Forest Red Gum, Red Cedar, Maiden's Wattle, and Prickly-leaved Tea Tree



MH mentioned that there was good growth with all areas growing well, particularly in areas that were planted around 4 years ago, with these areas now producing their own seed.

Community engagement

Cleary Bros have been proud to support the following community programs and events over the past 12 months:

- Kiama Rugby 7's – Tournament Sponsor over a number of years, providing integral support to one of Kiama's pinnacle annual events.

- South Coast Blaze – Franchise Partner supporting the team in the NSW Premier League netball competition, fostering the best current and emerging netball talent from the local area.
- Partnering with the Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Council to support ongoing education and development of the local indigenous community.
- Illawarra Convoy – Long term supporter of the Illawarra Convoy, providing much needed support to families affected by life threatening medical conditions and local charities.
- Group 7 Referees – Major sponsor over more than 35 years, continuing the development of rugby league referees on the South Coast.

Two community complaints have been received since the last meeting. One was from a community member and relates to excessive vibration and noise from blasting activities, while the other was from a government agency and relates to loose material on the East West Link adjacent to the quarry entrance. Each complaint has been investigated with a response provided to the complainant.

Nothing further raised.

v) Information provided to the community and any feedback

The Cleary Bros website is regularly updated to ensure all required information is current, including approvals, management plans, and environmental monitoring data.

Nothing further raised.

Cleary Bros recommends the above report is received and noted by the CCC

Resolved: Report received and noted.

Item 7: Other Agenda Items

i) Development Application for Stage 7 of the Quarry

MH tabled a presentation on the timing and draft content of the Environmental Impact Statement including a summary of the assessment of impacts including to air quality, noise and blasting, visual, biodiversity, heritage, soils and surface water, groundwater, economic, and social impacts. MH stated that the assessments are currently being finalised, with an anticipated submission date of mid August. The EIS would then be placed on public exhibition for 4 weeks to allow for submissions from government agencies and the public. The presentation is included as Attachment 2 to the minutes.

Discussion

JM asked whether the quarry will be visible to the Shell Cove residents.

MH explained that the Eastern Rim had been introduced to minimise the visibility of the quarry to the residents in Shell Cove to the east. This section would be extracted last. The quarry would still be visible to some extent, however the aim was to keep this

section in for as long as possible to allow rehabilitation of the quarry highwalls, and minimise direct views of the quarry operations.

Referring to the slide on Noise and Blasting, JM asked how Cleary Bros were managing the noise impacts on neighbours.

MH explained that Cleary Bros had met with all nearest neighbours, and where appropriate, were continuing to meet regularly.

Referring to the slide showing the photomontages, JM asked whether the grassed areas under the "Rehabilitated Stages 1 to 6" would be improved with tree cover.

MH explained that it was currently intended to keep this area as improved pasture to support a grazing final landuse.

Referring to the slide on biodiversity, SD asked about the fig trees on the property and any assessment related to these dominant trees.

MH explained that they have generally been mapped as part of the subtropical rainforest ecological community, however under the biodiversity legislation they generally don't have any additional protection in their own right, other than for the protection of species that use them for habitat.

Referring to the slide on cultural heritage, SD asked whether Cleary Bros would need to apply to Council to demolish the 'Belmont'.

MH explained that as the project is State Significant Development, any approval to demolish the Belmont would be included in the decision made by the Department.

SD asked if Council would have the opportunity to provide input into this, given the 'Belmont' is listed on the Council's local heritage register.

MH responded that it would be likely that Council will provide a submission to the application as part of the exhibition of the EIS, and that they would likely include input on heritage matters as part of their submission.

No further comments.

Action: CB to lodge Environmental Impact Statement, anticipated by mid-August 2021.

Action: CB to continue to meet with affected landowners as mutually agreed.

ii) FY21 Albion Park Quarry Annual Review

MH stated that the Annual Review had been distributed to all members via email and summarised the key findings as follows:

- Good rainfall experienced over previous 12-18 months have led to improvements in groundwater and surface water availability, air quality, as well as providing a big boost to revegetation efforts with excellent growth seen in many areas planted over the last few years.
- 2 non-compliances with Development Consent air quality criteria relate to quarrying activities in close proximity to the HVAS monitor during October and November 2020.
- 2 non-compliances with EPA licence criteria relate to overflows from the main dam during very heavy rainfall events in March and May 2021.

MH checked whether all members were happy receiving an electronic copy of the report.

SD requested a hard copy of the report.

MH stated that he would post SD a copy.

Action: CB to post a copy of the Annual Review to SD.

Item 8: General Business

There was general discussion regarding the timeline for the Stage 7 EIS submission and exhibition and when a site visit could best be scheduled.

MH stated that following receipt of submission by the Department, MH presumed the Department would undertake a preliminary review, and then place the EIS on public exhibition in September.

It was agreed that the Chairperson would meet with MH in one month and the Chairperson would make a recommendation to the rest of the committee regarding a proposed date for the site visit of Stage 7, on the basis of undertaking the site visit during the exhibition period for the EIS.

There being no further General Business, the Chairperson closed the meeting.

Next meeting planned for Thursday 2 December 2021 at 1:00pm.

A site visit is tentatively scheduled for September to allow members to view the Stage 7 area during the exhibition period of the EIS. The details of this will be confirmed by the Chairperson in late August, based on the covid-19 situation and restrictions present at the time.

Meeting closed 1:28 pm

Attachment 1



Cleary Bros Albion Park Quarry Stage 7 Development

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE 22 MARCH 2021

Progress and anticipated timing

The following summary of environmental assessments are based on drafts current as at 22 July 2021 and may be subject to minor amendments prior to submission.

Majority of the environmental assessments were completed in first half of 2021 and are currently being finalised.

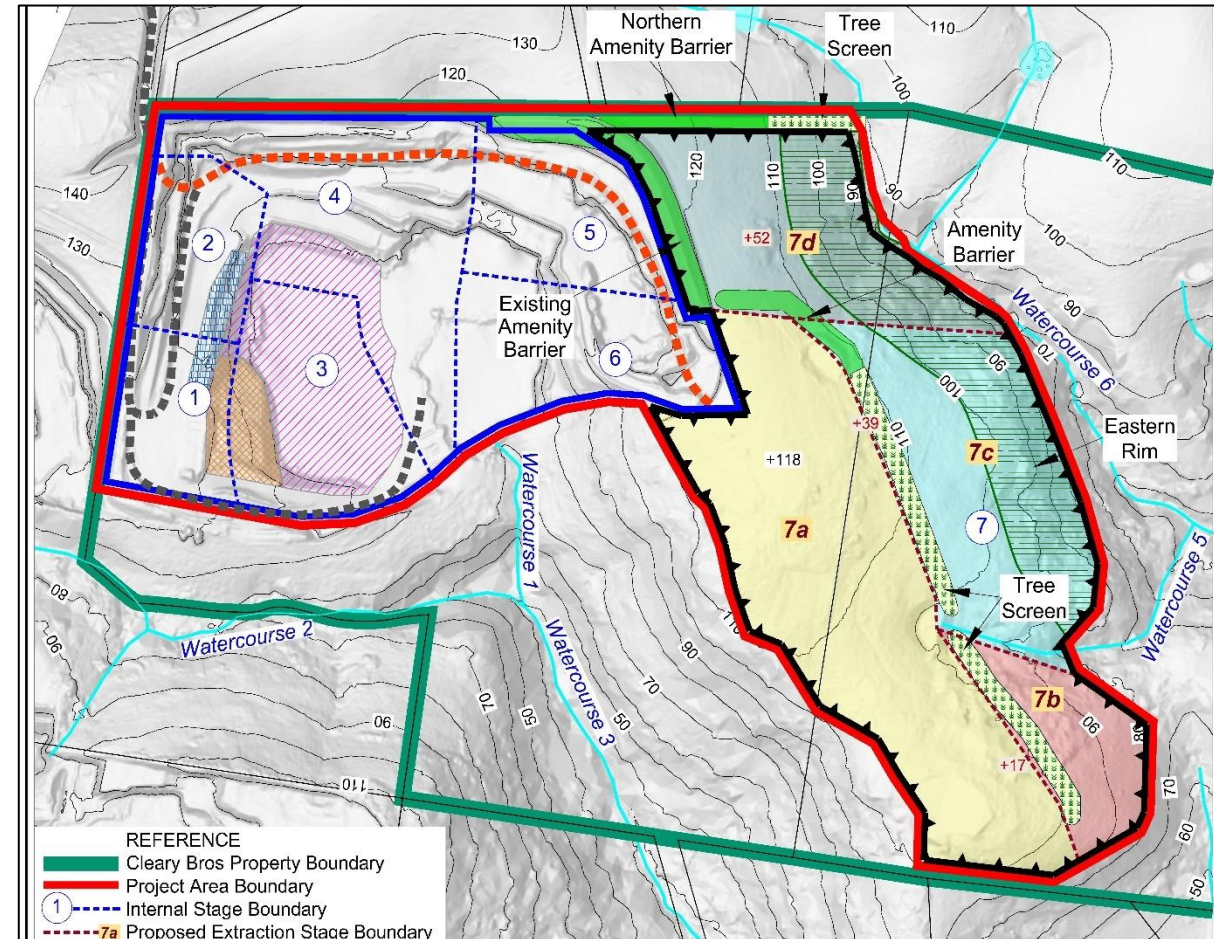
Anticipate submission of EIS in August 2021

Overview and key changes

Incorporation of “Eastern Rim” to minimize visual impacts to residents to the east

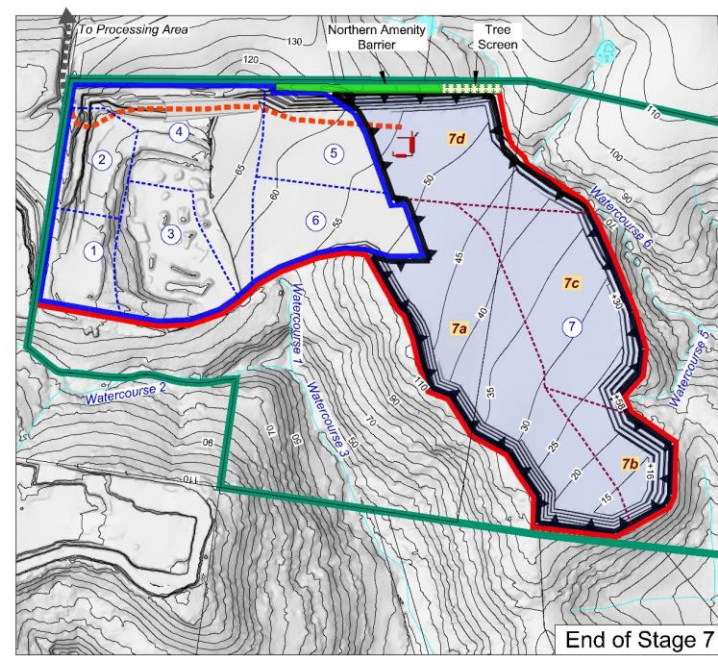
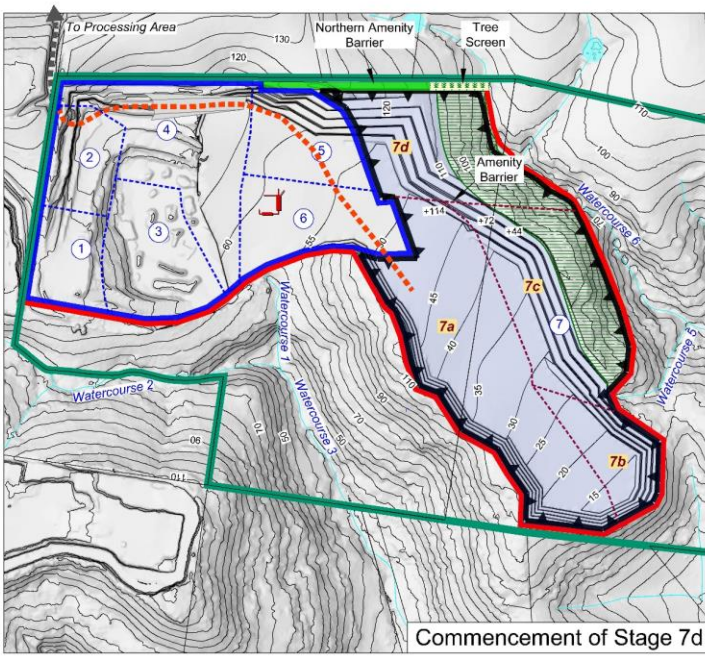
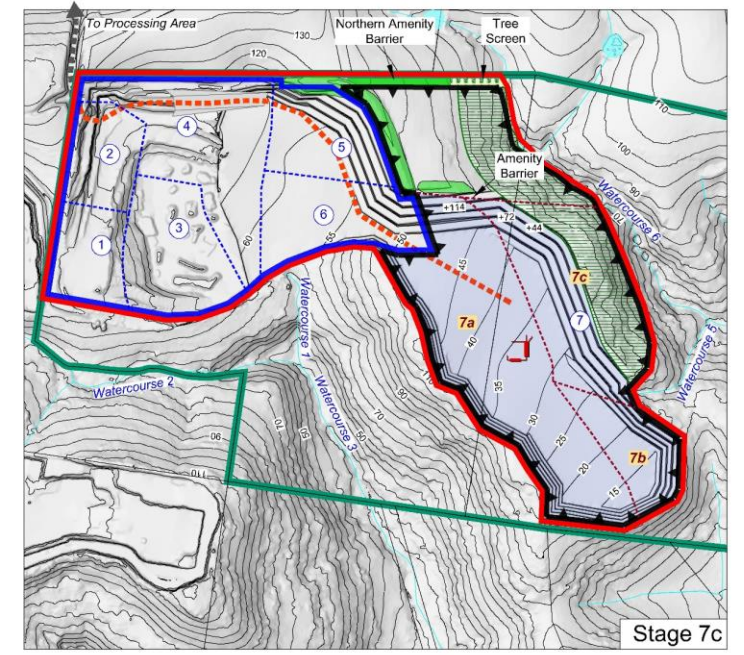
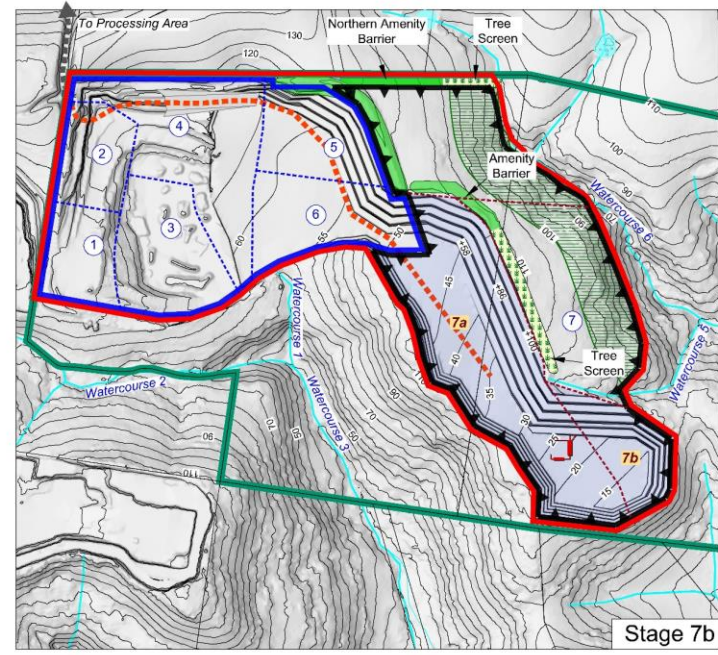
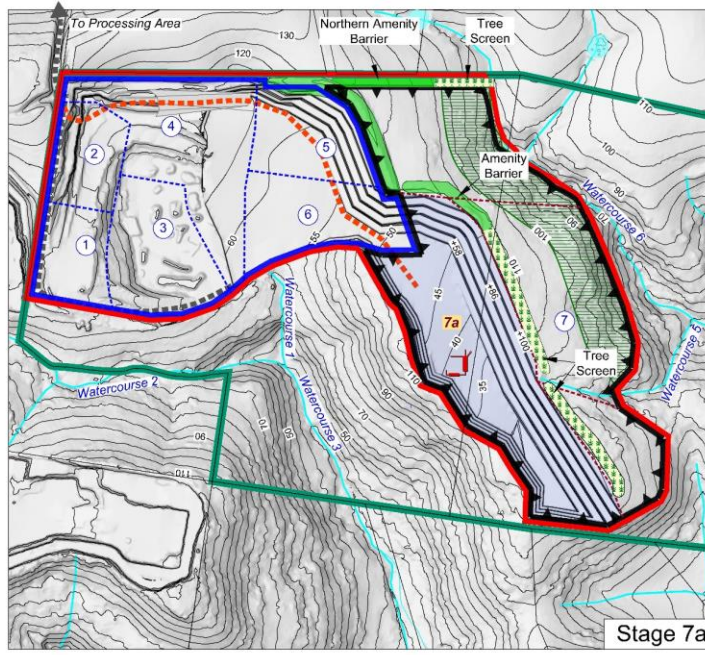
Inclusion of Primary Crushing within Project Area

A summary of impacts and proposed controls are provided on the following pages





MN



- REFERENCE**
- Existing Features**
 - Cleary Bros Property Boundary
 - Project Area Boundary
 - Cadastral Boundary
 - Existing Haul Road
 - Amenity Barrier
 - Tree Screen
 - Eastern Rim
 - Dam
 - Watercourse/Drainage Line
 - Contour (mAHD)(Interval = 5m)
 - Spot Height (mAHD)
 - Project Components**
 - Current Extraction Boundary (Stage 1 to 6)
 - Extended Extraction Area (Stage 7)
 - ① — Internal Stage Boundary
 - Proposed Extraction Stage Boundary
 - Mobile Processing Plant (Indicative Location)

Note: Some boundaries are coincident and are offset for clarity

Air Quality – still to be finalised

Key activities likely to contribute to particulate emissions would include vegetation clearing, blasting, extraction and ongoing processing of materials, material haulage and wind erosion of exposed surfaces. The Quarry's existing Air Quality Management Plan would be updated and implemented to ensure that particulate matter impacts and greenhouse gas emissions are minimised.

Modelling of predicted air quality impacts at surrounding sensitive receivers indicates that concentrations of total suspended particulates, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, deposited dust and nitrogen dioxide generated by the Project would remain below the relevant annual, 24-hour, and 1-hour assessment criteria as applicable.

The greenhouse gas assessment concluded that the Project would generate 7,712t CO₂-equivalent per year of Scope 1 emissions and 396t CO₂-equivalent per year of Scope 3 emissions. The Scope 1 emissions generated by the Project would represent <0.0059% of total NSW greenhouse gas emissions and <0.0014% of total Australian greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Noise and Blasting – still to be finalised

Noise generated by earthmoving equipment and mobile processing equipment would be attenuated principally through the design of the Stage 7 area with operations shielded by extraction faces. Construction of the amenity barriers, vegetation mulching and drilling near the surface would be the noisiest activities, creating noise levels of between 3dB(A) and 12dB(A) above the Project Trigger Noise Levels at the residences on “Figtree Hill”.

The Project Trigger Noise Levels would not be exceeded at any other residences or receivers given the considerable intervening distance and/or topography.

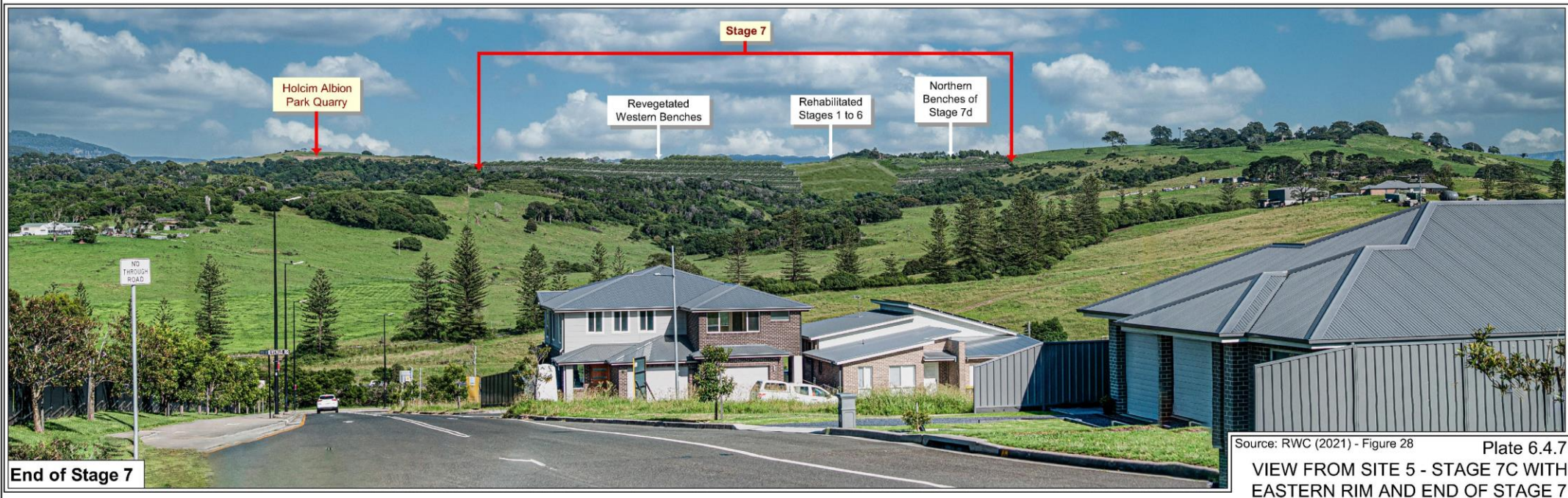
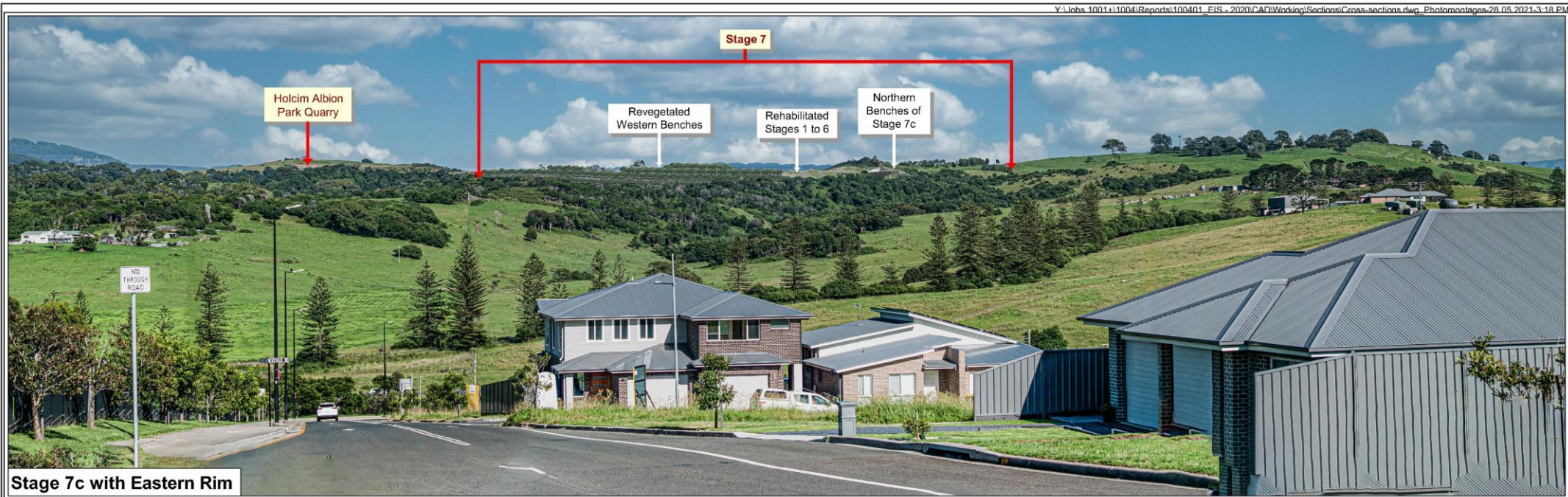
Airblast and ground vibration generated during blasting would be controlled through the detailed design of each blast utilising the site laws prepared from monitoring results of previous blasts. Compliance with standard blasting limits for airblast and ground vibration is predicted for all blasts within the Stage 7 extension.

Visibility

The staged design of the extraction operations within Stage 7, together with proposed amenity barriers and tree screens, would result in little visibility of the extraction activities during the first 10 to 15 years of operations.

Beyond that time, the upper extraction faces on the western side of Stage 7 would progressively become visible from the “Figtree Hill” property to the north and from elevated areas within Shell Cove West, east of the Princes Highway.

The impacts of the dark grey exposed extraction faces would be minimised and softened by the vegetation established on each of the benches earlier in the Project life.



Source: RWC (2021) - Figure 28

Plate 6.4.7

VIEW FROM SITE 5 - STAGE 7C WITH
EASTERN RIM AND END OF STAGE 7

Biodiversity

Cleary Bros has minimised impacts to biodiversity values within the Project Area through minimising the area of higher condition threatened ecological communities disturbed.

The Project would result in the removal of 7.61ha of native vegetation, including areas of the following two threatened ecological communities:

- 4.69ha of 'Whalebone tree – Native Quince dry subtropical rainforest'; and
- 2.92ha of '*Melaleuca armillaris* Tall Shrubland'.

Additionally, the Project would result in the loss of 3.01ha of *Zieria granulata* habitat (including an estimated 2,170 mature plants) and 0.15ha of *Cynanchum elegans* habitat (including one known individual).

A referral for the Project was lodged with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, who confirmed that the Project is a controlled action as it is likely to impact on listed threatened species and communities.

Cleary Bros intends to offset impacts from the Project by retiring credits based on the like-for-like rules.

Cultural Heritage

No Aboriginal sites, potential archaeological deposits, artefacts or features were identified during a survey of the Stage 7 area. The area was assessed as having low scientific and historical value, moderate aesthetic value and high cultural value. Due to the low potential for the presence of Aboriginal sites, in combination with the post-settlement history of disturbance from human activity, it is not anticipated that the Project would impact any Aboriginal heritage values.

An assessment of the historic heritage items within the Stage 7 area concluded that “Belmont House” has high archaeological potential, the associated former Bails and Dairy and dry stone walls have moderate archaeological potential and all other items have low archaeological potential. Both “Belmont House” and the former Bails and Dairy were determined to have local significance, whilst all other items hold no heritage significance.

A photographic archival recording of “Belmont House” has been completed in accordance with the relevant guidelines and a full archival recording would be completed prior to demolition.

The Quarry’s existing Heritage Management Plan would be updated to detail measures including the salvage and reconstruction of dry stone walls and the monitoring of demolition and ground disturbance works within the Stage 7 area.

Soils and Surface Water

Topsoil and subsoil would be progressively stripped within each stage and either stockpiled, used to construct amenity barriers, or placed directly on completed landforms for rehabilitation.

The existing land capability of Stage 7 varies between Class III (high capability) in flatter areas to Class VI (low capability) generally in steeper areas. Post extraction, the quarry floor would be re-established as Class IV to Class VI land, suitable for grazing purposes. Other parts of the quarry, comprising approximately 25% of the Project Area would comprise Class VII and VIII land suitable for nature conservation.

The Project would generate sediment-laden runoff which would be directed to internal sumps within the Project Area. The accumulated water would either be used for dust suppression or discharged after rainfall events in accordance with an Environmental Protection Licence.

The Project would not have a significant impact on surface water quality or overall downstream flow.

Final Landform

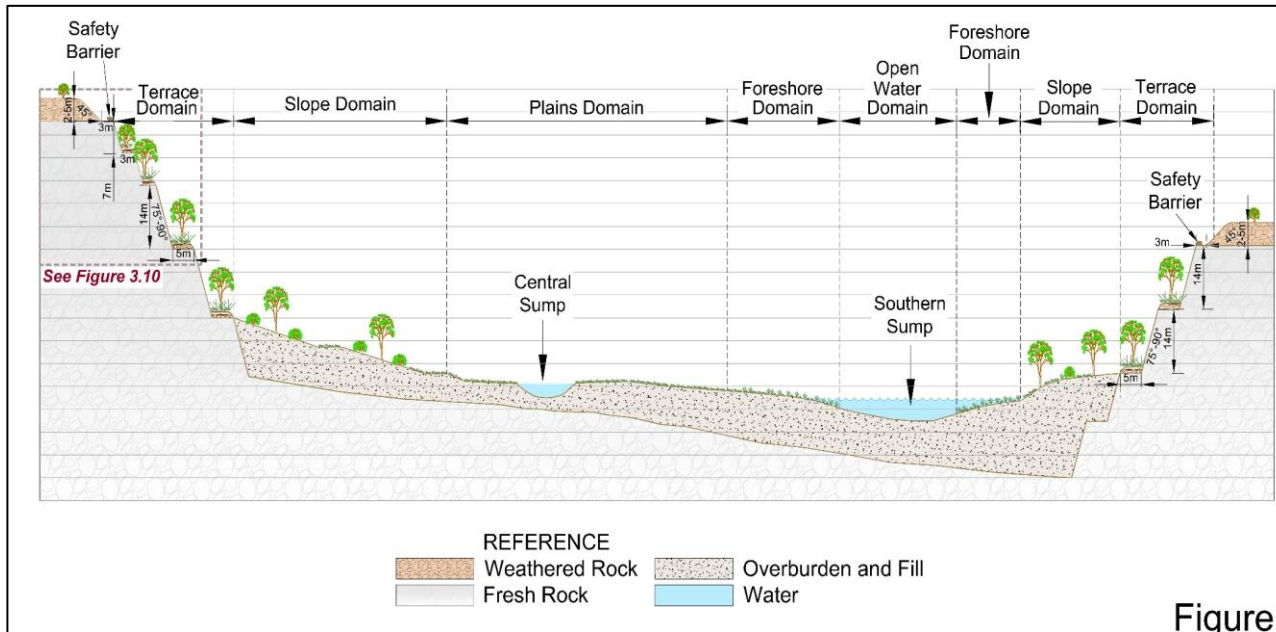
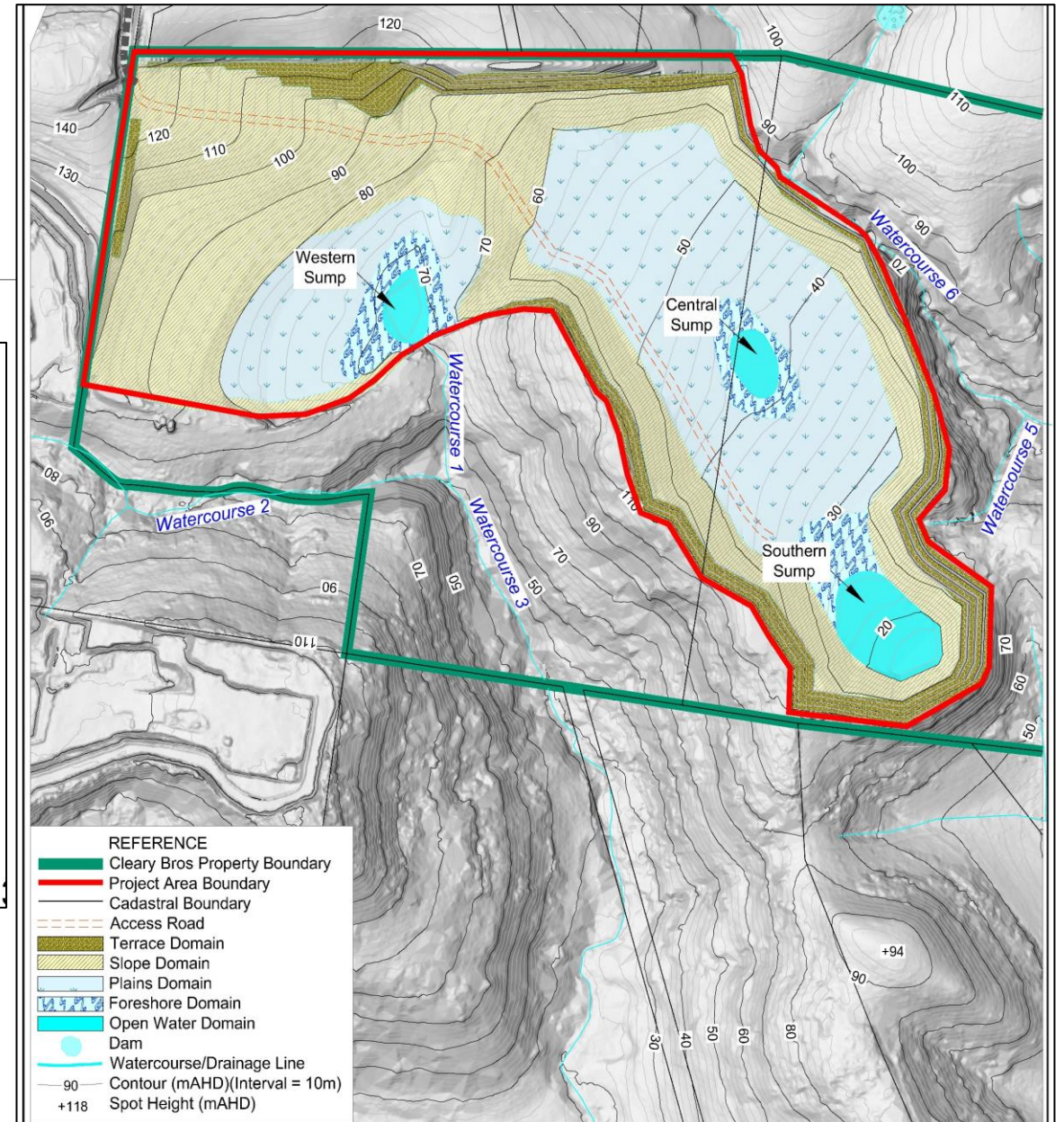


Figure 3



Groundwater

The current groundwater inflow is predicted to increase to a peak of approximately 187kL/day during Stage 7d. Groundwater drawdown of 2m would extend to an average of 150m from the boundary of Stage 7, with a maximum extension of the 2m drawdown level occurring approximately 250m to the west of Stage 7. Modelled reductions of groundwater flows to adjacent watercourses would peak at <5kL/day during Stage 7d.

Project-related groundwater impacts have been assessed as less than the *NSW Aquifer Interference Policy's* Minimal Impact Considerations. The 2m groundwater level drawdown would not encroach on any registered groundwater bores for water supply and no drawdown impacts would be experienced by high priority groundwater dependent ecosystems. Additionally, the Project is unlikely to lower the groundwater beneficial use category beyond 40m from the Project Area and the risk of potential groundwater contamination was assessed as low risk.

The Project would require groundwater entitlements for 66ML and surface water entitlements for 2ML. Cleary Bros would secure the necessary entitlements either through a controlled allocation or through the purchase of existing entitlements on the open market.

Economic and Social Impacts

The Economic Assessment determined that the Project would provide net production benefits to NSW and would provide direct economic activity, including jobs, to the local area economy, and indirect economic activity to the local area via both wage and non-wage expenditure.

The Social Impact Assessment determined that the Project would generate positive impacts within the wider community in terms of continuation of employment, workforce and supplier expenditure, and community investment.

A range of mitigation measures would be adopted to minimise adverse impacts to rural residents and suburban areas, many of which relate to noise, blasting, air quality, visibility and historic heritage. Enhancement of Cleary Bros' social investment and engagement strategies are also proposed.