Mackas Community Consultative Committee (CCC) 2023 Annual Report

CCC project name:	**Mackas Sand Project**	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2023
Independent chairperson:	**Margaret MacDonald-Hill**	Proponent contact:	**Robert Mackenzie**

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Mackas Sand Project CCC was established in September 2010 as part of the Minister for Planning's 2009 approval of the extraction of sand operations limited to one million tonnes of sand per annum from Lots 218 and 220 Salt Ash. The quarrying operation is located within the Port Stephens Council Local Government area, approximately twenty five kilometres north east of Newcastle. The land is held by the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council and with their concurrence, sand operations have been undertaken in the area since 1992.
The committee is comprised of:

- three local community representatives and an alternate;
- one community representative who acts in a dual capacity as Port Stephens Council representative;
- CEO of the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council plus one alternate;
- one Mackas Sand representative, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- an environmental consultant from Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd;
- an independent Chairperson

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

- With the Department's concurrence, the committee reduced its meeting schedule to annual meetings from 2018 and met in July 2023.
- Attendance by the local community representatives at meetings is consistent with previous years. Interest by the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council has continued to decline with minimal attendance since the committee began, although this has been interpreted as no major concerns with the project over a long period of time and contact between the parties is already established.
- Meetings are held at Mackas Sand Offices but no specific site visits were undertaken during the reporting period.
- A view of effectiveness of the committee was discussed at the July meeting whereby it was unanimously agreed to seek the Department's concurrence to suspend the committee, given there is little change in information provided at meetings, there has only been three complaints since the committee began and the fact that a clear line of communication already exists between the local community representatives and the proponent. The department subsequently agreed to this request in August 2023.

3. Key issues

There are no key issues confronting the committee. However, the proponent has undertaken to keep members informed of any future activities or proposals. Should there be any need to reconvene the committee, a formal request will be made to the department to resume meetings.

Name of chairperson:	**Margaret MacDonald-Hill**
Date:	January 31 2024