

For Public Notice via Internet**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

Title of Proposal: Readymix Colac Quarry Expansion (Southern Development Area)

Proponent: Rinker Australia Pty Ltd (trading as Readymix)

Description of Project:

Readymix has operated an existing basalt quarry at Potters Rd, Ondit, 10kms north of Colac since 1972. The current proposal involves the progressive extraction of basalt rock from the stony rises within the Southern Development Area (SDA), once the resource in the existing quarry area is exhausted. The SDA is 40.92 hectares located to the south of this existing quarry.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effect Statement (EES) is not required for the Readymix Colac Quarry Southern Development Area as described in the referral accepted on 26 October 2007, subject to the following condition:

- That the mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the “*Management Plan for the Corangamite Skink and Native Vegetation Offsets: Readymix Quarry and Proposed Southern Development Area, Colac, Victoria June 2007*” (Biosis Research Pty Ltd) be implemented to the satisfaction of the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Reasons for Decision:

- Environmental investigations on the proposed quarry expansion undertaken on behalf of Readymix have provided an adequate assessment of environmental risks;
- The Southern Development Area is an expansion of an existing basalt quarry that has operated for 35 years;
- Suitable offsets, both on-site and off-site, have been identified for expected impacts on Stony Knoll Shrubland and the Corangamite Water Skink; and
- Overall, the project is unlikely to give rise to significant adverse environmental effects, having regard to available mitigation measures and implementation of the offset measures proposed in the *Management Plan for the Corangamite Skink and Native Vegetation Offsets: Readymix Quarry and Proposed Southern Development Area, Colac, Victoria June 2007*” (Biosis Research Pty Ltd).

Date of Decision: 6 December 2007