

## Community Update # 3

### About the Quarry

Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd (Holcim) operates the Mt Shamrock Quarry (the Quarry) at Mt Shamrock Road, Pakenham Victoria.

The Quarry has been in operation since 1974 and currently operates under Work Authority WA 174, and approved Work Plans and Planning Permit (T050156 PC2.). The Quarry was approved for extension in 2008 following an assessment under the Environment Effects Act 1978.

The Quarry employs approximately 22 full time employees and 10 contractors, and indirectly 40 contractors, mostly from the local area.

The Quarry produces high quality construction materials such as rail ballast, aggregates (for concrete and asphalt) and road bases. These products are essential raw construction materials necessary for building and maintaining homes, roads, railways, bridges, marinas, hospitals, schools, shopping centres and other infrastructure within our communities.

The Quarry has supplied major projects throughout its operational history including:

- Pakenham Bypass (2005-2007)
- Cardinia Road overpass - 2020
- High Capacity Metro Trains depot - Nar Nar Goon - 2018
- 15 Level crossing removals
- Eastlink resheet 2021/2022/2023
- Monash Freeway widening (multiple)
- Upper Yarra Reservoir (2020/2021)

Victoria has a growing demand for construction materials due to major infrastructure projects as part of Victoria's Big Build and civil construction for housing and industrial developments in the south east growth corridor. In Victoria, there is currently a shortage of suitable, approved, quarry materials that are in close transport proximity to meet the needs of these projects. The Quarry is ideally located for ongoing affordable supply to residential and commercial developments.

Due to this growing demand, Holcim is exploring opportunities to continue the supply of essential materials to the Victorian construction industry by investigating the suitability of further resources within the existing approved boundary of the Quarry (WA174).

## Community Update #3

In the last community update #2 issued in May 2024, Holcim committed to providing regular updates on the extension project at the Mt Shamrock Quarry

In December 2024, The Department of Transport Impact Assessment Unit (DTP IAU) formally accepted Holcim's referral application to seek a determination under the Environment Effects Act 1978 if an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required for this extension project.

The referral documents and associated technical reports will be publicly available on the following website for viewing:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects>.

## What is an EES?

An EES is the state's most rigorous and transparent environmental assessment process and is typically reserved for complex projects that require assessment of a range of potential impacts. For projects with fewer potential adverse effects a tailored environment report might be required by the Minister. Where the potential significant effects of a project are well known, or limited, the Minister might require conditions to be met for the project to proceed or not require any assessment under the Act.

In order to prepare the application, Holcim produced the following key technical assessments:

- Air Quality
- Ground Water
- Landscape and Visual amenity
- Resource investigation
- Flora and Fauna
- Cultural heritage

The application details the outcomes of each assessment, how the site's current monitoring and mitigation measures apply, and details of any additional measures required in order to minimise any potential impact to the environment.

The application also provides information on the site history, community engagement and the reasons why this extension project is being undertaken.

Please note that this referral application does not constitute an application for a Work Plan Variation or Planning Permit, these have not yet been applied for.

At the end of this newsletter is the process and potential outcomes of the EES referral process.

## Next Steps:

While the assessment is being undertaken by the DTP IAU, Holcim will continue to undertake technical studies which include but are not limited to the following environmental aspects:

- Surface water
- Erosion and sediment control
- Geotechnical
- Quarry staging and rehabilitation
- Noise & Vibration
- Blasting

The results of these technical assessments combined with the assessment outcomes from DTP IAU may change the final proposed pit shape and size (within the confines of the Work Authority)

## Please note:

Holcim is not considering any changes to its approved current operating hours which are:

- 7am-6pm Monday to Friday
- 7am to noon Saturday
- Blasting Monday to Friday 11am-12 Noon, and 2pm-3pm
- Critical maintenance can occur outside these hours

Holcim is not considering any changes to site access roads or truck routes in and out of the Quarry.

## Keeping you informed:

Holcim is committed to open dialogue with the community. Holcim will provide updates as soon as possible via the following pathways:

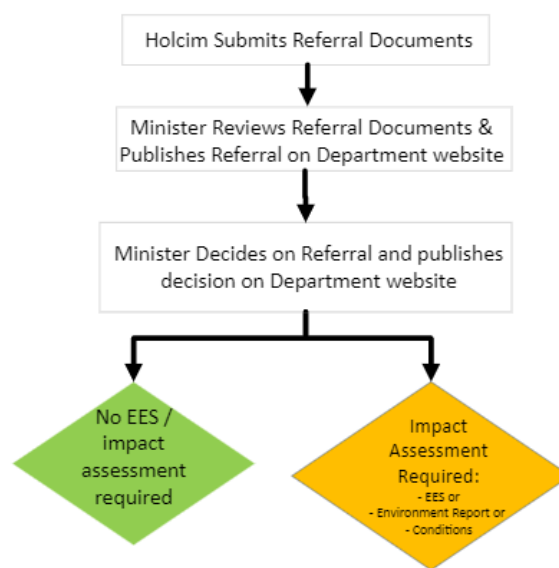
- Information website: [www.holcim.com.au/mt-shamrock](http://www.holcim.com.au/mt-shamrock)
- Consultation through the existing Environmental Review Committee (ERC) which meets quarterly
- All communications with the ERC and copies of all existing environmental performance are posted on the following website <https://www.allpossibilities.com.au/holcim>
- **Email contact:** [au-mtshamrock@holcim.com](mailto:au-mtshamrock@holcim.com)
- **Phone contact:** 0439 381 724

## Environment Effects Statement Project Referral

In Victoria the *Environment Effects Act 1978* provides for environmental impact assessment of a project capable of having a significant effect on the environment. The environment includes all physical, biological, social, spiritual and economic systems, processes and attributes. The Environment Effects Act relies on the referral of a project to the Minister for Planning for a decision on whether an environment effects statement (EES) is required.

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The following flowchart maps out the EES Referral process



### What happens after Holcim makes the EES Referral to the Minister for Planning?

The Minister will consider the referral documentation provided when deciding if an EES is required. Consideration will be given to the extent to which the project is capable of significant environmental effect in terms of:

- the potential for significant effects on the environment, either from the nature of the change (expected magnitude, extent, and duration) or the environment's capacity to withstand that change (location, rarity, physical/ecological/social/cultural connections/etc.)
- the range and complexity of potential effects and associated uncertainty of available predictions

- the adequacy of existing standards and/or statutory assessment processes to address potentially significant effects
- the potential of avoidance and mitigation measures that may be implemented
- the availability of project alternatives that may warrant investigation to assess opportunities to avoid or minimise adverse environmental effects
- the benefits of an integrated assessment that would not otherwise be achieved under existing statutory assessment processes; and
- the level of public interest in a proposed project.

## **What response might the Minister make to a referral?**

The Minister will normally provide a decision on a referral within 20 business days of receiving a complete referral with adequate supporting information. The Minister's decision and reasons will be published on the department's website:

[www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects](http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects)

The Minister can make one of three decisions on a referral:

1. an EES is required
2. an EES is not required if conditions specified by the Minister are met; or
3. an EES is not required.

The Minister can set conditions to be met in lieu of an EES that require assessment via an environment report (rather than an EES).

## **More Information:**

For further information on the EES Referral process please visit:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/environmental-assessment-guides/ministerial-guidelines-for-assessment-of-environmental-effects/determining-the-need-for-assessment>