

Archived: Monday, 14 April 2025 11:07:26 AM

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, 24 Feb 2025 23:52:10

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Request for reconsideration concerning Mt Cotton Quarry Expansion (2011-6225) - additional information required [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: Normal

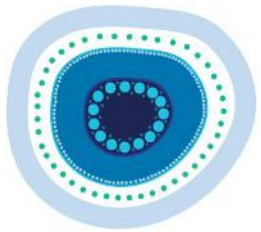
Sensitivity: None

OFFICIAL

[REDACTED]

Nature Positive Regulation Division | Environment Assessments QLD Branch | Queensland South Assessment Section
Ngunnawal Country, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia
GPO Box 3090, Canberra, ACT. 2601.
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
E: [REDACTED]@dcceew-migration.gov.au

DCCEEW.gov.au ABN 63 573 932 849



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 10:40 AM

To: [REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@redland.qld.gov.au>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@redland.qld.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Request for reconsideration concerning Mt Cotton Quarry Expansion (2011-6225) - additional information required [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find following response:

PART 1

The following grounds outlined in **paragraphs 78(1)(a) to (ca)** of the **EPBC Act 1999**, have been considered in the request for reconsideration of the referral decision for EPBC 2011/6225:

1. Substantial New Information (Paragraph 78(1)(a))

There is **substantial new information** that was not available at the time of the original referral decision. In this case:

- * The **Koala** was listed as **Endangered** under the EPBC Act on **12 February 2022**, which is a significant change in the conservation status of a species directly impacted by the project.
- * Within the original referral plan, the *Habitat Management Plan (HMP)*, specifically at *2.2 Fauna Management Plan*, identified the then service maintenance access road (now heavy vehicle haulage road) as a direct threat to koalas “*death and injury*” and required the construction “*While site works are occurring and then at all times*”, of a fauna bypass and associated fencing to ensure the provision of “*safe crossing opportunities*”. These remain unconstructed, despite the commencement of works on or about 2018 and the formal commencement of operations (July 2024). The failure to implement these measures, combined with the new conservation status of the koala, constitutes substantial new information that was not available in 2011.
- * The development is now 20% larger, the increase in size constitutes a substantial change to the nature of the action as it may lead to greater environmental impacts than those originally assessed.

2. Substantial Change in Circumstances (Paragraph 78(1)(b))

There has been a **substantial change in circumstances** that could alter the environmental impacts of the action. In this case:

- * The **abandonment of the conveyor system** for up to 15 years will lead to a significant increase in truck movements (from 2 trucks/day to approximately **16 heavy haulage trucks/hour**). This is a substantial operational change that was not part of the original referral plan and significantly increases the environmental impact, particularly in terms of noise, dust, and risks to wildlife.
- * The **access road**, which was originally modelled with minimal truck movements, is now being used far beyond its intended capacity, creating additional threats to the environment and wildlife, including koalas.
- * The **failure to construct the wildlife corridor and corral fencing** as outlined in the original referral plan further exacerbates the risk to koalas and other wildlife.
- * The **reduction in offset planting from 5-1 to 3-1** as outlined in the original referral plan further exacerbates the long-term risk to koalas and other wildlife.

3. Error in the Original Decision (Paragraph 78(1)(c))

There was an **error in the original decision-making process**. In this case:

- * The original decision may not have adequately accounted for the potential for operational changes (e.g., abandonment of the conveyor system) or the failure to implement mitigation measures (e.g., wildlife corridor and fencing) and 40% reduction in offset planting. This oversight could be considered an error in the assessment of the long-term environmental impacts.

4. New Information on Listed Threatened Species or Communities (Paragraph 78(1)(ca))

There is **new information about a listed threatened species or ecological community** that was not considered in the original decision. In this case:

- * The **koala's listing as Endangered** under the EPBC Act in 2022 is new information that was not available in 2011. This change in conservation status significantly alters the importance of mitigating impacts on koalas, particularly given the increased truck movements, the lack of a wildlife corridor and fencing and reduction in offset planting.

Conclusion

The grounds under **paragraphs 78(1)(a), (b), and (ca)** are the most relevant for requesting a reconsideration of the referral decision. The substantial new information about the koala's conservation status, the significant operational changes (e.g., increased truck movements, reduction in offset planting and abandonment of the conveyor), and the failure to implement mitigation measures all justify a reconsideration under the EPBC Act.

PART 2

Koala Conservation State Planning Policy (1997) identified much of the properties involved in the new development (163-177 and 195 Gramzow Road) for habitat protection and their significance for wildlife corridors for facilitating the safe movement of koalas. The development application for these properties and subsequent request for extension were all rejected by the local Redland City Council for "significant risks to the environment and local community" (first properly made application 2011). Redland City Council has been consulted and the following maps (attached) are provided and accessible through their online Red-E-Map portal

- * **RCC Regional Ecosystems** – provides details of the regional ecosystems through which the new heavy vehicle haulage route transects. The clearing to the lower centre of the image is the beginning of the new pit
- * **RCC – Water corridors and wetlands** – the corridor to the left will be diverted as an open drain around the new pit to be formed. The corridor to the right is dissected by the new heavy vehicle haulage route.
- * **RCC Environmental Significance Overlay** – the heavy vehicle haulage route again clearly dissects environmentally significant overlays.
- * **Significant rubble and embankments** – aerial/satellite images from late February 2025 show heavy vehicle haulage rd. covered in rubble with steep earth/rock embankments (image withheld as not licenced for distribution).
- * **RCC Quarry Haulage Rd** – show the criticality of the area on the western slope between the existing quarry and the new quarry as a corridor between two regionally significant (koala) vegetation overlays and where the wildlife bypass and associated fencing to corral fauna was to be constructed. To the east of the development is an unfenced major arterial road – Mount Cotton Rd and the access road to the site.

At 1pm, 25 February, there were multiple significant blasts that appeared to come from the same new heavy vehicle haulage rd. It is the reasoned view of the officers spoken to and the community, that this critical link between these regionally significant ecosystems is adversely compromised by these changes.

Kind regards,



OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 1:41 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au>

Subject: Request for reconsideration concerning Mt Cotton Quarry Expansion (2011-6225) - additional information required
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

The department is currently assessing the validity of your request for reconsideration concerning the referral decision for Mt Cotton Quarry Expansion (EPBC 2011-6225).

To aid this process, could you please clarify the following:

- * Which ground or grounds in paragraphs 78(1)(a) to (ca) of the *EPBC ACT 1999* are being relied upon to make the request; and
- * The source of your information for the following – “The preliminary works over the past 6 years with no wildlife corridor, and planned manner of operation have, and will continue to isolate koala populations that are now EPBC listed as endangered, compromising the intent of protected vegetation overlays mapped by the Qld State/Regional Council (Redland Council).”

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Assessment Officer

Nature Positive Regulation Division | Environment Assessments QLD Branch | Queensland South Assessment Section
Ngunnawal Country, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia
GPO Box 3090, Canberra, ACT. 2601.
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
E: [REDACTED] [dcceew-migration.gov.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@dcceew-migration.gov.au)

DCCEEW.gov.au ABN 63 573 932 849



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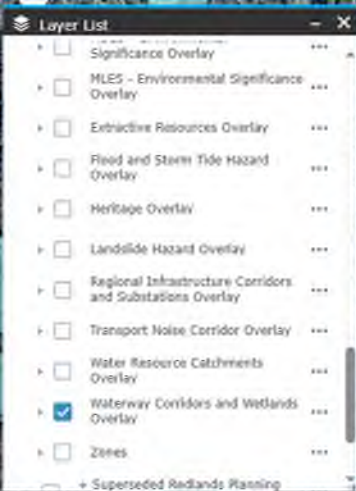
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Layer List

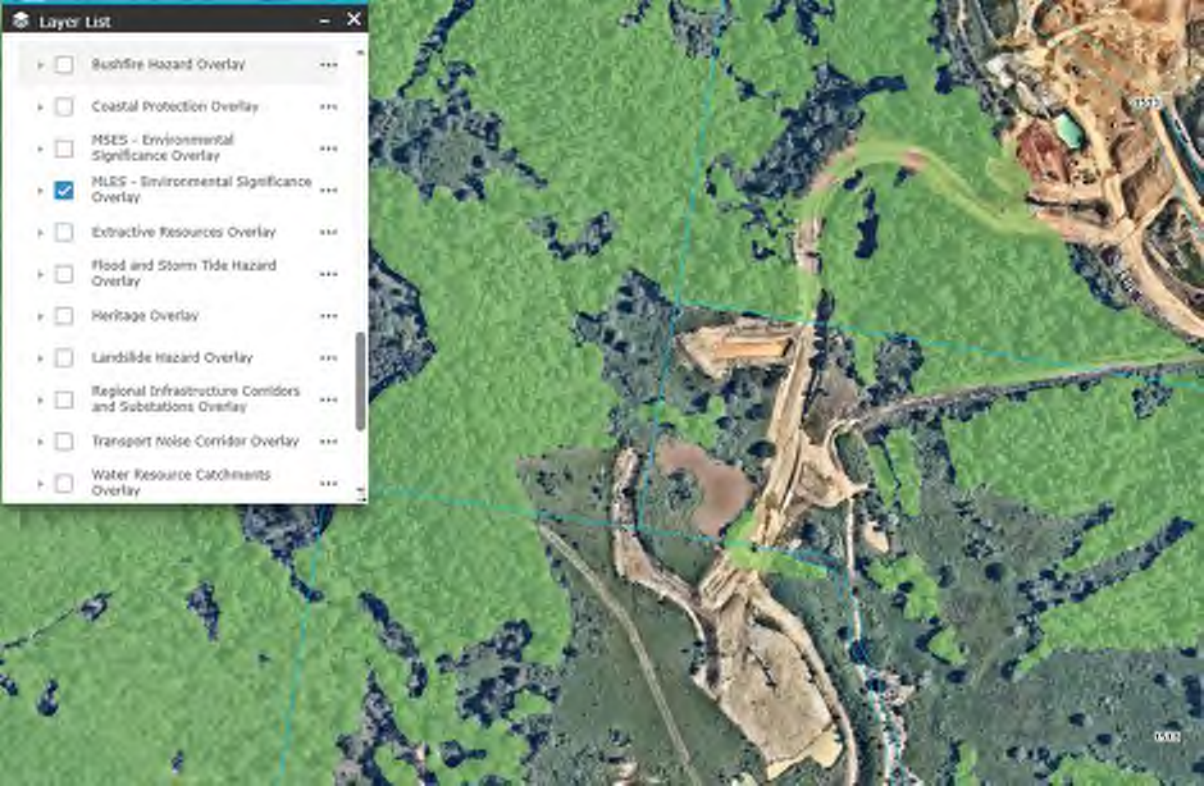
- ☐ Bushcare Activity
- ☐ Veg Protection Layers
- ☐ Land Registers
- ☐ RCC Koala Habitat 2015
- ☒ RCC Regional Ecosystems 2015
- ☐ RCC Non Regional Ecosystems 2015
- ☐ RE Preclear V12
- ☐ RE V12
- ☐ Vegetation Associations
- ☐ Composite Mainland Soils LRAM 2011
- ☐ Redlands Geology





Layer List

- ☐ Bushfire Hazard Overlay ...
- ☐ Coastal Protection Overlay ...
- ☐ MSES - Environmental Significance Overlay ...
- ☒ MLES - Environmental Significance Overlay ...
- ☐ Extractive Resources Overlay ...
- ☐ Flood and Storm Tide Hazard Overlay ...
- ☐ Heritage Overlay ...
- ☐ Landslide Hazard Overlay ...
- ☐ Regional Infrastructure Corridors and Substations Overlay ...
- ☐ Transport Noise Corridor Overlay ...
- ☐ Water Resource Catchments Overlay ...





Red-e-Map

Address, Land No. Municipality



Layer List



- ☐ Urban Koala Habitat
- ☐ Urban Non Koala Habitat
- ☒ ROC Regional Ecosystems
 - ☒ Endangered
 - ☒ Of Concern
 - ☒ Not of Concern
- ☐ ROC Non Regional Ecosystem Habitat
- ☐ Disaster Management
- ☐ City Plan Version 12
- ☐ Superseded RPS 2006 V7.2
- ☒ Aerial Imagery
- ☒ NL_SMBI
- ☐ NSI

Where fauna by-pass was to be located prior to commencement

Site access for all haulage vehicles – no fauna pass provided for

Security fence

1,711,446.060 22,779,792.608 Feet

0 0.2 0.4km

esri

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 9:45 PM
To: EPBC Referrals <EPBC.Referrals@dcceew.gov.au>
Cc: Minister Plibersek <Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@savethekoala.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@redland.qld.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: EPBC 2011/6225 referral Mt Cotton Quarry Development

Reconsideration of the Decision - EPBC 2011/6225

Good morning,

Supplementary to my earlier request for reconsideration:

- * The EPBC Referral above, detailed at length, that the movement of extracted material from the planned extraction pit to crushing plant, through regionally significant vegetation overlays, would be by covered and silenced conveyor.
- * An access road across the ridgeline was also provided for and to include a wildlife crossing. Modelling was provided (dust/noise) and considered the impact of infrequent truck movements (2/day).
- * The access road was subsequently "cut in" (5m steep batters as attached photo) to the ridgeline in 2018, but as of May 2014 no wildlife corridor has been provided for.
- * Provision of the conveyor to move materials has been abandoned for at least 10 years (MT COTTON QUARRY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING #3 Monday 13 May, 2024)
- * The quarry output is up to 1,000,000 tpa. Without the conveyor, assuming on average they will work 50 weeks @ 5.5 days per week @ 10hrs per day and use articulated dumps with a capacity of approx. 45t, this equates to around 8 trucks per hour one way, 16 heavy trucks per hour total haul and return on an access road that was modelled on just 2 trucks/day.
- * Koala is now EPBC listed as Endangered (Date effective 12-Feb-2022)

This is a substantial change to the design within EPBC 2011/6225 and is a direct threat to the koala’s survival and breeding and the intent of the National Recovery Plan for the Koala.

- * The Federal Minister’s 2012 decision was based on a development design contained within: 1513 and 1515-1521 Mount Cotton Rd and 163-177 and 195 Gramzow Rd Mt Cotton.
- * The application included the movement of material through an established wildlife corridor by an appropriately designed conveyor that was impact accessed, and a limited use access road, all with suitably designed wildlife corridors.
- * The original operational design helped ensure that fauna populations (separate to the development area considered in EPBC 2011/6225) on the southern ridgeline were not isolated from northern populations.
- * The preliminary works over the past 6 years with no wildlife corridor, and planned manner of operation have, and will continue to isolate koala populations that are now EPBC listed as endangered, compromising the intent of protected vegetation overlays mapped by the Qld State/Regional Council (Redland Council).
- * The Ministers decision 2012 did not consider the change in conservation status of the koala and did not consider isolating fauna populations on the southern ridgeline with northern populations.

The preliminary works and intended operational design have and will continue to isolate an EPBC species of national environmental significance with substantial changes that are new, were not available to the Minister at the time and the impact has a high degree of certainty.

1. No assessment or modelling of the impact of the substantial increase of heavy traffic on the access road between extraction pit and crushing plant (up to 1,000,000 tpa).
2. No provision of wildlife corridor allowing koalas to cross the access road cut into the ridge (recent removal of old growth trees and building of dams and pit to be constructed blocking any more westerly corridor).
3. The EPBC Act Listing of *Phascolarctos cinereus* (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) as Endangered (Date effective 12-Feb-2022)

Operations have not commenced at the site and preliminary works only are being undertaken. In April 2022 the Qld State (Hon Steven Miles MP, MC21/6086) provided advice to Barro Group of their need to ensure compliance under the Commonwealth’s EPBC Act. We respectfully request that the Minister urgently, and prior to the commencement of operations 25 July 2024, reconsideration the previous decision.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 11:21 AM
To: epbc.referrals@dcceew.gov.au
Subject: EPBC 2011/6225 referral 2011 Mt Cotton Quarry Development

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:49 AM

To: epbc.referral@dcceew.gov.au

Cc: Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au; [REDACTED]@savethekoala.com>

Subject: EPBC 2011/6225 referral 2011 Mt Cotton Quarry Development

Under the Commonwealth's' EPBC Act, Barro Group made EPBC 2011/6225 referral based on information submitted in their 21 December 2010 development application to Redland Council. At that time, the koala was not EPBC listed as a species of special conservation significance, although the new development site had been included within land set aside for conservation in QLD STATE PLANNING POLICY 1/97 Conservation of koalas in the Koala Coast.

The decision by the Federal Minister (2011/2) was that the proposed activity was 'not a controlled action' under the EPBC Act.

The project has not yet commenced operation, and it has been 13 years since that decision. There has been a significant change with the koala now listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act in February 2022 along with design changes including a reduction in offset planting obligations. I also note that the Queensland Deputy Premier (Hon Steven Miles MP, MC21/6086) in April 2022 provided advice to Barro Group of their need to ensure compliance under the Commonwealth's' EPBC Act. Given operations have not commenced on the site (expected July 2024), I would appreciate if you could as a matter of urgency determine if the Barro Group is required update their Referral under the Commonwealth's' EPBC Act.

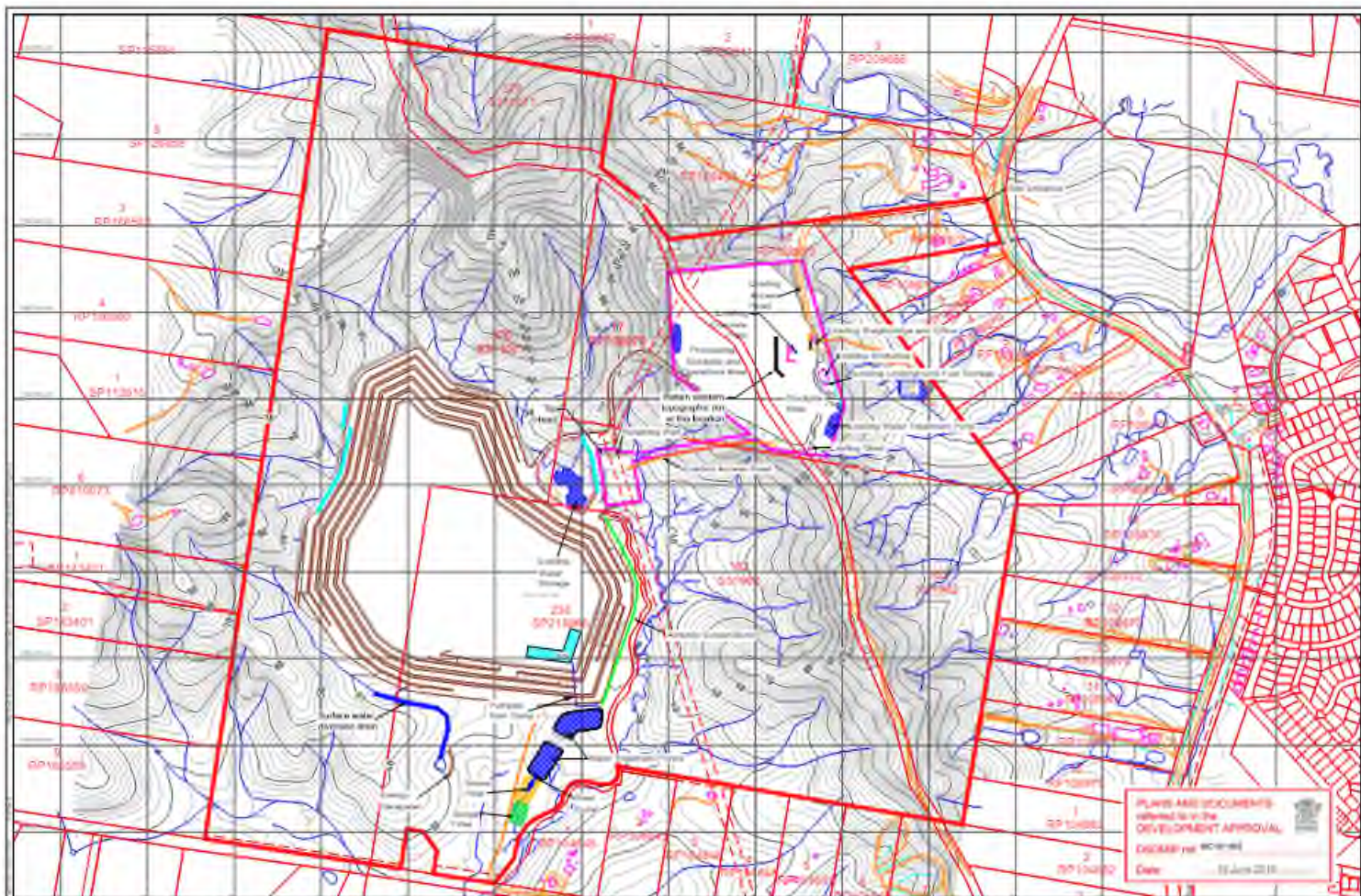
I would also appreciate a copy of the Ministers original advice/response to the EPBC 2011/6225 referral.

Mt Cotton Quarry Development fly-around;
https://youtu.be/GX3kM7N73Cs?si=HwLeHnRq_Ber9no5

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]







Future quarry

Old
growth
trees
removed

Population now isolated

Mount Cotton Hillclimb



3