

For Public Notice via Internet

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2025-R03)**

Proponent

E B Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd (Mawsons)

Project

Blue Hills Quarry

Description

The proposed Blue Hills Quarry project is a hornfels hard-rock quarry in Bradford, approximately 25 km southwest of Bendigo, within the Mount Alexander Shire Local Government Area. The project components include a quarry, haul road and ancillary infrastructure such as a stockpiling area, vehicle workshop, office area, and power and water reticulation. Excavation, blasting and dewatering are required to establish the quarry to depths of up to 90 m below ground. The quarry is expected to produce up to 500,000 tpa of product at peak operation and be operational for 70 to 100 years.

Decision

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Blue Hills Quarry project.

Reasons

- The project has the potential for a range of significant effects that require integrated assessment. In particular, the project as proposed is likely to have significant effects on:
 - native vegetation and biodiversity values, including listed threatened species and communities under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
 - both surface water and groundwater, including groundwater dependent ecosystems;
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage values;
 - traffic and safety, from heavy vehicles movements to and from the site; and
 - amenity (air, noise and vibration), landscape and community values.
- An EES is warranted to enable an integrated assessment of the range of potentially significant environmental effects and associated uncertainties, to inform decision-making for a range required approvals, including *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, *Water Act 1989*, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, and *Wildlife Act 1975*.

- The EES will evaluate feasible and relevant alternatives, including potential micro-alignments of the quarry footprint and alternative locations or configurations for ancillary infrastructure, as well as mitigation strategies, to further avoid and minimise potential impacts on environmental values to acceptable levels.

Date of decision:

3/10/2025

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