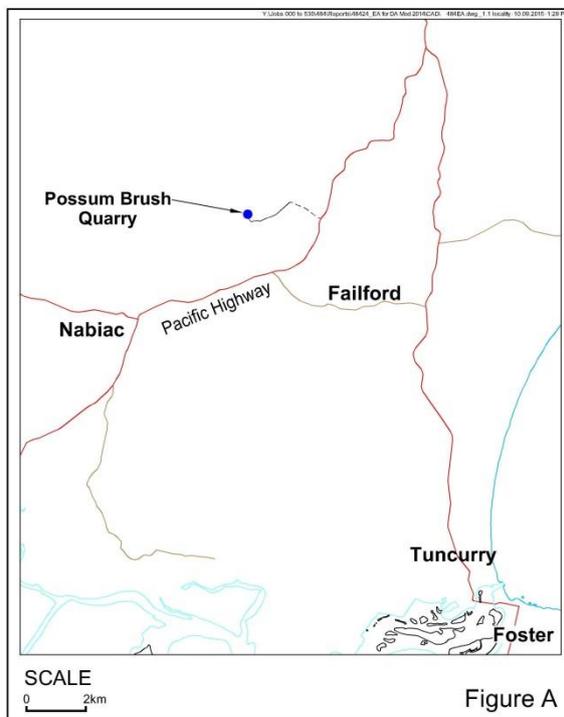


Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Possum Brush Quarry (“the Quarry”) is a hard rock quarry owned by Pacific Blue Metal Pty Ltd (“the Proponent” or “PBM”) located approximately 2km west of the Pacific Highway at Possum Brush, 4km northwest of Failford and 5km northeast of Nabiac (see **Figure A**).



The Quarry has historically been in operation since 1987 (in an area referred to as “Area A”), with a further development consent to extract material from Area B, issued by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning on 25 May 1998. This development consent has been modified on three occasions since 1998.

When Development Consent DA 283/87 was approved, it provided for a two-staged approval with the first stage approved to operate at an average of 200 000tpa for 21 years (until 2019), with the second stage

approved for a further 29 years (until 2048), thereby allowing extraction to proceed for a total period of 50 years.

With the annual production level gradually increasing to a level which would mean the approved average for Stage 1 would be exceeded before 2019, PBM decided it would be appropriate to apply for a modification of Development Consent DA 283/87 (under Section 75W of the EP&A Act). The modification application is required to be accompanied by an *Environmental Assessment (EA)* that:

- i) provides the Department of Planning and Environment with the information requested in Condition 4 of Development Consent DA 283/87 to allow the second stage to commence; and
- ii) outlines PBM’s proposal for an increase in the average and maximum production level at the Quarry.

The requested modification of Development Consent DA 283/97 relates to eight conditions and approval to forfeit the remaining years approved under Stage 1 and to continue all quarry-related operations under Stage 2 of Development Consent DA 283/97 for 30 years.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL

The key elements of the Stage 2 Quarry operations are to:

- i) extend the depth of the extraction activities beyond the Stage 1 limit (90m AHD) to the Stage 2 limit of 45m AHD (see **Figure B**); and
- ii) continue operations within the Quarry for an additional 30 years.



Figure B
 STAGE 2 QUARRY LAYOUT

The activities involved throughout Stage 2 would not change the following aspects of the approved operations.

- Extraction or processing methods.
- Approved extraction boundaries.
- Waste management.
- Infrastructure and services.
- Operational hours.
- Rehabilitation objectives and final land use.

The ongoing operation of the Quarry is proposed in conjunction with the separately approved activities of asphalt manufacture and importation and processing of up to 10 000tpa of materials for recycling.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The components and features of the existing environment within and around the Quarry have been studied in detail and the Proposal designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on that environment. Importantly, the design of Stage 2 and the ongoing operation of the Quarry has been based largely upon the successful operations during Stage 1.

The evaluation of the Proposal has established the following for the key environmental issues.

Traffic

PBM's ongoing payment for road maintenance and commitment to a range of safeguards and controls would result in its Quarry-products delivered safely with minimal impacts upon other motorists.

Beyond about 2020, when the section of the Pacific Highway near Possum Brush is reconstructed, interaction with other motorists will be further reduced.

Air Quality

The impacts of the Proposal on air quality within the area surrounding the Quarry would continue to be minimal. Detailed modelling of air quality at the maximum production levels and worst case scenarios have established that predicted concentrations of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and dust deposition rates would continue to be well within the EPA's air quality assessment criteria.

Noise

The Quarry is now sufficiently developed that extraction and processing operations are generally undertaken in areas with sufficient topographic protection for the Quarry to comply with the EPA's noise and blasting criteria i.e. in conjunction with the adoption of a range of noise and blasting controls. Activities within the Quarry and trucks travelling to and from the Quarry would continue to be periodically audible albeit, at a level within the EPA's criteria.

Surface Water

Surface water is managed within the Quarry through a series of sediment control dams and a sump within Extraction Area A. The surface water collected is sufficient to meet the on-site requirements for dust suppression and processing.

The ongoing operation of the Quarry would not involve any further clearing of vegetation within the extraction area, hence there would be no further impacts for matters relating to Aboriginal and historic heritage, soils and ecology. PBM would however, continue to manage the 15ha wildlife corridor and 50m buffer to improve habitat value and connectivity of adjoining remnant vegetation.

This assessment has established that it is appropriate for Possum Brush Quarry to continue through its second stage of operations. A review of the environmental performance of the existing Stage 1 Quarry Operations together with a range of modelling/predictive assessments for Stage 2 supports PBM's application for Stage 2.