Yarra Valley Quarry Expansion Project

Application Number: **02801** Commencement Date: **04/03/2025** Status: **Locked**

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Yarra Valley Quarry Expansion Project

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Mining

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

Other

1.1.4 Estimated start date *

01/01/2026

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

01/01/2111

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The project area is located at Yarra Valley Quarry, Launching Place, comprising three properties:

- 30 Moora Road Mount Toolebewong 3777 – Parcel 50C, TP363881X, 41.01ha ~
- 215 McMahons Road, Mount Toolebewong 3777 – Parcel 49A, TP275692R, 90.32ha; and,
- 130 McMahons Road, Launching Place 3139 – Parcel PC364849Q, 90.11ha (current WA375 quarry land).

The project area is located approximately 65 kilometres east of Melbourne's CBD and covers approximately 220 hectares. The existing Yarra Valley Quarry (WA375) comprises 90 hectares of which approximately 55 per cent (50 hectares) is secured native vegetation offsets with the remaining 40 hectares being utilized for resource extraction and processing, product stockpiling and dispatch, associated facilities and site access.

The proposed impact area of approximately 26 hectares is within the neighbouring 41 hectares of Lot 50C, the "extension site". The remaining 15 hectares of Lot 50C being part of the proposed total offset site that includes the adjoining 90 hectares in Lot 49A, providing a total offset site area of approximately 105 hectares.

The project impact area (part of Lot 50C) is bound by Mount Toolebewong State Forest to the north and north-west and the existing Yarra Valley Quarry to the south and east. Based on the approximate age of the forest and indicators of logging truck infrastructure (turnaround bays etc.), it is likely that historical land use within the impact area included extensive logging operations. The most recent historical bushfire event in the project area was the 1939 fires, which likely burnt the entire site (Attachment 1, Section 1, Page 11).

The Lot 50C impact area contained within the larger project area currently contains remnant native vegetation, as well as a disused residential dwelling and associated infrastructure in the south-eastern corner. The project area contains substantial steep slopes, with west and east facing aspects, a ridge line through the centre of the project area and a creek line traversing the project area east to west towards the southern extent. The project area is located within the Highlands-Southern Fall bioregion, and is managed by Melbourne Water Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Yarra Ranges Shire Council.

The proposed action is the expansion of an existing quarry extraction area from 23.3 hectares to 42.58 hectares, and the extraction depth from 155 metres to 285 metres, which will involve the construction, operation, rehabilitation and revegetation of the additional hard rock extraction area. The project is the third and final expansion stage of the existing Yarra Valley Quarry.

The proposed expanded quarry will extract and process known extractive resources (hornfels), to supply Victoria with essential quarry materials and thereby support and enhance the economic viability of the State. This will predominantly involve extraction of hornfels, a mineral utilised to produce crushed rock, concrete, asphalt and sealing aggregates which will be sold to government authorities and private customers at a rate of approximately 300,000 and up to 500,000 tonnes per year.

The existing site is quarried for fresh, semi-weathered and weathered hornfels, each used separately, or in combination in various construction applications. Quarrying has occurred on the site for over 70 years at varying levels of activity and production. Prior to hard rock extraction and crushing the site was used for timber production and hill gravel extraction.

Demand for the quarry produced construction materials (rock and sand) has grown considerably over the past decade in Victoria. The Victorian government is investing over $10 billion per annum on average over the next four years into new infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and the transport network to cater for growth in Victoria's population, which has and continues to drive demand for quarry products. There is approximately 3-5 years of hard rock resource remaining (based on current rates of production) for extraction within the currently approved quarry extraction boundary. The proposed development seeks to realise the full potential of the enlarged project area.

The existing crushing/screening plant, pugmill and product stockpile areas will remain in their current locations, while overburden from the expanded extraction area will be placed into the existing quarry pit (hole) as part of the overall site progressive rehabilitation and revegetation plan.

Key activities involved in this quarry expansion project include:

- Stage 1 Pre-construction of Haul Road / pre-clearing of vegetation (trees)
    - February – April 2026
    - Construction and Operational stages:
        - Haul Road (access) infrastructure development and quarrying;
        - Overburden and topsoil will be stripped by excavator and initially stockpiled outside the active extraction area, but within the disturbance area, as near as possible to where it will be required for progressive rehabilitation, or temporarily stockpiled within the extraction area for future use in rehabilitation works.
        - Continued implementation of traditional soft rock techniques (dozer, excavator, haul trucks) to remove and transport overburden and highly weathered hornfels, as well as hard rock extraction techniques (drill and blast, hydraulic rock breaker, excavators and loaders) to extract and load the harder, fresher hornfels;
        - Screening and blending secondary sales products using a mobile crusher and screens, and occasional blending of some aggregate products to customers' specifications in a pug mill;
        - Transport of extracted material around the site via off-road haul trucks to the onsite crushing and screening plant, and loading of sales products for transport from the site in covered/tarped bulk quarry materials road trucks;
        - Development of access tracks, roads and powerlines associated with infrastructure development and quarrying;
        - Disturbance to waterbodies associated with infrastructure development and quarrying;
        - Use of vehicles and machinery associated with infrastructure development and mining; and,
        - Increased human activity associated with infrastructure development and quarrying.
    - Decommissioning / Remediation stages:
        - The quarry is required to be rehabilitated as per the work plan requirements under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Industries Act 1990*. The objectives of the Rehabilitation Plan for the site is to leave the rehabilitated land in a safe, stable and sustainable condition, in a form that will be suitable to the proposed end land uses and will not be hazardous to the land users and the public after the completion of quarrying activities.
        - The affected land will be managed and progressively rehabilitated throughout the quarry life to minimise
          the impact to the community, as far as reasonably practicable, i.e. without compromising the ability to work the site and the commercial viability of the operation.
        - The Rehabilitation Plan details the objectives, strategies and design for rehabilitation, as well as the monitoring and criteria for rehabilitation of all domains within the site, up to the final closure of the site. The Rehabilitation Plan objectives will be discussed with the broader community and relevant stakeholders, which are routinely and specifically canvased through implementation of the site Community Engagement Plan.
        - Yarra Valley Quarries has undertaken progressive rehabilitation and replanting with indigenous plant stock over the life of the quarry. Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater have been involved in supplying and planting of the indigenous plant stock for rehabilitation purposes.

The construction and operational phases of the project involve activities and associated processes that will, or have the potential to, lead to the loss, reduction or reduced viability of ecological values within the project area and project locality. The extent of impacts to native vegetation are based on the 'Disturbance Footprint' developed by Yarra Valley Quarries (YVQ) on 2 May 2022. All ecological values located within the impact areas, and immediately adjacent (where the disturbance footprint encroaches by 10% or greater into the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) of a scattered tree or Large Tree in a patch) are assumed to be lost.

The proposed activity will result in the direct and indirect impact to 25.7 hectares of native vegetation comprising 433 Large Trees in patches of native vegetation, four large scattered trees, and 25.426 hectares of native patch vegetation located within and immediately adjacent to the disturbance footprint. Patches of native vegetation comprise the following Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs): 3.524 hectares of Riparian Forest (EVC 18), 12.165 hectares of Damp Forest (EVC 29) and 9.737 hectares of Shrubby Foothill Forest (EVC 45).

Due to the nature of the proposed development(extractive industry), aside from the buffer zones around the perimeter of the site, the majority of the project area will remain subject to extractive industry operations, primarily focused in the central sector of the project area. Approximately 101 hectares of remnant vegetation has been set aside for potential use as an offset site and therefore avoided in the proposed clearing scenario. The 101 hectares of remnant vegetation identified as an offset is directly adjacent to the proposed extraction (impact) area.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (Commonwealth)**

Based on the availability of suitable habitat and historical records, targeted surveys were conducted for six nationally significant fauna species (Leadbeater's Possum *Gymnobelideus leadbeateri*, Southern Greater Glider *Petauroides Volans*, Yellow-bellied Glider *Petaurus australis*, Smoky Mouse *Pseudomys fumeus*, Pilotbird *Pycnoptilus floccosus* and Spot-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus maculatus*) and eight nationally significant flora species (Tall Astelia *Astelia Australiana*, Clover Glycine *Glycine latrobeana*, Maroon Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum frenchii*, Green-striped Greenhood *Pterostylis chlorogramma*, Round-leaf Pomaderris *Pomaderris vacciniifolia*, Matted Flax-lily *Dianella amoena*, Purple Eyebright *Euphrasia collina* subsp.

Muelleri, and River Swamp Wallaby-grass *Amphibromus fluitans*) that have the potential to occur within the project area. Of these species, Southern Greater
Glider (listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act) and Gang-gang Cockatoo (listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act) were recorded in the project area during surveys (Attachment 1, Section 2, Pp. 21-23).

Potential habitat was also recorded within the project area for two additional matters of National Environmental Significance (NES) (Brown Treecreeper *Climacteris picumnus* and Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*). However, targeted Brown Treecreeper surveys were not undertaken as the lack of this species' detection throughout the numerous diurnal surveys undertaken within the project area is considered adequate to determine the likely absence of this species. Targeted surveys were not undertaken for Grey-Headed Flying-fox despite presence of suitable habitat, due to the absence of any nearby known roosting.

Despite suitable habitat existing within the project area, no other nationally significant species or ecological communities were recorded throughout the detailed site assessments and surveys, meaning these species have a low likelihood of occurrence within the proposed extraction area.

Based on the results of the targeted surveys and significance assessment, the proposed action is unlikely to result in a significant impact on any matter of NES.

***Environment Effects Act 1978* (EE Act) (Victoria)**

An EES referral was prepared and submitted to the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) in July 2024. On 28 January 2025 the Minister for Planning determined under section 8B(3)(b)of the Act, that an EES is not required, subject to conditions, requiring assessment via an environment report.

***Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) (Victoria)**

Based on the availability of suitable habitat and historical records, targeted surveys were undertaken across the proposed extraction areas for seven state significant fauna species (Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua,* Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa,* Curve-tail Burrowing Crayfish *Engaeus curvisuturus,* Brush-tailed Phascogale *Phascogale tapoatafa,* Lace Monitor *Varanus varius,* Platypus *Ornithorhynchus anatinus* and Southern Toadlet *Pseudophryne semimarmorata*) that have the potential to occur within the project area. Of these species, Dingo, Powerful Owl and Lace Monitor were detected within the project area during the targeted fauna surveys. The likelihood of any additional national or state significant fauna occurring within or adjacent to the impact area is considered low due to the absence of suitable habitat and/or lack of records in proximity to the project area.

Extensive targeted flora surveys were also undertaken across the site for nine nationally significant species, with any observed FFG Act listed flora recorded during these surveys. However, no national or State significant flora were recorded during the site surveys and based on the result of the detailed surveys there is a low likelihood that any significant flora species are present within the proposed extraction area.

There are confirmed observations of three species listed as threatened under the FFG Act, however, the project area is privately owned, and as such a permit under the FFG Act is not required.

***Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990* (Victoria)**

The proposed quarry expansion will require a variation to existing Work Authority 375 under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 and new planning permission under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

In accordance with the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990, an Approved Work Plan will be required which will include a condition (and rehabilitation liability bond) for a Rehabilitation Plan demonstrating the progressive rehabilitation of the land disturbed by the Project, and proposed future land use for the site.

On 3 July 2024, DPQ lodged an application to vary WA375 (the Proposed Work Plan Variation) with the Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) branch of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Once the Proposed Work Plan Variation is endorsed by ERR, DPQ intends to lodge an application for an omnibus planning permit with the Development Facilitation Program (DFP) of Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for a combined planning approval for the existing Quarry and the Proposed Expansion.

***Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Victoria)**

Under the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme (the Planning Scheme) the Quarry Land is zoned Special Use Zone – Schedule 1 (SUZ1) and the Proposal Land is zoned Rural Conservation – Schedule 3 (RCZ3). The Proposal Land is affected by a Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 6 (Rolling Hills and Bushy Agriculture Landscape) (SLO6), an Environmental Significance Overlay – Schedule 1 (in part) (ESO1), an Erosion Management Overlay (in part) (EMO), and the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO).

The Proposal Land is also affected by Clause 51.03, the Schedule to Clause 51.03 and the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Regional Strategy Plan (the Strategy Plan).

Planning permission is required for the Proposed Expansion under the following provisions of the Planning Scheme:

- Clause 35.06-2 (RCZ3) - to use land for extractive industry.
- Clause 35.05-5 (RCZ3) – to develop land for extractive industry.
- Clause 42.03-2 (SLO6) – to construct or carry out works.
- Clause 44.01-2 (EMO) – to construct or carry out works.
- Clause 51.03-3 – to construct or carry out works and to remove vegetation.

A permit under Clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation) and Clause 42.03-2 (SLO6) will not be required where the vegetation is removed to the minimum extend necessary to carry out an extractive industry approved under the MRSDA.

***Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (Victoria)**

One noxious weed listed as noxious under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) were recorded during the assessment (Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* spp. *agg*). Similarly, there is evidence that the project area is currently occupied by several pest fauna species listed under the CaLP Act (Feral Cat *Felis catus*, Red Fox *Vulpes Vulpes*, Sambar Deer *Rusa unicolor*). A Weed and/or Pest Management Plan is required, as the landowner has a legal obligation under the CaLP Act to control invasive species.

***Wildlife Act 1975 and Wildlife Regulations 2013* (Victoria)**

The *Wildlife Act 1975* (and associated *Wildlife Regulations 2013*) is the primary legislation in Victoria providing for protection and management of wildlife.

Authorisation for habitat removal may be obtained under the *Wildlife Act 1975* through a licence granted under the *Forests Act 1958*, or under any other Act such as the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Any persons engaged to remove, salvage, hold or relocate native fauna during construction must hold a current

Management Authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975.*

Water Act 1989 (Victoria)

The Water Act 1989 provides for the orderly, equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water resources within Victoria. This includes protection and enhancement of waterways and their in-stream uses, as well as catchment conditions that may affect water quality and the ecological environments within them.

Several permanent and ephemeral drainage lines / streams are present throughout the project area. A 'works on waterways' permit from the Melbourne Water CMA is likely to be required where any action impacts on waterways within the project area. Additionally, where structures are installed within or across waterways that potentially interfere with the passage of fish or the quality of aquatic habitat, these activities should be referred to DEECA with the Melbourne Water CMA included for comment.

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

An initial local Community (residents) Consultation Meeting was held in April 2019 to brief and engage nearby residents about the quarry expansion proposal.

Informal engagements were conducted in March and June 2024 with several of the nearest residents to outline the quarry expansion proposal and in so doing, to seek their agreement to additional ecological, noise and dust level monitoring activities to inform the proposed quarry expansion technical reports. Consultation has also occurred with the the Registered
Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the activity area. A site meeting and inspection was undertaken on 11 April 2022, during which the senior representative of the RAP conveyed their stance that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is not required for the project. This is consistent with the cultural heritage investigations completed by Tardis Archaeology in 2020 and 2022, which concluded that the proposed expanded extraction activity does not require the preparation of a mandatory CHMP because no part of the proposed activity area (Lot 50C) is a legislated (mapped) area of cultural heritage sensitivity (Attachment 2, Page 34). DEECA-ERR advice of January 2024 further confirmed the proposed Work Plan Variation does not trigger the requirement for a mandatory CHMP (Attachment 2, Page 34).

A Community Engagement Plan (CEP) has been prepared and forms part of the Work Plan Variation (WPV) application to DEECA, Earth Resources Regulator (ERR). The aim of the CEP is to share relevant

information about the proposed quarry expansion and extractive industry operations throughout the life of the Work Authority (WA375), with the local community, i.e., those most likely to be potentially affected by the quarry operations. It also documents how the Community
are provided with reasonable opportunities for their views about activities at the site, or off-site amenity impacts from the site and potential end-of-quarrying-life uses for the site to be expressed, considered and responded to by Dandy Premix Quarries Pty
Ltd. The name and contact details of the Quarry Manager are displayed on a sign at the site entrance for any members of the community to use as one means for providing feedback.

There are several Community engagement techniques that are available to Dandy Premix Quarries to enable
effective and transparent engagement with the local Community. These techniques include, but are not limited to: Newsletters, Fact Sheets, Company website, Workshops, Advertisements / Public displays, Community notice boards, Community activities, Open-house days, public meetings, Face-to-face meetings and Surveys. The appropriate Community engagement technique and/or a combination thereof, is targeted to the individual stakeholder and will be selected
based on a review of any changes to operational activities that have the potential to impact the specific Stakeholder, or Stakeholder group.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed to respond to the issues identified in the Stakeholder issues analysis. This plan has been developed in line with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) best practice and can be viewed in the EE Act 1978 Referral document (Attachment 2, Pp 37-39).

A Community Reference Group (CRG) has been established which is representative of the most local resident Community under the ERR mandatory CEP requirement. Meetings of the CRG commenced 3 September 2024, followed by meetings on 30 October 2024 and 26 February 2025, at which it was agreed that quarterly meetings will be held going forward.

The 2025 schedule of CRG Meetings were agreed to be held on a Wednesday afternoon in each of the months of May, August and November, with specific dates to be confirmed. An Agenda has been developed for the CRG Meetings and Minutes are being taken for acceptance and circulation to CRG members – to date seven (7) local Community residential addresses, representing 13 residents have attended and additional invitations are currently being extended to include a broader Community group.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

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1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

Referring party organisation details

ABN/ACN	111427920
Organisation name	ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD
Organisation address	3056 VIC

Referring party details

Name	Sarah Hill
Job title	Zoologist
Phone	0484949652
Email	shill@ehpartners.com.au
Address	292 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore VIC 3032

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

Person proposing to take the action organisation details

ABN/ACN	57125332989
Organisation name	DANDY PREMIX QUARRIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3139 VIC

Person proposing to take the action details

Name	Garry Cranny
Job title	Sustainability Manager
Phone	03 9703 8260
Email	gcranny@dandypremix.com
Address	21 Bennet Street Dandenong VIC 3175

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd (DPQ) has extensive experience in the planning, construction, operation and environmental management of quarries within Victoria over the last 20-years. The company has successfully operated the Yarra Valley Quarries site within the Project land since 2007 and established Grantville Commercial Sands (GCS, WA1488) located at 1381 – 1395 Bass Highway, Grantville from a greenfield site in 2013. DPQ continues to manage both these extensive quarry sites in accordance with all approvals.

Key elements of this history include;

- Management of native vegetation offsets for the GCS site in land adjoining the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve to the north and the Grantville Bushland Reserve to the immediate south of the WA1488 environs via implementation of a First Party Offset Landowner Agreement and Species Management Plan and Biodiversity and Vegetation Management Plans;
- Entering into a voluntary section 173 Agreement with Bass Coast Council and Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now DEECA) to ensure that the establishment, protection and maintenance of the native vegetation corridor across the eastern ridge of the GCS quarry site is in accordance with the endorsed Conservation and Revegetation Sites Plan that is part of the section 173 Agreement;
- Approval was obtained from the Planning Minister for an amended Grantville Quarry permit in 2022, under which Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd agreed to secure conservation and rehabilitation obligations, and commit to offset arrangements through an Offset Management Plan, revegetation programs and end-of-life site rehabilitation and repurposing in consultation with the local community.
- Approvals under State Planning Policy with respect to native vegetation;
- Securing of appropriate offsets – primarily First Party Offsets on adjoining DPQ freehold land Management of the WA1488 environs via a Pest Plant and Animal Management Plan, provision of the land as a public space;

Conservation of a large proportion of the eastern environs of the WA1488 site, including retention of a significant native vegetation and the revegetation of areas historically cleared for grazing under previous ownership. Dandy Premix Quarries receives technical advisory services from a range of consultants who are providing assistance with investigations and assessment of various matters to inform this current Referral, including:

- Planning Property Report (Attachment 6)
- Detailed Ecological Investigations: Yarra Valley Quarry Stage 3, Launching Place, Victoria (Attachment 1)
- Dust Assessment (Attachment 7)
- Blasting Impact Assessment (Attachment 8)
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Attachment 9)
- Groundwater Assessment (Attachment 10)
- Hydrology Assessment (Attachment 4)
- Noise Assessment (Attachment 11)
- Traffic Engineering Assessment (Attachment 12)
- Geotechnical Assessment (Attachment 13).

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

Dandy Premix Concrete Pty Ltd and Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd (Dandy Premix) is committed to delivering positive outcomes for the community, the environment and our business by continuously improving our environmental performance with the aim of sustainable development.

Our Environmental Policy contains four main pillars, under which we have assigned principles to guide our business, so that our day-to-day activities are carried out in a manner which minimises our impact on the environment generally and delivers beneficial improvement to the local environments in which we operate. The four pillars are management systems, environmental impacts, resource utilization, and stakeholder relations, monitoring and reporting.

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

ABN/ACN	57125332989
Organisation name	DANDY PREMIX QUARRIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3139 VIC

Proposed designated proponent details

Name	Garry Cranny
Job title	Sustainability Manager
Phone	03 9703 8260
Email	gcranny@dandypremix.com
Address	21 Bennet Street Dandenong VIC 3175

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	111427920
Organisation name	ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD
Organisation address	3056 VIC
Representative's name	Sarah Hill
Representative's job title	Zoologist
Phone	0484949652
Email	shill@ehpartners.com.au
Address	292 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore VIC 3032

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	57125332989
Organisation name	DANDY PREMIX QUARRIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3139 VIC
Representative's name	Garry Cranny
Representative's job title	Sustainability Manager
Phone	03 9703 8260
Email	gcranny@dandypremix.com
Address	21 Bennet Street Dandenong VIC 3175

Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

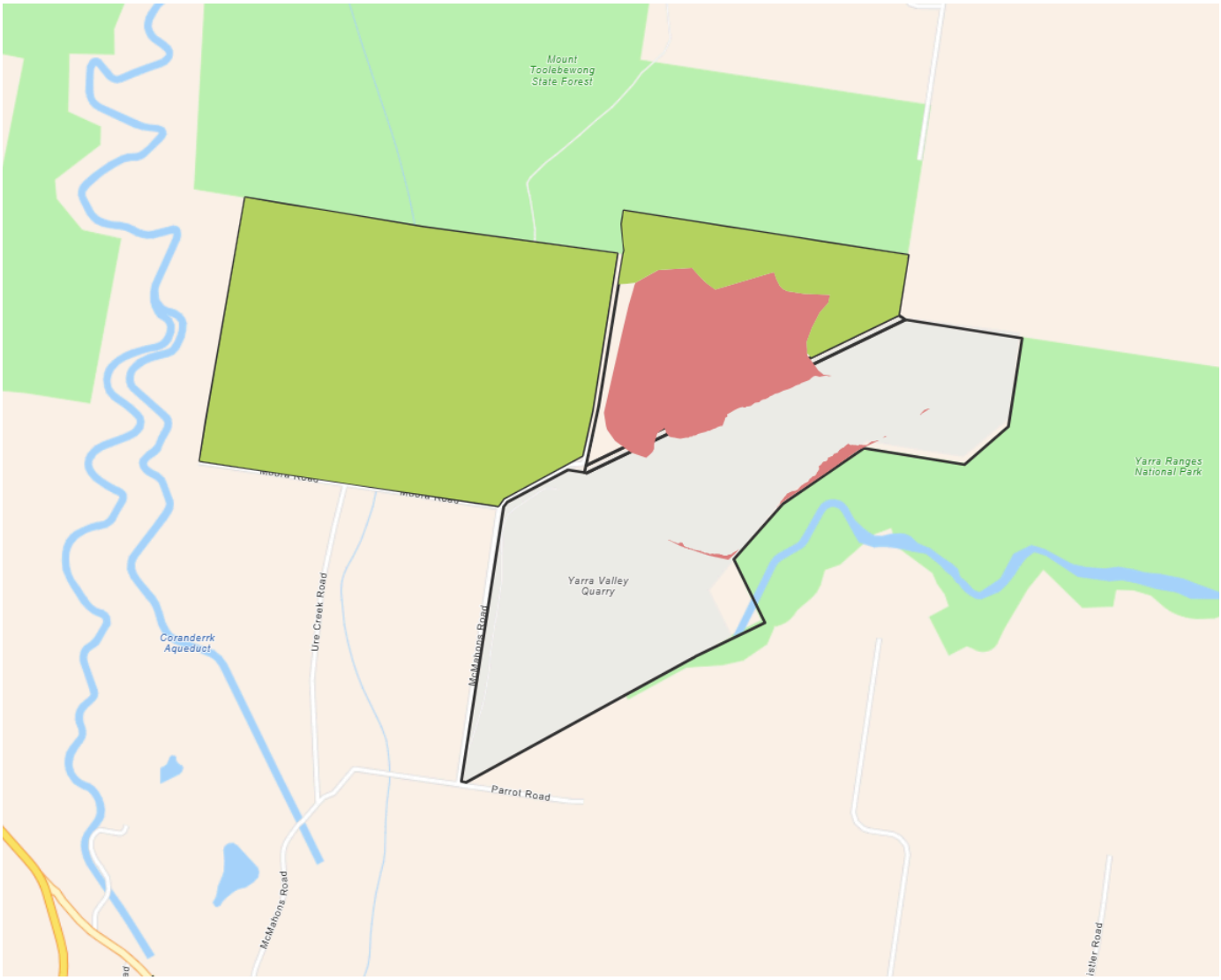
1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Person proposing to take the action

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



Project Area: 223.23 Ha **Disturbance Footprint:** 26.26 Ha **Retention Area:** 106.52 Ha

2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

30 Moora Road Mount Toolebewong 3777 – Parcel 50C, TP363881X

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

Victoria

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

The quarry site comprises the following properties:

- PC 364849Q(Oct 2010), the existing consolidated area of WA375;
- Crown Allotment 50C, containing the proposed expanded extraction area; and,
- Crown Allotment 2051, TP 955067B, the former Government Road provision purchased by Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd in 2016.

These freehold titles are held by Regional Quarries Riviera Pty Ltd and Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd, both wholly owned subsidiaries of the ASX listed Maas Group Holdings (MGH). Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd also owns the adjacent land at Crown Allotments 49A (TP 275692R, 215 McMahons Road Mount Toolebewong) and 54B (Part) (TP 184909Y, 195 McMahons Road Mount Toolebewong).

There are no Easements, and no Native Title Claims.

There is one unregistered Lease Caveat to Eastern Energy for power access to PC 364849Q (WA375).

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area’s environment.

The project area is located approximately 65 kilometres east of Melbourne's CBD and is located in the southern foothills of the Yarra Ranges. The project impact area comprises ~25 hectares in the proposed project (extension) area of Lot 50C, which consists of 41.03 hectares. The project impact area is bound by the proposed offset sites to the north and west and the existing Dandy Premix Quarry to the south and east. A small section of the Yarra Ranges National Park exists immediately east of the broader project area and links to the remaining majority of the Park considerably further north-east of the site; and the Mount Toolebewong State Forest adjoins the broader project area site to the north. The project area contains substantial steep slopes, with west and east facing aspects, a ridge line through the centre of the site and a creek line traversing the project area east to west towards the southern extent. Based on the approximate age of the forest and indicators of logging truck infrastructure (turnaround bays etc.), it is likely that historical land use within the project area included logging operations. The most recent historical bushfire event in the project area was the 1939 fires, which likely burnt the entire site.

The Yarra Valley Quarry (YVQ) project area is situated on the southern margins of the Kinglake Plateau, which is a low-relief erosional surface along the drainage divide to the north and northeast of Melbourne. It is characterized by gently undulating summits, deep ferruginous regolith and steep erosional scarps to the adjoining Nillumbik Terrain, and has an elevation between 500 and 600 metres Australian Height Datum (AHD). The topography across the existing and proposed expansion area varies from 160 metres AHD at the southwestern corner of the site to 460 metres AHD at the north eastern corner. The floor of the existing pit is at an elevation of about 190 metres AHD. The area drains to the Yarra River from numerous tributaries, including Ure Creek, originating in the elevated areas surrounding the Yarra River floodplain. The YVQ Launching Place site is located on Devonian aged Humevale Formation sediments. The sediments at the quarry site have been metamorphosed to hornfels and quartzite by the Toolebewong Granodiorite pluton which outcrops about one kilometre north of the current pit.

The majority of the current land use (90.11 hectares) is the existing WA375 hard rock quarry (SUZ1). The proposed area of expansion in Lot 50C (41.03 hectares) is a forested area adjacent to the quarry within Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd freehold ownership, which contains remnant native vegetation and a vacant rural residential dwelling (due for demolition) with associated infrastructure in a small clearing of the south-eastern corner. The Lot 50C land (RCZ3) is not currently used, nor is it suited to any form of agricultural activity.

There are a small number of rural living lots to the elevated north of the site on Mount Toolebewong (over 1.0kms away) and a residential community of approximately 10 dwellings to the near southwest of the site (ranging from approximately 0.8 – 1.2 kms from the proposed extraction activity area in Lot 50C. The existing two dwellings within the project area land owned by Dandy Premix Quarries, (only one in Lot 49A offset area is occupied) but these will be removed to facilitate the quarry expansion. The closest off-site sensitive (residential) receptors are a number of dwellings on "rural residential/bushblocks" on the western side of McMahons Road. The closest of these dwellings is at 165Mc Mahons Road, approximately 280 metres southwest from the crushing and screening plant, 600 metres from the existing extraction area and 850 metres from the nearest extent of the proposed future extraction (impact) area within the Lot 50C project area. The nearest dwellings to the south, south-east of the proposed future extraction area are located over 1.0km away.

Access to the quarry will continue to be from McMahons Road via the local roads T-intersection with Dalry Road, then along the1.5 kilometre sealed section of McMahons Road to the intersection of McMahons and Parrot Roads from which the (Quarry) sealed site access road commences. Internal access to the proposed Lot

50C extraction area will similarly be along existing quarry haul roads, as well as newly constructed haul roads that would be developed within the expanded extraction area as required over future years.

The project area is located within the Highlands-Southern Fall bioregion, Melbourne Water Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Yarra Ranges Shire Council. The project area and surrounds are covered by a Significant Landscape Overlay (Schedule 6), an Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 1), an Erosion Management Overlay and a Bushfire Management Overlay.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The majority of the broader site (approximately 90 hectares) currently comprises the operational WA375 Yarra Valley Quarry. The WA375 extraction area is quarried for fresh, weathered and semi-weathered) hornfels, each used in varying construction applications. Quarrying has occurred on the site for over 70 years. Prior to hard rock extraction and crushing, the site was used for timber production and hill gravel extraction.

Due to increased investment by the Victorian Government into new infrastructure development, demand for hard rock quarry products has grown considerably over the past few years. There is approximately 3-5 years of hard rock resource remaining (based on current rates of production) for extraction within the WA375 approved extraction area, and therefore, the proponent is proposing to expand the existing quarry extraction area from 23.3 hectares to 42.6 hectares. to increase This will also enable he current extraction depth of 155 metres (base at 190m AHD) to increase to 285 metres (base at 110m AHD). The proposed area of Lot 50C expansion (42.6 hectares) is a forested area adjacent to the existing WA375 quarry within Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd freehold land ownership which predominately contains remnant native vegetation and a rural residential dwelling (due for demolition). The Lot 50C land (RCZ3) is not currently used, nor is it suited to any form of agricultural activity. Approximately 15 hectares of the higher north, north-east elevations of the Lot 50C project area, not impacted by expanded extraction operations, will be secured as part of the proposed Native Vegetation offset area.

The proposed quarry expansion will involve the construction, operation of and decommissioning of these additional mineral extraction areas. The project is the fourth and final expansion stage of the WA375 Yarra Valley Quarry. The proposed expanded quarry will extract and process known extractive resources, to supply Victoria with essential hard rock construction materials and thereby support and enhance the economic viability of the State. This will predominantly involve extraction of hornfels, a metamorphic rock quarried to produce crushed rock and aggregate products for use in concrete, asphalt and as sealing aggregates which will be sold to government authorities and private customers at a rate of approximately 350,000 up to 400,000 tonne per year. The existing crushing/screening plant, pugmill and product stockpile areas will remain in their current locations, while overburden from the expanded extraction area will be placed into the eastern and south-eastern sections of the existing quarry pit (hole) as part of the overall site progressive rehabilitation plan.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

Most of the project area is covered by contiguous remnant, or regrowth native vegetation. Areas not supporting native vegetation included the existing
WA375 Yarra Valley Quarry extraction area, and cleared areas for residential dwellings, quarry operations infrastructure, including maintenance facilities, product stockpile and loading areas, site access, plus internal haul roads and water storage dams.

Native vegetation in the project area is representative of three Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs): Riparian Forest (EVC 18), Damp Forest (EVC 29) and Shrubby Foothill Forest (EVC 45). Vegetation within the project area did not meet the condition thresholds that define any national or State significant communities due to the absence of key indicator species.

Significant Flora

Suitable habitat was identified and targeted surveys undertaken for eight nationally significant flora species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence within the project area. The targeted surveys were undertaken across the proposed Lot
50C extraction area. However, no National or State significant flora were recorded during the site surveys.

Further detail on potential habitat for significant flora, and the targeted surveys undertaken is provided in (Attachment 1, Section 3, Pp. 18-25)

Significant Fauna

Suitable habitat was identified and targeted surveys undertaken for nine State and six nationally significant fauna species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence within the project area were undertaken across the proposed extraction areas. Of these species, Southern Greater Glider (Endangered under the EPBC Act), Gang-gang Cockatoo (Endangered under the EPBC Act), Powerful Owl (Vulnerable under the FFG Act), Dingo (Vulnerable under the FFG Act) and Lace Monitor (Endangered under the FFG Act) were recorded in the project area during surveys.

Further detail on potential habitat for significant fauna, and
the targeted surveys undertaken is provided in (Attachment 1, Section 3, Pp. 18-22)

Outside the project area:

Nature Reserves and Broader Landscape

The Lot 50C project area is immediately bound by Mount Toolebewong State Forest to the north and north-west. A small section of the Yarra Ranges National Park exists immediately east of the current WA375 quarry site (90.11 hectares, PC364849Q) and links to the remaining majority of the Park further north-east of the site.

Ure Creek and Moora Creek (Informal name applied to distinguish it from other site drainage tributaries)

A baseline ecological assessment of two 400 metre stretches of Moora Creek and Ure Creek (upstream (north) and downstream (south) of the proposed entry point for quarry surface water discharge into Moora Creek (north of its confluence with Ure Creek) confirmed presence of fifty-two flora species (including 42 indigenous and 10 non-indigenous species) and one EVC: Riparian Forest (EVC 18).Numerous Burrowing Crayfish burrows were present along the full extent of both northern and southern creek assessment areas.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The project area contains substantial steep slopes, with west and east facing aspects, a ridge line through the centre of the site with two
drainage lines traversing the project area east to west towards the southern extent.

The site is situated on the southern margins of the Kinglake Plateau, which is a low-relief erosional surface along the drainage divide to the north and northeast of Melbourne. It is characterized by gently undulating summits, deep ferruginous regolith and steep erosional scarps to the adjoining Nillumbik Terrain and has an elevation between 500 and 600 metres AHD. The topography across the existing and proposed expansiona reavaries from 225 metres AHD at the southwestern corner of the site to 490 metres AHD at thenortheaster n corner. The floor of the existing pit is at an elevation of about 190 metres AHD.The lower local area towards Woori Yallock is
drained by the Yarra River with numerous tributaries, including Ure Creek, originating in the elevated areas surrounding the Yarra River floodplain.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

Most of the project area is covered by contiguous remnant native vegetation. Areas not supporting native vegetation contained mostly bare ground or exotic grass species and were limited to the areas that have previously been cleared for residential purposes and the existing Yarra Valley Quarry quarry to the adjoining southern extent of the project area.

Eighty-five flora species were observed within the project area, including 69 indigenous and 16 non-indigenous species. A list of all flora species recorded during the field assessment are provided in (Attachment 1, Appendix 1.1, Page 94) and the results of the habitat hectare assessment are provided in (Attachment 1, Appendix 1.2, Page 97).

Ecological communities

One nationally listed ecological community – Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens – is predicted to occur within 10 kilometres of the project area according to DCCEEW's Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html). While no condition thresholds have been adopted for this ecological community, it is an alpine vegetation community generally defined by the presence or absence of Sphagnum spp. over a peat substratum and the presence of several typical species. A
Sphagnum Bog is often one where Sphagnum spp. cover more than thirty per cent of the ground, however this is not always the case.

However, vegetation within the study area did not meet the condition thresholds that define any this Nationally significant national or State-significant communities due to the study area not being an alpine region, and the lack of absence of key indicator species throughout. Similarly, the vegetation within the study area did not meet the requirements that define any State significant species due to the lack of key indicator species.

Significant Flora

The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) contained records of one nationally significant and 42 State significant flora species previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the project area (Attachment 1, Section 3.4.1, Page 50). The PMST nominated an additional 13 nationally significant species which have not been previously recorded but have the potential to occur in the locality.

Targeted surveys for State and nationally significant flora species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurrence were undertaken across the proposed extraction areas. The following species were targeted: Tall Astelia *Astelia Australiana*, Clover Glycine *Glycine latrobeana*, Maroon Leek-orchid *Prasophyllum frenchii*, Green-striped Greenhood *Pterostylis chlorogramma*, Round-leafPomaderris
Pomaderris vacciniifolia, Matted Flax-lily *Dianella amoena*, Purple Eyebright *Euphrasia collina* subsp. *Muelleri*, River Swamp Wallaby-
grass *Amphibromus fluitans* and additional FFG listed flora that may occur in the project area. However, no national or State significant flora were recorded during the site surveys and based on the result of the detailed surveys there is a low likelihood that any significant flora species are present within the proposed extraction area (Attachment 1, Appendix 3.2.1, Page 19).

Significant Fauna

The VBA contained records of 21 nationally significant and 37 State significant fauna species previously recorded within 10 kilometres of the project area (Attachment 1, Appendix 3.2.2, Pp. 50-53). The PMST nominated an additional 19 nationally significant species which have not been previously recorded but have the potential to occur in the locality.

Of these species, Southern Greater Glider (Endangered under the EPBC Act), Gang-gang Cockatoo (Endangered under the EPBC Act), Powerful Owl (Vulnerable under the FFG Act), Dingo (Vulnerable under the FFG Act) and Lace Monitor (Endangered under the FFG Act) were recorded in the project area during surveys. Additionally, there is suitable habitat within the project area for the nationally significant Brown

Treecreeper, Yellow-bellied Glider, Pilotbird, Leadbeater's Possum, Smoky Mouse and Spot-tailed Quoll, as well as the State significant Platypus, Curve-tail Burrowing Crayfish, Sooty Owl, Masked Owl, Southern Toadlet and Grey Goshawk. However, most of these species were investigated and not detected during targeted surveys, and are therefore considered unlikely to occupy the project area.

Targeted surveys were also undertaken for the State significant Platypus, Curve-tailed Burrowing Crayfish, with Southern Toadlet surveys proposed in 2025.

Targeted Brown Treecreeper and Grey Goshawk surveys were not undertaken, as the lack of these species'
detection throughout the numerous diurnal surveys undertaken within the project area is considered adequate to determine the likely absence of this species. Targeted surveys were also not undertaken for Grey-Headed Flying-fox despite presence of suitable habitat, due to the absence of any nearby known roosting sites.

The likelihood of any additional nationally significant fauna occurring within or adjacent to the impact area is considered low due to the absence of suitable habitat and/or lack of records in proximity.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

The field assessment recorded 437 large trees and three Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) within the project area, including; 3.524 hectares of Riparian Forest (EVC 18), 12.165 hectares of Damp Forest(EVC 29) and 9.737 hectares of Shrubby Foothill Forest (EVC 45). (https://maps2.biodiversity.vic.gov.au/Html5viewer/index.html?viewer=NatureKit)(Attachment 1, Section 3.1, Pp. 27-30).

Riparian Forest

Riparian Forest occurs along riverbanks and gullies leading into rivers and creeks. It occupies a fertile alluvium soil and is permanently moist with regular inundation. It comprises of a tall Eucalypt forest to 30 meters high over subsequent vegetation layers of wattles, shrubs, ferns, grasses and herbs.

This EVC occurred as two linear patches in the lowest lying portions of the study area, with both patches considered high quality and following the creek lines east to west across the study area.

Riparian Forest habitat zone 1 was in the study areas north and demonstrated a high diversity of native species. The canopy was dominated by Messmate Stringybark *Eucalyptus obliqua* and occasional Silvertop Ash *Eucalyptus sieberi*a. The mid layer consisted of a diverse array of shrubs and ferns including Soft Tree-fern *Dicksonia Antarctica* and Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata,* over a species rich ground layer including Austral Bracken *Pteridium esculentum*, Kidney-weed *Dichondra repens*, Ivy-leaf Violet *Viola hederacea,* and Forest Wire-grass *Tetrarrhena juncea*, with intermittent areas dominated by thickets of sedges such as Red-fruit Saw-sedge *Gahnia sieberiana*.

Habitat zone 2, was the larger patch, following the creek line within the southern portion of the study area with similar condition to habitat zone 1. While it generally had fewer large trees per hectare, it displayed a high diversity of native species including a diverse array of ferns such as *Adiantum aethiopicum* Common Maidenhair, *Blechnum cartilagineum* Gristle Fern, *Blechnum nudum* Fishbone Water-fern, and *Histiopteris incisa* Bat's Wing Fern. Similarly, this larger habitat zone displayed a higher diversity of woody species, resulting in greater levels of woody species recruitment.

Damp Forest

Damp Forest occurs on a wide range of geologies and aspects ranging from sea level to higher montane elevations. The vegetation comprises of a tall Eucalypt canopy layer to 30 meters tall, a medium to dense shrub layer, and a ground layer of herbs, graminoids, and ferns.

Damp Forest was the dominant EVC within the study area and was generally in a high-quality condition. This EVC supported an overstorey of Messmate Stringybark *Eucalyptusobliqua* and Mountain Grey-gum *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*. The understorey contained specimens of Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera,*

Blanket-leaf *Bedfordia arborescens* and the midstorey and ground layer contained a diverse mixture of shrubs and herbs, including Common Cassinia *Cassinia aculeata,* Prickly Currant-bush *Coprosma quadrifida,* Common Bottle-daisy *Lagenophora stipitata,* Spiny-headed Mat-rush *Lomandra longifolia,* Austral Bracken, and Wonga Vine *Pandoreapandorana.*

The three Damp Forest habitat zones within the study area varied only slightly with all recorded in good condition. Damp Forest habitat zones 1 and 2 were in similar condition, with DF2 having slightly more large trees per hectare, and less 'high threat' weeds than DF1.

Habitat zone 3 was the largest and highest quality Damp Forest patch within the study area. This area had a similar large tree per hectare count to DF2, however had a more diverse understory including many graminoid and herb species such as Weeping grass *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*, Forest Pennywort *Hydrocotyle geraniifolia* and Shade Plantain *Plantago debilis.*

Shrubby Foothill Forest

Shrubby Foothill Forest occurs along ridges in a range of elevations, often in association with Damp Forest and Wet Forest. The 25-meter-tall Eucalypt canopy stands over the understory of often narrow-leaved shrubs, ferns, graminoids and herbs.

Shrubby Foothill Forest occupied large areas throughout the study area, dominating drier areas primarily on ridgelines in good and good-moderate condition. While not included in DEECA 2005 EVC modelling within the study area, the EVC was modelled within the wider landscape and was determined as the best fit EVC for these areas.

This EVC supported a canopy of Messmate Stringybark and Silvertop Ash *Eucalyptus sieberi.* The understorey contained specimens of Hop Goodenia *Goodenia ovata*, Common Correa *Correa reflexa* and the ground layer contained a diverse mixture of shrubs and herbs, including, Austral Bracken and Variable Sword-Sedge *Lepidosperma laterale.* Several fauna trails and foraging activities were observed in this area during site assessment.

Shrubby Foothill Forest habitat zones 1 and 2 were the two largest habitat zones within the study area, and both occurred in good condition in the forested area north of the existing quarry. SFF2 boarded on the existing quality, resulting in a slightly lower quality compared to SFF1. Both habitat zones had a high number of large trees per hectare and a good canopy cover. SFF1 had a higher species diversity including species such as Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera* and Lilly Pilly *Syzygium smithii* and a higher diversity of recruiting woody species.

Ure Creek and Moora Creek

Riparian Forest EVC

Riparian Forest is characterised by a tall eucalypt tree layer to 30-metres tall, which occurs along riverbanks and associated alluvial terraces. It occasionally occurs in the heads of gullies leading to creeks and rivers and contains an open to sparse secondary layer of wattles, scattered dense patches of shrubs, ferns, grasses and herbs.

Riparian Forest occurred along the northern (Moora Creek) and southern (Ure Creek) sections. It predominantly comprised a canopy layer containing Mountain Grey-gum *Eucalyptuscypellocarpa* andMessmate Stringybark *Eucalyptus obliqua.* The mid-storey comprised a dense cover of Kunzea *Kunzea spp.,* Rough Tree-fern *Cyathea australis,* Hazel Pomaderris *Pomaderris aspera,* Prickly Currant-bush *Coprosma quadrifida,* Wonga Vine *Pandoreapandorana subsp. pandorana,* and Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata.*The ground layer contained Hop Goodenia Goodenia ovata, Mother Shield-fern *Polystichum proliferum* Fishbone Water-fern *Blechnum nudum,* Bat's Wing Fern *Histiopteris incisa,* Snowy Daisy-bush *Olearia lirata,* Tall Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma elatius,* Variable Sword-sedge *Lepidosperma laterale,* Austral Bracken *Pteridium esculentum,* Yellow Wood-sorrel *Oxalis corniculata s.l.,* Australina pusilla *Shade Nettle,* Weeping Grass*Microlaena stipoides var. stipoides,* Forest Clematis, *Clematis glycinoides,* Forest Wire-grass *Tetrarrhena juncea*, among others. Large Trees were present in Riparian Woodland patches, adjacent to both Moora Creek and Ure Creek. Most of these specimens comprised Mountain Grey-gum and Messmate Stringybark.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

There are no known Commonwealth heritage places within the project area.

There are no cultural heritage places listed on the Victorian Heritage Database/Register or the Archaeological Inventory under the Heritage Act 1995 within the project area(https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/).

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

Consultation has occurred with the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the activity area, and a site meeting and inspection was undertaken on 11 April 2022 with a RAP representative.

A search of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) shows there are no registered Aboriginal heritage places within the project area or within 50 metres of the project, or impact area boundary (https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html). ACHRIS also shows that the project area has not previously been subject to archaeological assessment.

An investigation into the cultural heritage statutory obligations regarding the land situated at Yarra Valley Quarry, 130 McMahons Road Launching Place was conducted by Tardis Archaeology in 2020 and heritage advice confirmed in 2022. The investigation considered the obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 and the Heritage Act 2017. The advice from Tardis is that a mandatory CHMP is not required as the activity area is not within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

The investigation completed by Tardis Archaeology demonstrates that the proposed extraction activity in Lot 50C, 30 Moora Road, Mount Toolebewong, as part of the proposed expansion of Yarra Valley Quarry, 130 McMahons Road, Launching Place does not require the preparation of a mandatory CHMP. Although the activity is a high impact activity pursuant to Regulation 51 (a)(b), no part of the proposed activity area (Lot 50C) is a legislated area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

The RAP have also been on site and advised that a CHMP is not required. DEECA-ERR advice of January 2024 further confirmed the proposed Work Plan Variation does not trigger the requirement for a mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP)(Attachment 2, Pp. 34).

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

Several permanent and ephemeral drainage lines / streams are present throughout the project area and surrounds, with Ure Creek and Moora Creek existing within close proximity to the project area boundary, and three drainage lines (ephemeral tributaries) of Ure Creek traversing the project area from east to west.

The proposed expansion of the extraction area will result in the surface runoff flows from the three Ure Creek tributaries (referred to as Tributary 1, Tributary 2 and Tributary 3) being captured and redirected to the base of the expanded Extraction Pit. Although changes to these three Tributaries are expected, the proposed action is not predicted to result in significant downstream effects.

A Hydrology Assessment was completed by Water Technology in November 2023. Water Technology's water balance modelling suggests there is minimal change in daily and annual flow rates to Moora Creek (informally 'named' as the main north-south tributary to Ure Creek located in adjoining Lot 49A (offset area) into which Tributaries 1, 2 and 3 ephemerally drain) and therefore Ure Creek throughout the operational period of the quarry (Attachment 4, Section 9, Page 66).

To allow additional room for the overburden storage, the upper part (320 metres AHD) of the alignment of Tributary 1 will be moved west by approximately 300 metres along a constructed drain to flow into a designed drainage pathway down the batters. This drain will be designed to cater for the expected flows while preventing erosion of the placed overburden.

As extraction operations extend west into Lot 50C, Tributary 2 surface water will combine with water from the disturbed area and be directed down the batter slopes in a constructed drainage pathway to the sump at the bottom of the extraction pit. In addition, Moora Creek inflow will be impacted along the western boundary of the extraction area by a second intersecting of Tributary 2. Similar surface water drainage arrangements to those established for the upper reach of Tributary 2 will be established to cater for this lower-level intersection of Tributary 2 on the western boundary. This drain will be designed to cater for the predicted flows and to prevent erosion of the placed overburden.

Tributary 3 is intercepted as the upper batters extend northwest, and the same methodology of redirecting the surface water runoff as described in Stage 1 (Tributary 2) will be utilised for Tributary 3. A drainage sump will collect incidental water falling on the western part of the extraction area, as well as surface water from the local catchment area serviced by Tributary 3. The water from Tributary 3 will be directed into a quarry sump and pumped/gravity-fed to the Holding Dam (which will be dynamically relocated as extraction activities progress through Stages 1-4). The Holding Dam will provide a buffer storage structure, which allows water to be pumped from the existing and future pit sumps as required. This enables it to serve as the primary water source for dust suppression on roads, and also for provision of supplementary off-site flow into Moora Creek to maintain downstream flows and the ecological condition of Ure Creek below. The Holding Dam will be a semi-permanent structure that will be relocated within the extraction area (pit) as required. It will eventually be removed once the final landform, pit lake is formed.

No adverse groundwater impacts have been detected to date. However, as the proposed quarry expansion would extend an additional 100 metres below the water table, there is potential for impacts to local environmental values to occur. The assessment of risks to groundwater if more aggressive dewatering is required has been identified as low risks of harm to groundwater users, surface water systems and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) (Attachment 410, Section 11.3, Page 95).

A Water Management Plan has been prepared and forms part of the Work Plan Variation application (Attachment 5, Section 1, Page 1), to ensure minimal impacts occur and if required from regular sampling and analysis, water is treated onsite prior to discharge via local tributaries.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

EPBC Act section	Controlling provision	Impacted	Reviewed
S12	World Heritage	No	Yes
S15B	National Heritage	No	Yes
S16	Ramsar Wetland	No	Yes
S18	Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	Yes	Yes
S20	Migratory Species	No	Yes
S21	Nuclear	No	Yes
S23	Commonwealth Marine Area	No	Yes
S24B	Great Barrier Reef	No	Yes
S24D	Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas	No	Yes
S26	Commonwealth Land	No	Yes
S27B	Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas	No	Yes
S28	Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency	No	Yes

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no World Heritage Properties within 10 kilometres of the project area.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

There are no National Heritage Places within 10 kilometres of the project area.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The impact area is not listed under the Ramsar Convention or in ‘A Dictionary of Important Wetlands in Australia’. The nearest Ramsar sites from the project area are the Western Port Bay area and Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands, both of which occur more than 50 kilometres south-west of the project area. As such, the project is highly unlikely/improbable to impact these Ramsar Sites.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Amphibromus fluitans	River Swamp Wallaby-grass, Floating Swamp Wallaby-grass
No	No	Antechinus minimus maritimus	Swamp Antechinus (mainland)
No	No	Anthochaera phrygia	Regent Honeyeater
No	No	Botaurus poiciloptilus	Australasian Bittern
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Yes	Yes	Callocephalon fimbriatum	Gang-gang Cockatoo
Yes	Yes	Climacteris picumnus victoriae	Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
No	No	Dasyurus maculatus maculatus (SE mainland population)	Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population)
No	No	Dianella amoena	Matted Flax-lily
No	No	Falco hypoleucos	Grey Falcon
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Glycine latrobeana	Clover Glycine, Purple Clover
No	No	Grantiella picta	Painted Honeyeater
Yes	Yes	Gymnobelideus leadbeateri	Leadbeater's Possum
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Isoodon obesulus obesulus	Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern), Southern Brown Bandicoot (south-eastern)
No	No	Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot
No	No	Lissolepis coventryi	Swamp Skink, Eastern Mourning Skink

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Litoria raniformis	Southern Bell Frog,, Growling Grass Frog, Green and Golden Frog, Warty Swamp Frog, Golden Bell Frog
No	No	Mastacomys fuscus mordicus	Broad-toothed Rat (mainland), Tooarrana
No	No	Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
No	No	Nannoperca obscura	Yarra Pygmy Perch
No	No	Neophema chrysostoma	Blue-winged Parrot
Yes	Yes	Petauroides volans	Greater Glider (southern and central)
Yes	Yes	Petaurus australis australis	Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern)
No	No	Pomaderris vacciniifolia	Round-leaf Pomaderris
No	No	Potorous tridactylus trisulcatus	Long-nosed Potoroo (southern mainland)
No	No	Prototroctes maraena	Australian Grayling
No	No	Pseudomys fumeus	Smoky Mouse, Konoom
No	No	Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox
No	No	Pterostylis chlorogramma	Green-striped Greenhood
Yes	Yes	Pycnoptilus floccosus	Pilotbird
No	No	Rostratula australis	Australian Painted Snipe
No	No	Stagonopleura guttata	Diamond Firetail
No	No	Synemon plana	Golden Sun Moth
No	No	Thesium australe	Austral Toadflax, Toadflax
No	No	Xerochrysum palustre	Swamp Everlasting, Swamp Paper Daisy

Ecological communities

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4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.4.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Fauna

Southern Greater Glider

Suitable habitat for the Southern Greater Glider (listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act) exists as forested areas supporting large, hollow-bearing trees within the project area. This nationally significant species was recorded within the proposed extraction area during targeted surveys. Specifically, two Southern Greater Gliders were detected within the proposed extension area during spotlighting surveys, and a further four Southern Greater Gliders were detected in the western proposed offset area. The species was recorded on the 17 and 19 of November 2020 and observed sitting in canopy tree species (eucalypts)(Attachment 1, Section 3.3, Pp. 37-49).

While the entire project area provides suitable habitat for Southern Greater Glider, habitat quality for the species is comparatively higher in the proposed offset areas, due largely to the greater density of hollow-bearing trees and absence of edge-effects from the existing quarry site which are likely to be present in the proposed extension area. Although the habitat within the project area is of lower relative quality compared to the proposed offset areas, the species is likely to still rely on habitat within the proposed extraction area for foraging or breeding purposes due to the number of the species' preferred foraging eucalypts present, and the nesting site opportunities present.

The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the Southern Greater Glider, including a number of hollow-bearing trees as well as other mature trees that will form hollows over time. This habitat area does not include the 0.152 hectares of small, disjunct Shrubby Foothills Forest patches which do not constitute suitable habitat.

Gang-gang Cockatoo

The Gang-gang Cockatoo (listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act) is likely to regularly visit the project area for foraging purposes within suitable native forest habitat, particularly during the winter months when the species' displays a preference for drier, open woodland at lower altitudes. Gang-gang Cockatoo may roost and take shelter, and potentially breed in large hollow-bearing trees within the project area.

This nationally significant species was recorded within the project area incidentally during field assessments. Two Gang-gang Cockatoo individuals were observed foraging in canopy tree species and moving across the project area during diurnal habitat surveys in the proposed extension area. Two individuals were again observed within the project area during flora assessments in January 2025 (Attachment 1, Section 3.3, Pp. 37-49).

The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable foraging habitat for Gang-gang Cockatoo, including a number of mature and hollow-bearing trees. This habitat area does not include the 0.152 hectares of small, disjunct Shrubby Foothills Forest patches which do not constitute suitable habitat.

Leadbeater's Possum

While the Leadbeater's Possum (listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act) was not recorded within the project area during targeted surveys, the project area contains suitable habitat and has the potential to support the species in future. Critical habitat under the EPBC Act is present for this species in the form of older growth forest within gullies, comprising large hollow-bearing trees and suitable mid-storey species.

The proposed action will remove vegetation that provides potential habitat for this species, which may therefore adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of the species.

The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable foraging habitat for Leadbeater's Possum, including a number of large, hollow-bearing trees. This habitat area does not include the 0.152 hectares of small, disjunct Shrubby Foothills Forest patches which do not constitute suitable habitat.

Brown Treecreeper

Brown Treecreeper was not detected within the project area during multiple rounds of fauna assessments. Suitable habitat for the species is present and given the species' significant capacity for dispersal, there is a moderate to high likelihood the project area is used for foraging and potentially breeding purposes.

However, there is higher quality habitat in adjacent areas with greater availability of hollow-bearing trees.

The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable foraging habitat for Brown Treecreeper, including a number of mature and hollow-bearing trees. This habitat area does not include the 0.152 hectares of small, disjunct Shrubby Foothills Forest patches which do not constitute suitable habitat.

Yellow-bellied Glider

Although not recorded within the project area, there are several documented records within nearby forested areas. While the species has poor dispersal ability (gliding distance up to 140 metres), the species may occupy the project area on occasion due to high levels of connectivity with the surrounding landscape.

The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable foraging and breeding habitat for Yellow-bellied Glider, including a number of mature and hollow-bearing trees. This habitat area does not include the 0.152 hectares of small, disjunct Shrubby Foothills Forest patches which do not constitute suitable habitat.

Pilotbird

Pilotbird was not detected within the project area during multiple rounds of fauna assessments. Suitable habitat for the species is present and given the species' significant capacity for dispersal, there is a moderate to high likelihood the project area is used for foraging and potentially breeding purposes. Howeve r, there is higher quality habitat in adjacent areas.

The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable foraging habitat for Pilotbird. This habitat area does not include the 0.152 hectares of small, disjunct Shrubby Foothills Forest patches which do not constitute suitable habitat.

Regent Honeyeater

Not recorded within 10km for 115 years. Not detected during survey program. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Australasian Bittern

No suitable wetland habitat. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

No suitable wetland habitat. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Spot-tailed Quoll

One record of the species within 10km of the project area. The species was not recorded during targeted remote camera surveys. There is a low likelihood this species occupies the project area.

Latham's Snipe

Limited suitable habitat for the species. There is a low likelihood this species occupies the project area.

White-throated Needletail

May infrequently use site opportunistically during migration – flyover. There is a low likelihood this species occupies the project area.

Southern Brown Bandicoot

Several records of the species within 10km of the project area. The species was not recorded during targeted remote camera surveys. There is a low likelihood this species occupies the project area.

Swift Parrot

Most recent record is from 47 years ago. Limited foraging eucalypt species within project area. May very infrequently use site the opportunistically for foraging during migration.

Helmeted Honeyeater

Outside of species known range. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Swamp Skink

No suitable aquatic habitat. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Growling Grass Frog

No suitable aquatic habitat and edge of species range. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Murray Cod

No suitable aquatic habitat and edge of species range. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Macquarie Perch

No suitable aquatic habitat. There is a low likelihood this species temporarily occupies the project area following a significant rainfall event.

Australian Grayling

No suitable aquatic habitat. There is a low likelihood this species temporarily occupies the project area following a significant rainfall event.

Diamond Firetail

No suitable woodland habitat. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

Flora

Matted Flax-lily

Suitable habitat not present. Largely confined to drier grasslands and grassy woodlands. This species is highly unlikely to occupy the project area.

4.1.4.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.4.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

Southern Greater Glider – Significant Impact Assessment

Based on a 'self-assessment' against the Commonwealth significant impact guidelines (DoE 2013), it is considered that the proposed action will result in a significant impact to Southern Greater Glider (Attachment 3, Section 4.1, Pp. 27-33) given that:

- *Long-term decrease in the size of a population* - The species was detected during targeted surveys, however populations within the project area are expected to be very small in numbers given the survey results, and higher relative quality of adjacent habitat. The proposed action will result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the species, including a number of hollow-bearing trees as well as other mature trees that will form hollows over time. It is unknown whether the proposed activity will result in a long-term decrease to any populations within, and immediate surrounds of the project area, although there is higher relative quality habitat adjoining the project area that is proposed for retention.
- *Reduced area of occupancy of the species* - The project will reduce the area of occupancy for this species.
- *Fragmentation of an existing population into two or more populations* – The project area is located at the south-eastern extent of contiguous suitable habitat for Southern Greater Glider. Due to being located on the edge of habitat, the project's proposed removal of known foraging and breeding habitat will not fragment an existing population.
- *Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species* – Critical habitat for this species may be present within the project
  area. According to DCCEEW Conservation Advice for *Petauroides volans* (greater glider (southern and central)) (2022) the impact area satisfies the following criteria to be classified
  as critical habitat for the species:
  - large contiguous areas of eucalypt forest, which contain mature hollow-bearing trees and a diverse range of the species' preferred food species in a particular region; and
  - cool microclimate forest/woodland areas (e.g. protected gullies, sheltered high elevation areas, coastal lowland areas, southern slopes) (Attachment 14, Page 6).
- *Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population* – The project footprint encompasses large areas of vegetation and hollow-bearing trees suitable for breeding. Based on the results of targeted surveys the project will impact breeding habitat for this species.
- *Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline* – The project will remove large areas providing suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the species. Given the availability of high-
  quality habitat in the project locality and
  region, it is considered unlikely that the species would decline as a result of the proposed activity.
- *Result in a harmful invasive species becoming established in the species' habitat* – With the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, it is unlikely that harmful invasive species would become established in species habitat in adjacent areas as a result of the project.
- *Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline* – With the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, it is unlikely that the project would introduce a disease that would impact any individuals that may periodically reside within the project area and surrounds.
- *Interfere with the recovery of the species* –There is no Recovery Plan prepared for this species. The project is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.

Conclusion

The proposed action would result in the removal of 25.274 hectares of foraging and breeding habitat for Southern Greater Glider. The presence of large hollow-bearing trees provides a potential breeding resource for the species.

Based on the extent of habitat removal proposed and the availability of higher quality habitat in the local area and broader region, a significant impact to the species due to the proposed action is unlikely, but possible.

Gang-gang Cockatoo – Not a significant impact

Based on a 'self-assessment' against the Commonwealth significant impact guidelines, it is considered that the proposed action will not result in a significant impact to Gang-gang Cockatoo (Attachment 3, Section 4.1, Pp. 27-33), given that:

- *Long-term decrease in the size of a population* – The project will result in the disturbance of areas of suitable habitat for this species, including forested and riparian areas. However, given the wide distribution of the species across Victorian and the northern states, and the mobile and dispersive nature of the species, the removal of habitat within the project area will not lead to a long-term decrease in the size of the population.
- *Reduced area of occupancy of the species* – The project will reduce the area of potential occupancy for this species.
- *Fragmentation of an existing population into two or more populations* – Given the wide distribution of the species across Victoria, and the mobile and dispersive nature of the species, the removal of habitat within the project area will not fragment Gang-gang Cockatoo populations.
- *Adversely affect habitat critical to the survival of a species* –According to DCCEEW Conservation Advice for Gang-gang Cockatoo the impact area satisfies the following criteria to be classified as critical habitat for the survival of GGC (Attachment 15, Page 6).

Habitat critical to the survival of the Gang-gang Cockatoo includes all foraging habitat during both the breeding and non-breeding season. Habitat critical to the survival includes hollow bearing trees with known or potential Gang-gang Cockatoo hollow chambers that are generally around 20 cm in floor diameter, around 50.5 cm deep and occur between around 7.5m above the ground. The study area provides confirmed foraging and potentially breeding habitat containing large hollows.

- *Disrupt the breeding cycle of a population* – Gang-gang Cockatoo is likely to occasionally visit the project area predominantly for foraging, with suitable breeding habitat also present. Given the wide distribution of the species across Victorian, and the mobile and dispersive nature of the species, the removal of habitat within the project area is unlikely to disrupt the breeding cycle of a population.
- *Modify, destroy, remove, isolate or decrease the availability or quality of habitat to the extent that the species is likely to decline* – Gang-gang Cockatoo is likely to occasionally visit the project area for foraging and potentially
  breeding purposes. Given the wide distribution of the species across Victorian and the northern states, and the mobile and dispersive nature of the species, the removal of habitat within the project area is not likely to contribute to the species' decline.
- *Result in a harmful invasive species becoming established in the species' habitat* – With the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, it is unlikely that harmful invasive species would become established in species habitat in adjacent areas as a result of the project.
- *Introduce disease that may cause the species to decline* – With the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, it is unlikely that the project would introduce a disease that would impact any individuals that may periodically reside within the project area and surrounds.
- *Interfere with the recovery of the species* –There is no Recovery Plan prepared for this species. The project is unlikely to interfere with the recovery of the species.

Other significant species

There are no predicted significant impacts to other nationally-significant species as the species were not recorded within the project area and the project area does not support critical breeding or limiting habitat for the species (Attachment 3, Section 4.1, Pp. 27-33).

4.1.4.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

Yes

4.1.4.8 Please elaborate why you think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

Significant impacts to Southern Greater Glider under the EPBC Act are unlikely, but possible, and may be considered a ‘controlled action’.

Southern Greater Glider has been directly observed using suitable habitat within the project area. The proposed action will involve the direct removal of all existing foraging, roosting and breeding habitat (i.e. 25.274 hectares) within the proposed expansion area, and will therefore directly reduce the area of occupancy for this species. The removal of native vegetation within the project area will also cause a direct reduction of available breeding habitat in the local area, which may in turn impact the local population’s breeding cycles. As a result, the proposed activity will cause a permanent, long-term decrease in any Southern Greater Glider populations within the project area, and potentially also have similar long-term population impacts in the immediate surrounding area.

Gang-gang Cockatoo was detected opportunistically during the ecological survey program and is likely to use habitat occasionally for foraging. However, given the wide distribution of the species across Victorian, the
mobile and dispersive nature of the species, and widespread availability of suitable habitats, the removal of habitat within the project area will not lead to a significant impact to the species and should not be a controlled action.

The project will remove Shrubby Foothills Forest and Damp Forest and Riparian Forest that
provides potential habitat for Leadbeater’s Possum. Given the absence of the species within and adjacent t o the
project area, it is unlikely that the species would be significantly impacted by the project and should not be a controlled action.

Brown Treecreeper was not recorded within the project area. Proposed fauna inspection and salvage mitigation measures and protocols and higher quality habitat is present in adjacent areas with greater availability of hollow-bearing trees. The removal of an area of potential habitat for this species will not constitute a significant impact and should not be considered a controlled action.

Yellow-bellied Glider was not detected through targeted surveys and is unlikely to rely on habitat within the project area. The action is unlikely to result in a significant impact for the species and should not be considered a controlled action.

Pilotbird was not recorded within the project area. Proposed fauna inspection and salvage mitigation measures and protocols and higher quality habitat is present in adjacent areas. The removal of an area of potential habitat for this species will not constitute a significant impact and should not be considered a controlled action.

4.1.4.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

Preliminary Measures

While the project footprint is largely defined by the extent of the resource, there will be ongoing opportunities to further avoid impacts to native vegetation and fauna habitat at a local scale, as the alignment and final siting of project infrastructure are further refined.

A detailed assessment of individual Large Trees, scattered trees and the associated presence of fauna habitat was undertaken, with the aim of ensuring these values could be retained where possible.

Avoidance and Minimisation

Due to the nature of the project (extractive industry), it is not possible to avoid the removal of habitat for matters of NES without completely undermining the feasibility of the proposal. Measures to avoid and minimise the removal of native vegetation have been undertaken during the project design phase.

The proposed extraction timeline of the site is over a period of 85 years, with staged removal of material proposed in approximately one to two-hectare areas of disturbance per year. Given this, it is not anticipated that all native vegetation will be removed at commencement of activity, but over the lifespan of the quarry as needed.

Aside from the buffer zones around the perimeter of the site, the majority of the project area will be subject to extractive industry, focusing on the centre of the project area. Approximately 105 hectares of remnant vegetation has been avoided, and is now set aside for proposed use as an offset site. The 105-hectare remnant vegetation identified as an offset is directly adjacent to the proposed extraction area.

As part of the development of the Work Plan, additional measures will be incorporated to ensure that further, indirect impacts on biodiversity are minimised. This can be achieved via engineering solutions to reduce surface water run- off, wastewater treatment, and progressive rehabilitation and revegetation works within the buffer areas and post extractive industry activities in the project area.

Planning

Implementation of measures associated with the minimisation of impacts relies on the development of management plans to detail the measures, timeframes and performance objectives and responsibilities. As part of the ongoing project planning process, detailed contingency and mitigation measures will be develop ed and presented within a Biodiversity Management Plan, along with several sub-plan documents:

- Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Management Plan (BRMP);
- Species Protection Management Plan (SPMP);
- Weed Management Plan (WMP); and,
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

These plans will outline biodiversity management and monitoring during the construction and operational phases of the project, including but not limited to; the protection of retained vegetation/habitat, vegetation clearing and fauna salvage protocols, sedimentation and pollution controls, contractor inductions, rehabilitat ion and revegetation (restoration) measures, and performance timeframes, targets and responsibilities.

These Management Plans will be prepared and implemented prior to any extension of the quarry operations. All Plans will be provided to DEECA and DTP for approval, who will have an opportunity to review and comment on the contents of the Plans prior to their approval. The approved management plans can then be updated as Adaptive Management Plans as part of the approval process.

Specific Mitigation Measures

Specific mitigation measures have been identified for implementation to minimise impacts to biodiversity throughout each project phase. One or more mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce the risk associated with the following direct and indirect impacts:

- Native Vegetation Removal and Habitat Loss (e.g. The extent of vegetation clearance must be clearly defined to ensure disturbance within areas to be retained is avoided)

Specific mitigation measures have been identified for implementation to minimise impacts to biodiversity throughout each project phase. One or more mitigation measures have been proposed to reduce the risk associated with the following direct and indirect impacts:

- Native Vegetation Removal and Habitat Loss (e.g. The extent of vegetation clearance must be clearly defined to ensure disturbance within areas to be retained is avoided)
- Direct Fauna Mortality (e.g. Implement speed limits on vehicular traffic along haulage and internal access roads/tracks)
- Noise and Dust Pollution (e.g. High impact noise events limited to daylight (EPA Victoria “day period”) hours)
- Edge Effects (e.g. Monitor ongoing habitat use by fauna)
- Phytophthora Control (e.g. Establish wheel wash protocols for all vehicles entering and leaving site)

Habitat Creation

Installation of Nest Boxes, Carved Hollows and/or Logs

Any trees that are proposed to be impacted by any development within the project area should be repurposed for use as habitat (e.g. carved hollows and/or logs). Any existing hollows within trees that are proposed to be impacted within the development footprint should be re-installed within retained vegetation outside of the impact area.

Nest boxes and/or carved hollows of varying types and sizes should also be installed to create habitat for arboreal fauna, with a focus on significant species that have previously been recorded within the project are a(i.e. Southern Greater Glider, Gang-gang Cockatoo). In eucalypt trees, small hollows may take over 70 years to develop and large hollows many decades longer. Nest boxes and carved hollows provide additional habitat for hollow-
dependent fauna in areas where hollows have been removed and/or are in short supply.

See Ecological Report (Attachment 1, Section 5, Pp. 66-73)
for further information regarding detailed avoidance and mitigation measures.

4.1.4.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

An Offset Management Plan will be prepared if significant impacts are deemed to occur due to the proposed action. The proposed offset site contains higher quality habitat than the impact area (greater density of hollow-bearing trees and absence of edge-effects), while four Southern Greater Glider individuals were detected in the proposed offset site.

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Direct impact	Indirect impact	Species	Common name
No	No	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
No	No	Apus pacificus	Fork-tailed Swift
No	No	Calidris acuminata	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
No	No	Calidris melanotos	Pectoral Sandpiper
No	No	Gallinago hardwickii	Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe
No	No	Hirundapus caudacutus	White-throated Needletail
No	No	Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

While migratory bird species may periodically use the project area and for foraging activities, the project

area does not constitute ‘important habitat’ as defined under the *EPBC Act Matters of National Environmental Significance Significant impact guidelines 1.1* (https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nes-guidelines_1.pdf, page 12), in that it does not contain:

- Habitat utilised by a migratory species occasionally or periodically within a region that supports an ecologically significant proportion of the population of the species;
- Habitat utilised by a migratory species which is at the limit of the species range; or,
- Habitat within an area where the species is declining.

As such, the proposed impacts are considered unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact on any migratory species.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not a nuclear action.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action will not impact any Commonwealth marine areas.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not within or near the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not a coal seam gas or coal mining development.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.10.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not within or near any Commonwealth land.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact. *

The proposed action is not within or near any Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

No

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)
- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

It is not possible to consider an alternative location for the proposed action because of the defined geological location the of the Hornfels resource to be quarried.

The metamorphism of Humevale Siltstone to Hornfels that produced the contact Toole-be-wong Granodiorite surrounding the granite body to the higher north-west of Mt Toolebewong, produced a metamorphic aureole that the WA375 and proposed action with adjoining Lot 50C sit within.

Resource definition drilling (54 diamond, or percussion drill holes) delineates the resource within the proposed location site.

There is no alternative form of activity available for the proposed action.

Vegetation, (Trees), groundcover, topsoil and overburden need to be removed to access the Hornfels resource located from minimally below the natural surface to extended depth, in order for Hornfels to be extracted for processing into hard rock construction products.

In some instances, a natural drainage line(s) within the extraction (proposed action) area need to be suitably redirected (engineered) to ensure surface water flows are maintained and erosion prevented.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	27/02/2025	No	High

1.2.6 Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents that are relevant to the proposed action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025	No	High

1.2.7 Public consultation regarding the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2 - EEAct-Referral_WA375-Yarra-Valley-Quarry.pdf Environment Effects Act Referral Submission	01/11/2024	No	High

1.3.2.17 (Person proposing to take the action) Proposer's history of responsible environmental management

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 4 - WaterTech_WA375_Hyd_Rpt_3May2023.pdf Hydrology Report	30/04/2023	No	High
#2.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025	No	High
#3.	Document	Att. 10 - JLCS_WA375_GW_Rpt_Feb 2024.pdf Groundwater Assessment	01/02/2024	No	High
#4.	Document	Att. 11 - WMGA_WA375_NoiseEmissionsReport_July2024.pdf Noise Emissions Report	02/07/2024	No	High
#5.	Document	Att. 12 - Traffix Group_Traffic Engineering Assessment_Jun 2023.pdf Traffic Engineering Assessment	06/06/2023	No	High
#6.	Document	Att. 13 - GHD_WA375_Geotechnical Assessment_Jan2024.pdf Geotechnical Assessment	22/01/2024	No	High
#7.	Document	Att. 6 - WA375-Vicplan-Planning-Property-Report.pdf Planning Property Report	26/06/2024	No	High

#8.	Document	Att. 7 - ESA_WA375_dust assessment_incl DMP_June 2024 .pdf Dust Assessment Report	01/06/2024	No	High
#9.	Document	Att. 8 - Terrock_WA375_Blasting IA_May 2024.pdf Blasting Impact Assessment	01/05/2024	No	High
#10.	Document	Att. 9 - Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Wireframe Visualisations -26.06.2024.pdf Landscape and Visual Assessment	26/06/2024	No	High

3.1.3 Natural features, important or unique values that applies to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025	No	High

3.2.1 Flora and fauna within the affected area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025		High

3.2.2 Vegetation within the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025	No	High

3.3.2 Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 2 - EEAct-Referral_WA375-Yarra-Valley-Quarry.pdf Environment Effects Act Referral Submission	31/10/2024		High

3.4.1 Hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att 5 - WA375_WaterManPlan_Jun2024.pdf Water Management Plan	01/06/2024	No	High

#2.	Document	Att. 10 - JLCS_WA375_GW_Rpt_Feb 2024.pdf Groundwater Assessment	31/01/2024	No	High

4.1.4.2 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on the identified protected matters

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025	No	High

4.1.4.6 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Why you do not consider the direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 14 - 92008-conservation-advice-05072022.pdf Greater Glider Conservation Advice	05/07/2022	No	High
#2.	Document	Att. 15 - 768-conservation-advice-02032022.pdf Gang-gang Cockatoo Conservation Advice	02/03/2022	No	High
#3.	Document	Att. 3 - 14246_EHP_Matters of NES_DandyPremixQuarry_Draft_04032025.pdf Matters of National Environmental Significance Report	04/03/2025	No	High
#4.	Link	Significant Impact Guidelines https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/do..			High

4.1.4.10 (Threatened Species and Ecological Communities) Avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action

	Type	Name	Date	Sensitivity	Confidence
#1.	Document	Att. 1 - 14246_EHP_EcologicalServices_DandyPremixQuarry_Final_v3_03032025.pdf Ecology Report	03/03/2025		High

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

ABN/ACN	111427920
Organisation name	ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD
Organisation address	3056 VIC
Representative's name	Sarah Hill
Representative's job title	Zoologist
Phone	0484949652
Email	shill@ehpartners.com.au
Address	292 Mt Alexander Road, Travancore VIC 3032

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ By checking this box, I, **Sarah Hill of ECOLOGY AND HERITAGE PARTNERS PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

ABN/ACN	57125332989
Organisation name	DANDY PREMIX QUARRIES PTY LTD
Organisation address	3139 VIC
Representative's name	Garry Cranny

Representative's job title	Sustainability Manager
Phone	03 9703 8260
Email	gcranny@dandypremix.com
Address	21 Bennet Street Dandenong VIC 3175

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Garry Cranny of DANDY PREMIX QUARRIES PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

✔ Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

☑ Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

☑ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

☑ I, **Garry Cranny of DANDY PREMIX QUARRIES PTY LTD**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

☐ I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *