



7 April 2006

Dear Neighbour,

**Proposed Extension to Gerroa Sand Quarry:
Balancing the needs of the Illawarra community with the creation of
more wetland areas**

We are writing to advise you that Cleary Bros is proposing to extend the sand quarry beside Crooked River Road at Gerroa and invite you to comment on this proposal.

Background

Cleary Bros has been extracting sand from the company's land at Gerroa for about 50 years. Over this time, a pond has been created as the quarry has been progressively extended.

The southern end of the pond has been rehabilitated as a wetland, creating habitat for a number of native flora and fauna species. Monitoring by the company's ecological consultant over several years has shown the value of this constructed wetland for native waterbirds and many other species (see Photograph 2).

The most recent extension to the sand extraction area was approved by the NSW Planning Minister in 2003, permitting the company to continue extracting sand in a limited area of former farming land.

Reason for Application

Except for a small amount of sand remaining under the existing stockpiling and loading area, the 2003 extension to the quarry will soon be exhausted; this sand will not be accessible until the closing phase of the quarry.

An extension of the sand extraction area will allow the company to continue the supply of building and construction materials (at reasonable cost) to the South Coast community, providing employment and a significant contribution to economic prosperity within the Illawarra Region.

Proposed Extension and development of more wetland area

The application by Cleary Bros proposes to extend sand extraction operations onto the company's land to the north of the current sand quarry. The area proposed for extraction is cleared farm and timbered land.



Photograph 1: Shows farmland to be quarried for sand.

The environmental assessment is in the process of being finalised and is expected to be completed next month. We are confident, based on initial investigation, that there will be **no** net adverse environmental impacts to the site. Progressive construction of the pond foreshores will provide more wetland areas similar to the existing area shown in Photograph 2.



Photograph 2: Shows completed section of rehabilitated lake foreshore

Key environmental features of the project include:

- 100,000m² of additional planted areas will be created and will include forest and wetland communities and habitats.
- 124,000m² of additional constructed wetlands will be created including shallow and deep water zones.



The location of the extension is shown on the plan attached. The proposed extension is intended to provide approximately 10 years of sand resource at current extraction rates. We do not expect changes to the current method of sand extraction or to the market-dependent rate of extraction.

Balancing the needs of the local construction industry and the wider Illawarra community with the rehabilitation and environmental protection of the quarry site is a sensitive task to which Cleary Bros is firmly committed. We welcome your comments on the proposal.

Your comments invited

Further information on the proposal can be found at the NSW Department of Planning's website: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/register or by telephoning Mr Terry Perram on 4255 2105 between 8.00am to 5.00pm.

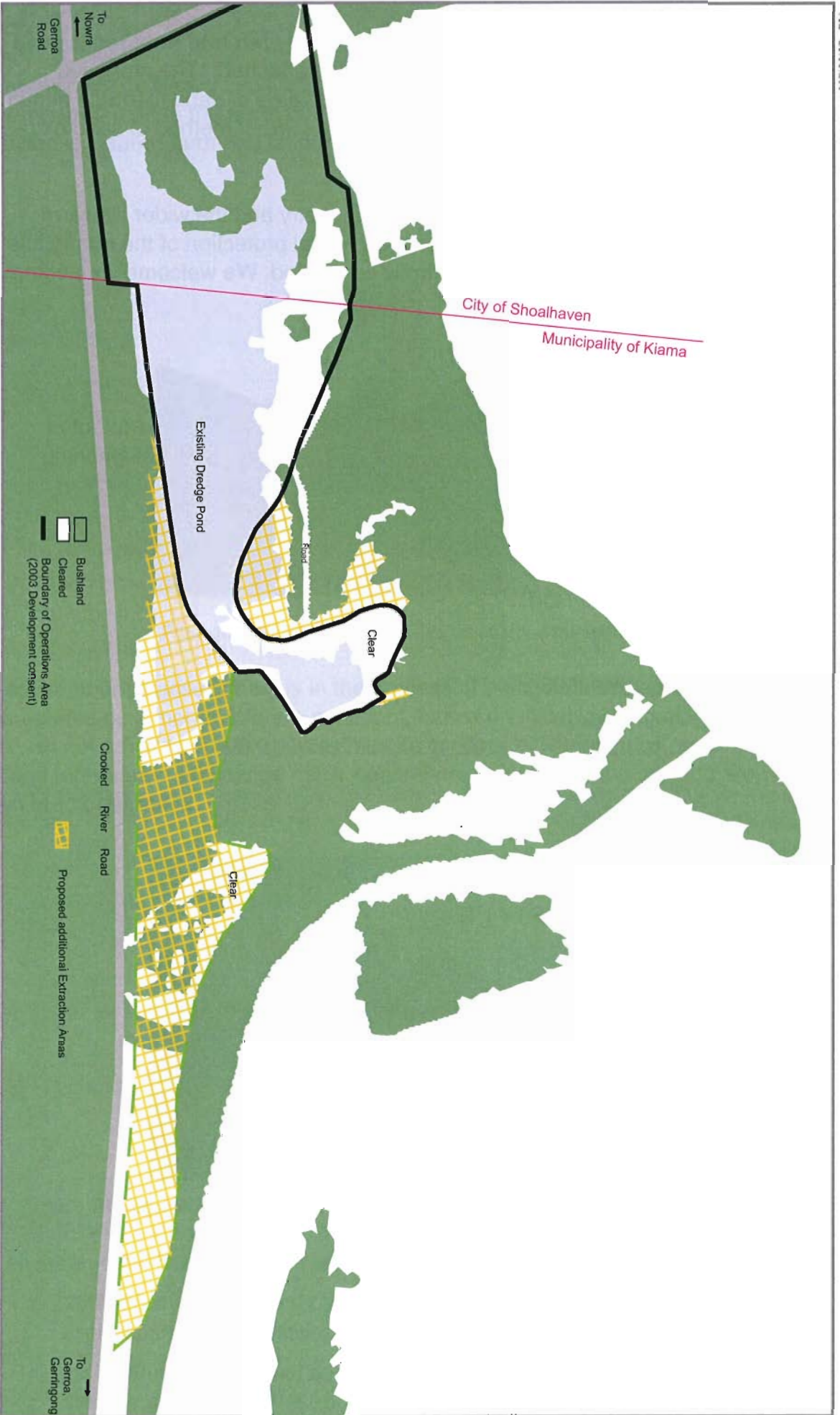
Please put your comments on the proposal in writing to:

Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd
Attention: Mr Terry Perram
PO Box 210
PORT KEMBLA NSW 2505

Or email to environmentalengineering@clearybros.com.au

Sincerely,

CLEARY BROS (BOMBO) PTY LTD



Proposed Additional Extraction Areas