

# **Karuah Community Consultative Committee:**

Extraordinary Meeting
03 November 2025

### **Meeting Introduction**

**Welcome and Introductions** 

**Acknowledgement of Country** 

**Apologies** 

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interests** 

### **Purpose of Extraordinary Meeting:**

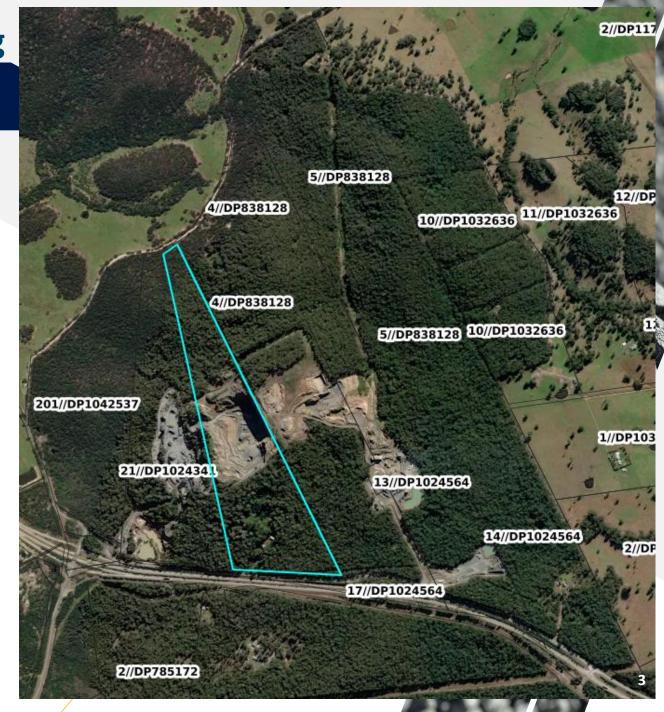
 Introduce and provide an overview of the 'Karuah Pit Consolidation Project' to committee members.



### **Recap of September 2025 Meeting**

### **Business Changes:**

- Hunter Quarries finalised the acquisition of Wedgerock Pty Ltd in Q2 CY2025.
- Lot 11 DP1024564 completes the ownership of the "Karuah Quarry Complex' (see next slide).



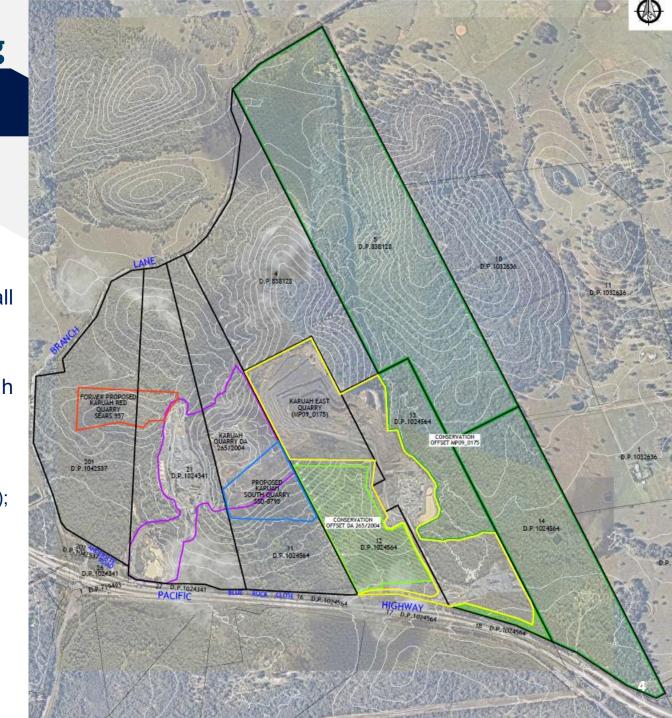
### **Recap of September 2025 Meeting**

#### **Project Development Pipeline:**

- A consistent and wholistic project pipeline can now be developed as single operator.
- Priority given to removing the remnant dividing highwall between the Karuah Quarry & Karuah East Quarry extraction pits.
- Hunter Quarries can now formally introduce the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project.

#### **Karuah Quarry Complex:**

- [purple]Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (KHRQ) (DA 265-10-2004);
- [yellow] Karuah East Quarry (KEQ) (MP 09\_0175);
- [blue] Karuah South Quarry proposal (SSD-8795);
- [red] Karuah Red Quarry proposal (SEARs 937);
- o [lime] KHRQ Conservation Offset Area; and
- [green] KEQ Biodiversity Offset Area and 2x dwellings.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Project Aims:**

- 1. Remove the remnant dividing highwall structure between the two extraction areas for improved visual amenity.
- 2. Optimise the existing asset by extracting the previously sterilised andersite resource from the remnant dividing highwall structure as well as other currently disturbed areas in a coordinated manner between both quarries.
- 3. Provide a free draining landform and associated improved closure land-use.
- 4. Upgrade the water management system for Karuah East Quarry.
- Apply contemporary legislative framework for Karuah Hard Rock Quarry for environmental management (such as air quality and noise management).
- 6. Ensure continued supply of high-quality quarry products to market, including Tier 1 Infrastructure providers and the general construction & land development industry.
- 7. Ensure continued economic and employment opportunities within the local Port Stephens and MidCoast areas.

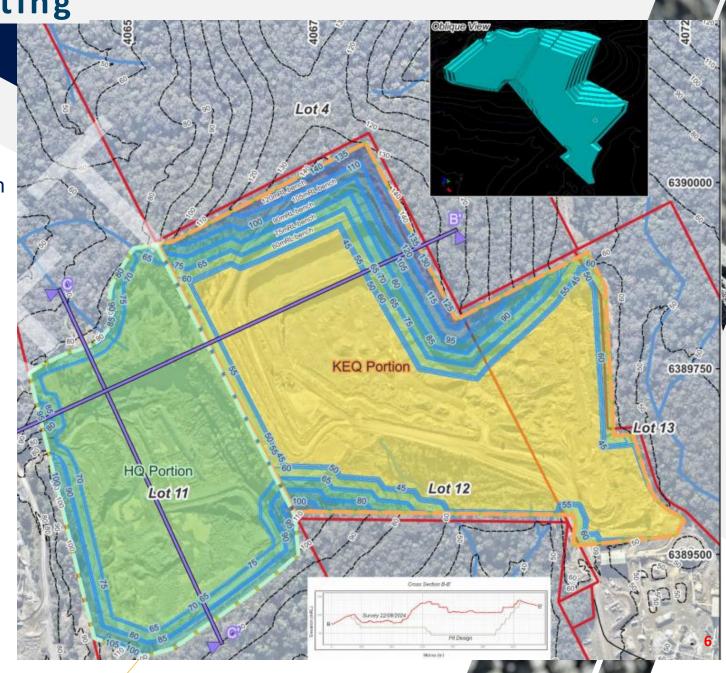


### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Consolidated Pit Shell and Extraction Area:**

- Removal of the dividing highwall between each extraction area.
- Minor adjustments to KHRQ pit shell for improved geotechnical stability.
- Extension of KEQ extraction area to the east and south within current disturbed / cleared areas to optimise available resource and improve water management.
- Obtains 28.5 Mt remaining in-situ material measured from Sep24 (FYFE, 2024).
- No change to approved extraction depths:

RL65 @ KHRQ RL45 @ KEQ



## **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Positive Visual Impact:**

- Removal of dividing highwall between each extraction area.
- The current approved quarry layouts result in a poor final landform as well as sterilising a known high-quality resource within existing disturbance areas.
- Northbound (easterly) view from A1 Pacific Highway of KHRQ side.
- Represents the 'high-profile' view of the quarry complex site from travelling motorists.





## **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

### **Positive Visual Impact:**

- Removal of dividing highwall between each extraction area.
- The current approved quarry layouts result in a poor final landform as well as sterilising a known high-quality resource within existing disturbance areas.
- Westbound (westerly) view from Halloran Road, North Arm Cove of KEQ side.
- Represents the views from neighbours to the east of the quarry complex in North Arm Cove.





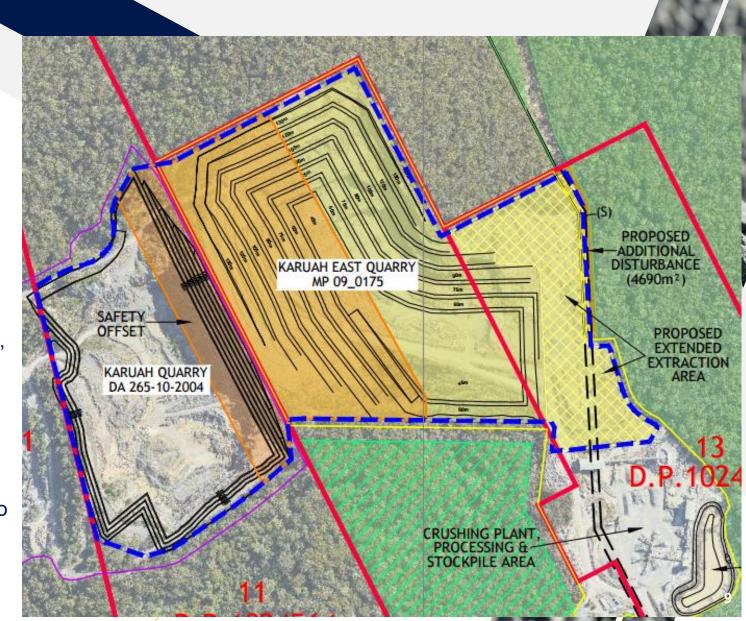
### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Approvals and Production Details:**

- 'Scoping' discussions recently undertaken with NSW Planning.
- 01 October 2025 NSW Planning confirmed approval pathway via two concurrent s4.55(2) Modification Applications (i.e. a modification to each consent).
- The proposed Development Consent 'set-up' will consist of 'overlapping' extraction areas to allow for the practical removal of the highwall structure.

#### **Orange-Shaded Region**

 Resource from this area will be transferred to both sites for processing.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

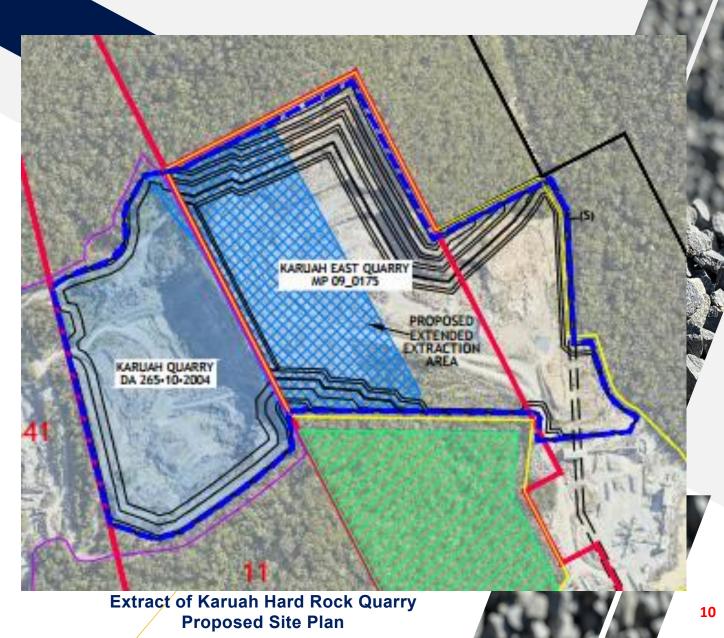
#### **Approvals and Production Details:**

- Project 'set-up' will consist of 'overlapping' consented extraction areas to practically remove the highwall structure.
- Resource extracted from within cross-hatched region on Lot 12/13 will provide feedstock to both sites.
- No change to currently approved annual production limits:

500,000 tonnes p.a. @ KHRQ 1.5 million tonnes p.a. @ KEQ

No change to extraction depths:

RL65 @ KHRQ RL45 @ KEQ



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

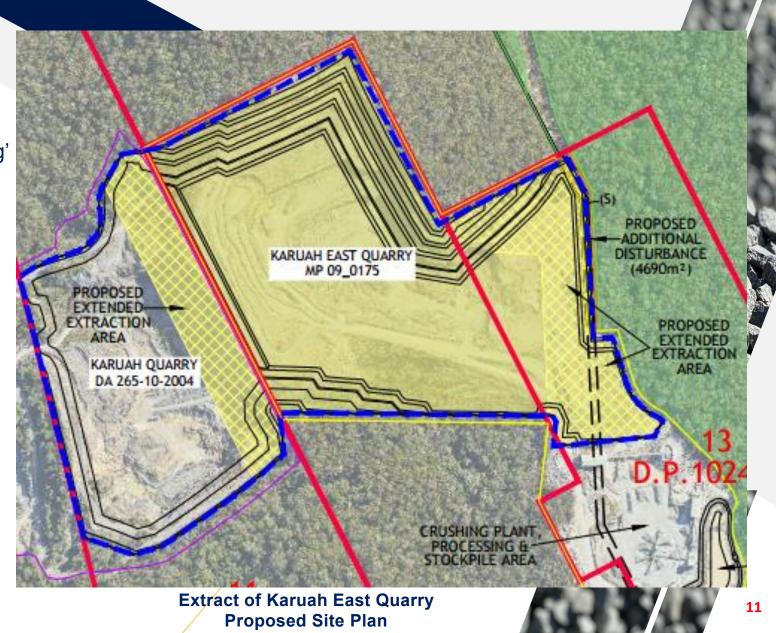
#### **Approvals and Production Details:**

- Project 'set-up' will consist of 'overlapping' consented extraction areas to practically remove the highwall structure.
- Resourced extracted from within crosshatched region on Lot 11 will provide feedstock to <u>both sites</u>.
- No change to currently approved annual production limits:

500,000 tonnes p.a. @ KHRQ 1.5 million tonnes p.a. @ KEQ

No change to extraction depths:

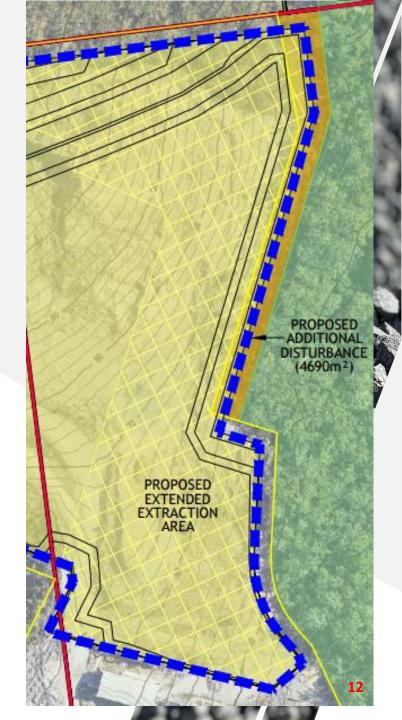
RL65 @ KHRQ RL45 @ KEQ



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **KEQ Redundant Powerline Corridor:**

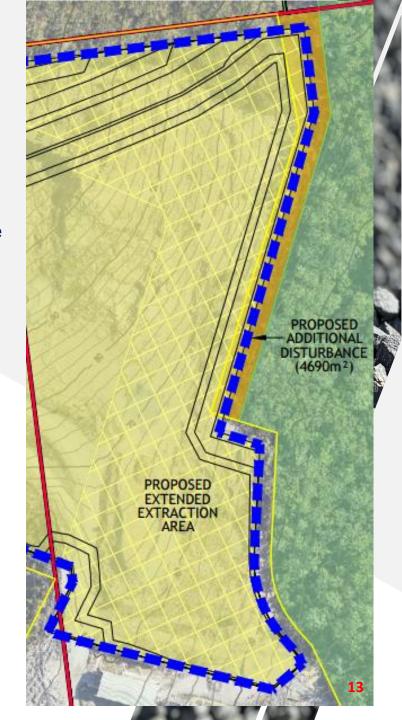
- Proposed additional disturbance of 4,690 m<sup>2</sup> within a now redundant powerline corridor which formerly serviced the dwelling on Lot 5 to the north.
- Corridor has been historically disturbed, cleared and maintained for the electrical infrastructure.
- Formal inclusion with the approved KEQ Disturbance Area will allow for improved access and management of the area, including erosion and sediment control.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **KEQ Redundant Powerline Corridor:**

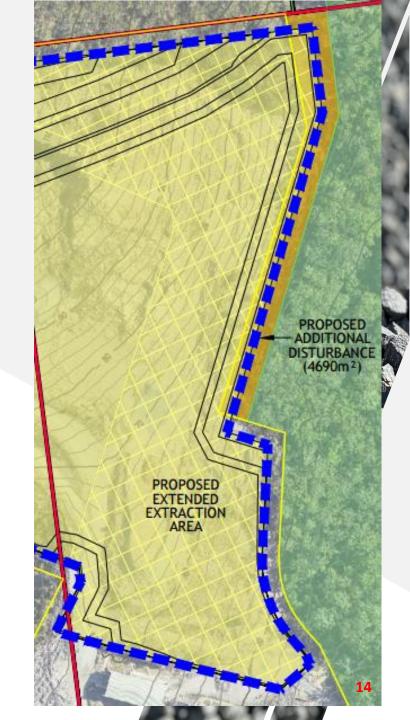
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage survey has been completed and concluded that there are:
  - No proposed impacts to Aboriginal sites;
  - No further archaeological investigation is considered to be warranted; and
  - Residual risks can be managed via the KEQ Heritage Management Plan for any unexpected finds.
- Currently undertaking preliminary consultation with Heritage NSW.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **KEQ Redundant Powerline Corridor:**

- Ecology assessment has been completed and concluded that:
  - The vegetation is highly disturbed and consists of exotic grass species;
  - No vegetation communities are mapped in this area;
  - There are no threatened species, hollow bearing trees or breeding habitat identified; and
  - There are no impacts on biodiversity values.
- Currently undertaking preliminary consultation with the CPHR Group within the NSW DCCEEW.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Blasting:**

- Proposal seeks to consolidate blasting activities between both sites within the 'Consolidated Extraction Area'.
- Currently, blasting is permitted at a frequency of:
  - 1x blast per week @ KHRQ
  - 2x blasts per week @ KEQ
- o Proposed to provide a **net reduction in blasting** from 3x to 2x blasts per week in total.
- Blast hours between 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) in accordance with ANZECC Guideline.\*
- No change to established blast management, monitoring locations or community notifications.

<sup>\*</sup>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting Overpressure and Ground Vibration", dated September 1990.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Air Quality & Noise:**

- Proposed to consolidate air quality and noise monitoring and management activities between both sites.
- KHRQ approved under modelling technology available and regulatory framework in force during the early 2000's.
- Airen Consulting (atmospheric sciences) have been engaged to prepare a new Air Quality Impact Assessment for the project in accordance with current contemporary policy.
- EMM Consulting have been engaged to prepare a new Noise Impact Assessment for the project in accordance with current contemporary policy.
- Contemporary focus on responsive environmental management.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **Operating Hours:**

- No change to approved operating hours at KEQ.
- Extended operating hours are proposed for KHRQ with the view of aligning with KEQ.
- Studies (air quality and noise) will determine the hours of operation applied for KHRQ.

#### **KHRQ Life Extension:**

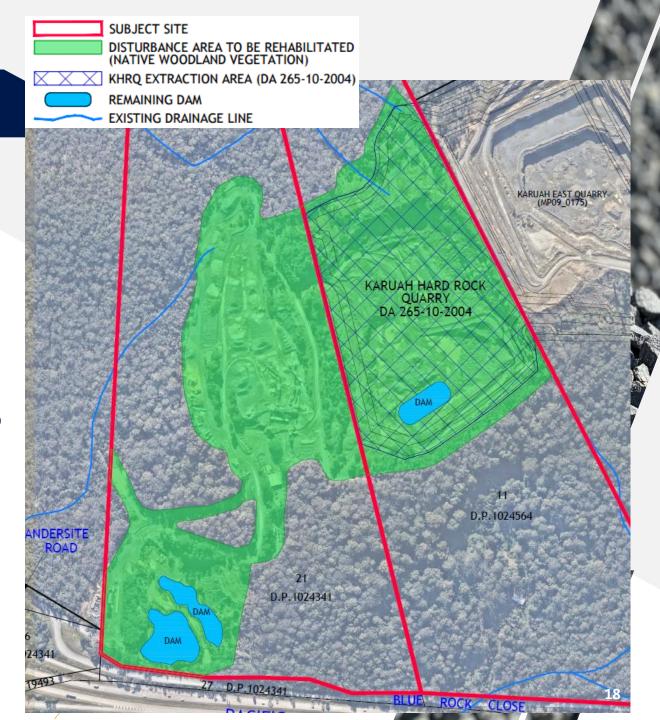
- The additional resource from the highwall structure provides significant additional resource to sustain the KHRQ and KEQ operations.
- Therefore, to maintain the current workforce and associated economic benefits to the Port Stephens and MidCoast areas, it proposed to extend the life of KHRQ from June 2027 to December 2034 to align with the operation of KEQ.
- In order to support the life extension, contemporary environmental management policies (such as air quality and noise) will be applied.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **KHRQ Closure and Final Landform:**

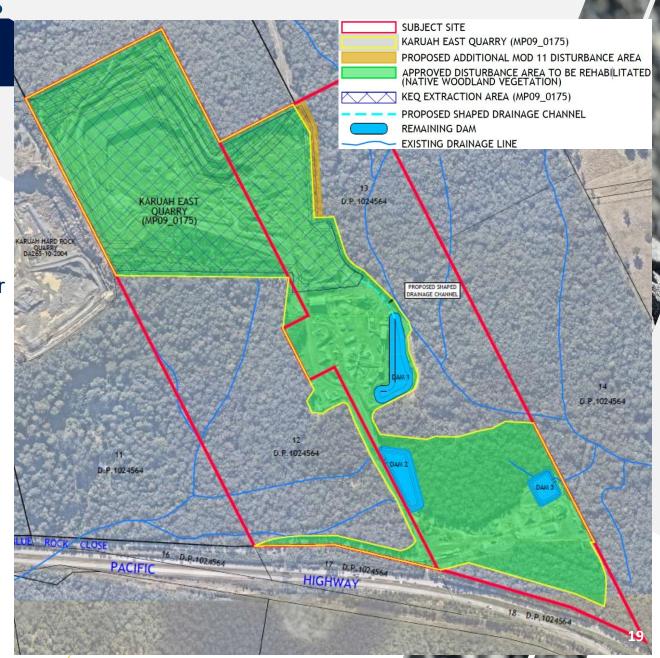
- Current landform consists of a flooded void in the extraction area with a spillway to the creekline to the north-west of the site.
- Woodland vegetation to be established within all other disturbance areas (no change).
- Removing the highwall will allow the extraction area to drain to the KEQ site to the east.
- This will result in improved long-term landform outcomes that will achieve:
  - Greater consistency with the surrounding landscape;
  - A free draining landform; and
  - Reduced geotechnical risk.



### **Karuah Pit Consolidation Project**

#### **KEQ Closure and Final Landform:**

- Current landform consists of a flooded void in the extraction area that would be subject to wetland vegetation.
- Woodland vegetation to be established within all other disturbance areas (no change).
- Extending the pit to the south and east will allow a shaped water-channel to drain the area to Dam 1.
- This will result in improved long-term landform outcomes that will achieve:
  - Greater consistency with the surrounding landscape;
  - A free draining landform; and
  - Reduced geotechnical risk.



# **Next Steps**

Step	Details	Timeline
Consultation (Prior to Application Lodgement)	<ul> <li><u>Community</u> – Karuah CCC</li> <li><u>Local Government</u> – MidCoast Council</li> <li><u>State Agencies</u> – NSW EPA, Heritage NSW, CPHR &amp; Water Groups within NSW DCCEEW, and Transport for NSW.</li> </ul>	Oct & Nov 2025
Finalise Technical Studies	<ul> <li>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage &amp; Ecology associated with the extension into the KEQ powerline corridor.</li> <li>Air quality, blasting, noise, transport, visual and water environmental assessments.</li> <li>Concept rehabilitation and closure strategy.</li> </ul>	Nov 2025 to Jan 2026
Finalise and Lodge Modification Applications	Compile studies and finalise/lodge two concurrent s4.55(2) applications.	Q1 2026
Public Exhibition	Public exhibition by NSW Planning.	Q1 2026
Response To Submissions	<ul> <li>HQPL to respond to any public and agency submissions (with input from technical consultants as required).</li> </ul>	Q1-Q2 2026
Assessment & Determination	Assessment of the 2x modification applications by NSW Planning.	Q2-Q3 2026
Secondary Approvals	Management Plan reviews, EPL Variations etc.	Q3-Q4 2026

**Next Steps** 

Q&A

