

*Chapter One***INTRODUCTION**

Development of the Hitchcock Road site for sand extraction and associated rehabilitation has been undertaken in compliance with orders of the NSW Land and Environment Court (10064 of 1998) since 1999. These required that the proponent (PF Formation) submits an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) every twelve months from the endorsed date of consent in order to satisfy Council (Baulkham Hills Shire Council now the Hills Shire Council) concerning the overall performance and management of site operations. Audits responding to the requirements of the relevant Court orders have been prepared and submitted in August each year covering the following issues:

- dust generation;
- noise compliance;
- ground and surface water management;
- erosion and sediment controls;
- flora and fauna management;
- rehabilitation;
- social impact management; and
- compliance with the requirements of Council DCP 16-Extractive Industries.

There is therefore a ten year data set (sometimes longer in the case of earlier approvals) relating to these issues.

Following a further DA and associated EA under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, the present development was approved by the Minister for Planning on 3 February 2009. The conditions attached to the approval required, among other things, the preparation of five management plans/monitoring programs:

- Environmental Strategy;
- Noise Management Plan;
- Air Quality Monitoring Program;
- Water Management Plan;
- Landscape Management Plan.

The first four were to be prepared in association with the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) and submitted to the Department of Planning (DoP) three months from the date of approval. These were approved by the Director-General of the Department of Planning on 8 July 2009. The Landscape Management Plan was required to be prepared by persons approved by the Director-General, in consultation with DECC, and submitted within six months of the date of Project Approval. This has been prepared and awaits approval.

Each of these documents sets out the various monitoring programs required to comply with the requirements of the approval conditions. The monitoring results are to be summarised in an annual report known as the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMP). This is to be submitted 12 months from the date of approval and every year thereafter to the Director-General, relevant agencies and the Community Consultative Committee (CCC), the new name for the existing Liaison and Review Committee. The report will:

- identify the standards and performance measures that apply to the project;
- describe the works that will be carried out in the next 12 months;
- include a summary of the complaints received during the past year and compare this to complaints received in previous years;
- include a summary of the monitoring results for the project during the past year;
- include an analysis of these results against the relevant:
  - impact assessment criteria/limits;
  - monitoring results from previous years; and
  - predictions in the EA;
- identify any trends in the monitoring results over the life of the project;
- identify any non-compliance during the previous year; and
- describe what actions were, or are being, taken to ensure compliance.

The report will be audited by an independent specialist within 12 months of the date of approval and every three years thereafter. The audit will:

- be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person(s) whose appointment has been approved by the Director-General;
- include consultation with the relevant agencies;
- assess the environmental performance of the project and its effects on the surrounding environment;
- assess whether the project is complying with the relevant standards, performance measures and statutory requirements; and
- review the adequacy of any strategy/program required under this approval and, if necessary, recommend measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the project and/or any strategy/plan/program required under this approval.

The approval requires the completion and submittal of the AEMP 12 months from the date of approval (3 February 2009). This would result in the first AEMP reporting monitoring undertaken over a period of 18 months since the last report, under the previous consent, was issued in August 2008. It was decided therefore to submit the first AEMP in August/September 2009 including 12 months of monitoring and allowing a consistent transition between the two reporting regimes to be achieved. This will allow for easier comparison with the previous ten years of data.

Monitoring continued on the basis of the previous Court consent until the approval of the relevant management plans/monitoring programs on 8 July 2009. Most of the data summarised in the AEMP is therefore based on the requirements of the previous consent. The AEMP to be submitted in August 2010 will therefore provide 12 months of data in compliance with the requirements of the management plans/monitoring programs under the new approval.

The **development sites** referred to in this document relate to all those properties from which sand and other materials are extracted as part of the Hitchcock Road project. They include all those properties subject to the approval conditions applying to the project and those parts of Lot 198 DP752025 where processing of the sand product prior to transport to market takes place.

Sand may also be extracted from Lot 2 DP555184 and Lot 1 DP34599 under the Court consent with the product trucked to the existing slurry plant on Lot 1 DP57096 for transport by pipeline to the process plant on Lot 198 following written agreement between the land owners and PF Formation. Extraction from these lots is not included in the present project approval but the total mass of sand extracted under both consents combined must not exceed the total (400,000 processed tonnes) listed in both approvals.

This report is the first Annual Environmental Management Report under the new approval and contains chapters on the following:

- Project status.
- Air quality.
- Noise management.
- Ground and surface water management.
- Rehabilitation

Discussion of erosion and sediment controls is included in the chapter on ground and surface water management and **Appendix A** provides a table indicating compliance with the requirements of Council DCP 16-Extractive Industries.

The following sections respond to the relevant parts of the approval conditions and the requirements set out in the approved management plans/monitoring programs. Where appropriate, the individual chapters have been amended to include a number of new requirements set out in these documents. The relevant attachments are included at the end of each chapter as appropriate.

A copy of the report has been sent to the Department of Environment and Climate Change and the Hills Shire Council.

*Chapter Two***STATUS OF THE PROJECT**

The court orders imposed a number of requirements on the Hitchcock Road development, which had timing implications. These included the necessity to submit additional data and other material to Council prior to the commencement of activities on the site and the requirement to cease the transportation of material by truck from the site to the central processing plant within a fixed period from the start of operations. A number of dates are therefore of significance.

- The endorsed date of the court orders is 14 July 1998. Submittal of the EMP to Council was therefore no later than 13 July 1999 and every 12 months thereafter.
- The commercial operations at the site started on 20 October 1998.
- Transportation by truck was limited to 18 months from the commencement of commercial operations. The sand slurry transport plant therefore needed to be in operation by the 19 April 2000.

The sand slurry transport plant came into full operation at the beginning of May 2000 following an extended period of testing.

The Minister for Planning approved the current project on 3 February 2009. The Project Approval contains the following administrative conditions:

- Extraction and processing operations may take place until 30 November 2028. PF Formation is required to rehabilitate the site and provide offsets to the satisfaction of the Director-General. The approval will therefore continue to apply in all other respects other than the right to conduct extraction and processing operations until the site has been rehabilitated and the offset provided to a satisfactory standard.
- The quantity of processed material produced at the site, together with material produced at Lot 2 DP555184 and Lot 1 DP34599 (not included in the present development) in accordance with the development consent issued by the Land and Environment Court on 14 July 1998, shall not exceed 400,000 tonnes a year.
- PF Formation may accept material extracted from Lot 2 DP555184 and Lot 1 DP34599 in accordance with the development consent of 14 July 1998 to be transported across the site and to the slurry plant on Lot 1 DP570966 via the slurry pipeline and processed on Lot 198 DP752025. Prior to the start of any processing of extractive material from these activities, PF Formation must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director-General that an agreement has been reached with the owners of these lots regarding the proportion of the extraction limit applying to each lot.
- PF Formation must restrict total laden truck movements associated with the project to:
  - 200 per day for combined operations at Maroota;
  - 20 per day for trucks importing VENM to the site; and
  - 10 per day for trucks entering/exiting the site between 06.00 and 07.00 hours.

The site survey plan attached as **Attachment 2A** shows the current status of the development. This is based on photography flown on 15 April 2009. The location of the various lots that make up the site is shown on Figure 2 at **Attachment 2B**.

A total of 238,080 tonnes of processed material was derived from the Hitchcock Road site over the 12 months to June 2009. This is within the limit of 400,000 tonnes of processed material allowed under **Condition No 3.9** of Court Approval No 10064 of 1998 and **Condition 7** of **Schedule 2** for the Hitchcock Road Project Approval.

#### ***Changes on the Hitchcock Road site since August 2008***

The following major changes have taken place on site since the previous Audit Report:

- Extraction has continued in a northerly direction into Lot 1 DP1091018 on the northern side of Tailings Pond 7. However, following the new approval, extraction in this area has ceased in preference to extraction in Lot 214 DP752039. The crest of the extraction has been graded to control surface runoff and direct it around the area to prevent flow over the top of the excavation wall.
- Backfilling has continued in the north-western corner of Tailings Pond 10 on the northern side of Tailings Pond 7.
- Minor extraction has been undertaken on the south-western side of the slurry plant on Lot 1 DP57096 to create an additional space suitable for stockpiles.
- Extraction has started on Lot 214 DP752039 on the southern side of the main clean water dam.
- Visual bunds have been constructed on the southern side of the new extraction area.
- Topsoil has been stripped and stockpiled on the southern side of the supplementary (unused) clean water dam and towards the bund along the southern boundary.
- The tailings stream currently incorporates Tailings Ponds 5 and 7; Tailings Ponds 9 and 10 are not presently in use.
- Previously capped Tailings Ponds 2 and 8 continued to be used as overburden stockpile areas.
- The supplementary water storage dam on the western side of the main clean water supply dam has not yet been brought into use.

Recent changes to the surface water management system are described in **Chapter 5**.

#### ***Activities to be undertaken on site over the following 12 months***

Site activities during the next phase of development will focus on the following:

- Continuation of extraction on Lot 214 DP752039 and along the western side of Lot 167 DP752039.
- Extraction in a southerly direction within Lots 1 and 2 DP57096.
- Progressive capping and consolidation of Tailings Ponds 5 and 7.

- Construction of two new tailings ponds in Lot 1 DP1091018, 10A adjacent to the boundary along Old Northern Road and 11 in the centre of the lot adjacent to its boundary with Lot 2 DP233818.
- Continuation of revegetation in the completed areas of Lot 2 DP233818.

These activities will be initiated or continued over the next 12 months and be progressively completed over three years.

There have been no complaints recorded over the past 12 months. This is consistent with previous experience with only one minor complaint being received over the ten year life of operations on the site.

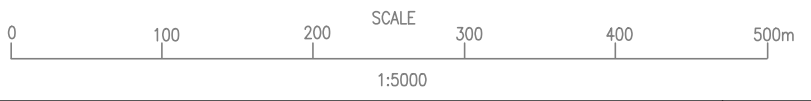
Attachment 2A

# **SITE SURVEY PLAN**



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- LEGEND**
- 5 TAILING POND
  - (1) CAPPED TAILING POND
  - EXTRACTION SETBACK
  - STOCKPILE



<p><b>Douglas Partners</b> Geotechnics • Environment • Groundwater</p>	CLIENT: PF Formation			<b>TITLE: Hitchcock Road Sand Extraction &amp; Rehabilitation Project</b> Site Survey 2009 (based on aerial photography flown April 2009) 2008-2009 Surface Water Management Report <b>MARootA</b>	PROJECT No: 24088.12
	DRAWN BY: PSCH	SCALE: As shown	OFFICE: Sydney		DRAWING No: 1
	APPROVED BY:	DATE: 30.7.2009			REVISION: A

**Attachment 2B**

**LOTS INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT**



**Figure 2**  
LOTS INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT

Scale  
0 500 Metres

— Boundary of the proposed extraction area