



tasmanian conservation trust inc

The General Manager
Clarence City Council
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Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd – Flagstaff Gully Quarry proposed expansion: submission in response to permit application and Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan.

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust's (TCT) submission in relation to the Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd – Flagstaff Gully Quarry proposed expansion relates entirely to flora and fauna issues, addressed in Appendix G of the Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP), 'Hanson Construction Materials–Flagstaff Gully: Flora and Fauna Habitat Assessment and Residual Impact Offset Proposal' by North Barker Ecosystem Services (referred to in this submission as the 'North Barker Flora and Fauna Report').

The DPEMP proposes two options for expansion of the Hanson Flagstaff Gully Quarry.

Option 1 would result in 6.3 ha of native vegetation being cleared, include 3.7 ha of swift parrot (*lathamus discolor*) foraging habitat (which is recorded as having no suitable nesting hollows) and 450 *Poa mollis* (rare on the Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 (TSPA)).

Option 2 would result in 11.1 ha of native vegetation being cleared, including 7 ha of swift parrot foraging habitat, which includes suitable nesting hollows but none are known to hold swift parrots.

Option 2 would also include destroying the following number of individuals of plant species listed as rare on the TSPA:

- 700 *Poa mollis*
- 5000 *Ranunculus sessiliflorus*
- 5-10 *Austrostipa scabra*

The proponent's preferred option is Option 2.

Judged on the basis of this evidence alone, the TCT believes that both options are unacceptable as they have a significant impact on native vegetation and

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threatened species. Option 2 clearly has a greater impact on native vegetation and threatened species than Option 1 (although the impacts of Option 1 are far from insignificant as stated in the North Barker Flora and Fauna Report).

However, the proponent has proposed a range of measures as off-sets for the impacts of Option 2 (its preferred option), primarily the impacts on swift parrot habitat (endangered on the EPBC Act). The off-set proposed by the proponent would protect 110 ha of native vegetation, adjacent to the current quarry, through a conservation covenant, management plan and designation of the area as a private nature reserve. This should ensure the protection and good management of a range of important values, including:

- 77 ha of swift parrot habitat
- 11.5 ha of an other threatened vegetation community *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest
- hundreds of *Poa mollis* (rare TSPA)
- thousands of *Ranunculus sessiliflorus* (rare TSPA) and *Austrostipa scabra* (rare TSPA)
- an unknown number of *Eryngium ovinum* (vulnerable TSPA) and *Teucrium corymbosum* (rare TSPA).

The TCT would prefer the proponent to proceed with these very positive measures regardless of which option is eventually adopted.

Unfortunately, the proponent is currently only committed to these measures as off-sets and is unlikely to accept our recommendation if it proceeds with Option 1.

However, the TCT still believe that implementing the proponents preferred option would result in very significant environmental gains albeit in exchange for the destruction of some important native vegetation and threatened species habitat.

While we cannot condon the destruction of any swift parrot habitat, the area which is being proposed to be protected as an off-set is a very generous area and the company should be congratulated for doing more than was required of it.

We wish to make two recommendations regarding the proposed conservation covenant and private nature reserve. The North Barker Flora and Fauna Report fails to clarify the duration of the proposed conservation covenant and we urge the proponent to make it a perpetual covenant. We also urge the proponent to incorporate all other native vegetation which they own in the vicinity of the Flagstaff Gully quarry, including a substantial area of threatened *Eucalyptus risdonii* forest in the northern part of the property. It is our understanding that this part of the proponent's land has no potential for quarrying and its inclusion in the area to be covenanted and reserved would not only protect an additional and important area of vegetation, it would greatly enhance the protection given to the adjacent Nature Recreation Area.

Yours sincerely,



Peter McGlone
Director