

# Notice

## Environmental Protection Act 1994

### Information request

*This information request is issued by the administering authority under section 140 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to request further information needed to assess an application for a proposed PRC plan.*

To: PGH Bricks and Pavers Pty Ltd  
Level 5, Trinita 3, 39 Delhi Road  
NORTH RYDE, NSW, 2113

ATTN: Yoland Dowling  
Email: [ydowling@groundwork.com.au](mailto:ydowling@groundwork.com.au)

Your reference: EPML03821316  
Our reference: C-EATPRCP-100258540; 101/0017918

### Further information is required to assess an application for a PRCP schedule

#### 1. Application details

The application for a proposed PRC plan was received by the administering authority on 29 August 2022.

The application reference number is: C-EAADM-100298642

Land description: Mining Lease (ML) 1102, ML4552, ML4604, ML4639, ML4640, ML4706, ML50028, ML50144, ML4628, ML4629, ML4632, ML4643, ML4654, ML4713, ML110, ML4583, ML4622, ML50116 and ML50117.

#### 2. Information request

The administering authority has considered the abovementioned application and is writing to inform you that further information is required to assess the application (an information request).

The information requested is specified in Attachment 1 to the notice.

#### 3. Actions

The abovementioned application will lapse unless you respond by giving the administering authority -

- (a) all of the information requested; or
- (b) part of the information requested together with a written notice asking the authority to proceed with the assessment of the application; or
- (c) a written notice –
  - i. stating that you do not intend to supply any of the information requested; and
  - ii. asking the administering authority to proceed with the assessment of the application.

Should the information request require an EIS process or applicant to submit a progressive rehabilitation and closure (PRC) plan then it must be completed and submitted.

A response to the information requested must be provided by **12 April 2023** (the information response period). If you wish to extend the information response period, a request to extend the period must be made at least 10 business days before the last day of the information response period.

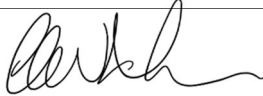
The response to this information request or a request to extend the information response period can be submitted to the administering authority by email to [ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au).

If the information provided in response to this information request is still not adequate for the administering authority to make a decision, your application may be refused as a result of section 176 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, where the administering authority must have regard to any response given for an information request.

#### 4. Human rights

A human rights assessment was carried out in relation to this decision, and it was determined that **the decision is compatible with human rights.**

If you require more information, please contact Sophia Armstrong on the telephone number listed below.



Signature

11/10/2022

Date

**Chris Wake**  
Department of Environment and Science  
Delegate of the administering authority  
*Environmental Protection Act 1994*

**Enquiries:**  
Minerals Business Centre  
PO Box 7230, Cairns QLD 4870  
Phone: (07) 4222 5352  
Email: [ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au)

#### Attachments

Attachment 1: Additional information requested for proposed PRC plan – PGH Bricks and Pavers Pty Ltd

**Appendix 1: Additional information required for proposed PRC plan**

| Item                                | Relevant section (proposed PRC plan and/or PRCP Guideline) | Matter  | Information Request   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Rehabilitation Planning Part</b> |  |   |   |
| 1                                   | Project description and duration                           | Throughout Table 2 of the Rehabilitation Planning part the proposed duration of relevant activities for Redbank Plains is up to 375 years. Limited information is provided to support the extended life of mine timeframes that have been nominated. Limited information is also provided to demonstrate that rehabilitation will occur progressively throughout the life of the mine and each rehabilitation milestone will be completed as soon as practicable after the land becomes available for rehabilitation. | Consider revising the expected duration of activities and/or provide further information to demonstrate how the likely duration of activity timeframes has been calculated and that these timeframes are reasonable. Provide further information to demonstrate that rehabilitation areas have been planned to facilitate rehabilitation of the land progressively and that each rehabilitation milestone will be completed as soon as practicable after the land becomes available for rehabilitation. |
| 2                                   | Spatial  | The spatial information submitted on 29 August 2022 as part of the application did not pass validation from the spatial submission team due to a mandatory field or value being missing.<br><br>Various information requirements have been identified throughout this information request which may necessitate an update to the spatial submission to reflect any relevant changes.  | Provide the department with a valid spatial information submission including the information requirements highlighted in the PRCP Guideline.<br><br>Ensure spatial information submitted reflect all updates and changes required by this information request.  |
| 3                                   | Community Consultation plan 4.3                            | The community engagement strategy proposed states that consultation will occur as required in relation to the proposed rehabilitation for the sites. This does not give clear actions for how the consultation will be achieved.<br><br>Additionally, Section 4.3.5 states that the methods and content of information to be released will vary according to each stakeholder's information needs.  | Provide an updated PRCP Planning Part that includes further information regarding the proposed community consultation required by section 3.5 of the PRCP Guideline.  |

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| 4    | 6.3 Flooding   | <p>The application material provides broadscale flood mapping which outlines the only area mapped with a (low) risk of flooding is likely to occur to the southern boundary of the Oxley site.</p> <p>Section 6.3 states that flood modelling is not relevant to the PRCP due to there being no residual voids to remain within the final landform.</p> <p>Information demonstrating the relationship shared by the final landform and nearby waterways in high rainfall events is unknown.</p>  | <p>Please provide further information regarding how the final landform will be rehabilitated to a condition that will remain stable under high rainfall events.</p>  |
| 5    | 6.4 Soils  | <p>Information provided demonstrates that, generally, soils are infertile with moderate to strong acidity (4.8-5.7). Additionally, sections 3.1.8.2, 3.2.8.2, 3.3.8.2, 3.4.8.2 and 3.5.8.2 state there is an absence of acid sulfate soils. Evidence or supporting information to demonstrate the cause for low pH and the implications this poses for rehabilitation has not been provided.</p> <p>Poorly draining duplex soil profiles have been described throughout Dinmore and Greenwood Village sites which also exhibit subsoil mottling. Mottling is evidence of low permeability of subsoils and intermittent waterlogging. It is unclear how a PMLU of native ecosystem will be sustained in areas of the sites experiencing periods of waterlogging.</p> <p>Section 3.6.2 identifies the presence of lead and hydrocarbon impacted soils within the northern and north-eastern portion (including clay pit area) of the Darra site. Progressive remediation has involved excavation and removal of hydrocarbon and lead impacted soil. The level and extent to which these soils were contaminated are not provided. Also, the volume of impacted soil remaining onsite has not</p> | <p>Please provide further information which details the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence or supporting information which explains the cause and implications of low soil pH;</li> <li>- if subsoils are to be utilised in rehabilitation activities;</li> <li>- physical and geochemical analysis of subsoils to be utilised; and</li> <li>- description and/ or supporting evidence for how waterlogged soils will support PMLU of native ecosystem</li> </ul> <p>Please provide results from any past land contamination investigation which highlights the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Depth and spatial extent of potential heavy metal and hydrocarbon presence throughout the soil profiles;</li> <li>- Volume of material excavated or yet to be excavated (e.g. is lead impacted soil retained within the Clay Pit)</li> <li>- Volume of soil removed from the site and volume still remaining onsite;</li> <li>- Soil profile analytical data confirming hydrocarbons and lead concentrations are below trigger levels at depth.</li> </ul> |

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|      |  | <p>been quantified, or evidence that the all impacted soil exceeding acceptance criteria has been removed from in-situ and offsite.</p> <p>Section 3.6.2 states hydrocarbon impacted soil is being land farmed onsite. No information has been provided on how this practice is being undertaken, monitoring of any surface water or leachate quality, or quantitative analytical data demonstrating the performance of land farming on remediating hydrocarbon soil.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantitative (analytical) evidence that all impacted soil materials and impacted infrastructure have been remediated and/or removed offsite and</li> <li>- A map detailing all areas from which impacted material has been extracted from</li> </ul> <p>Please provide a detailed report on the land farming activity including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trial design and location</li> <li>- volume of soil being treated</li> <li>- trial layout including perimeter bunding, fencing, basal drainage, drainage and surface water collection pipework, etc as mechanisms to exclude contact and avoid offsite environmental harm and impacts.</li> <li>- characteristics of the soil and quantitative analysis to demonstrate performance of the landfarm in terms of treating hydrocarbon impacted soil</li> <li>- success criteria and anticipated timeframe of the landfarming activity and timetable of activities</li> <li>- decommissioning of the landfarming activity on completion and</li> <li>- how the treated soils, surface water and drainage will be managed during landfarming and as part of decommissioning</li> </ul> |
| 6    | Topsoil requirements                                       | Section 6.4.1.3 does not provide adequate information about the topsoil requirements to complete rehabilitation activities throughout each site to achieve a stable condition and the proposed PMLUs.   | <p>Please provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the volume of topsoil required for rehabilitation activities;</li> <li>- the volume present throughout the sites; and</li> <li>- the amount required to be sourced and imported to each of the sites.</li> </ul>  |

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|      |  | <p>Section 6.4.1.1 states “The volume of topsoils and quality are irrelevant to sites which will have an Industrial PMLU,”. This statement assumes the soil surface of the mine sites will support a vegetation cover devoid of topsoil characteristics. This assumes the site soil surface will be quickly covered by industrial activities (e.g. hardstand, roads, buildings etc). There is no evidence supporting either when the surface will effectively be covered, and/or if the soil materials are capable of supporting a vegetation cover until industrial activities occur and the area of land exposed to environmental conditions. Exposed land will be prone to erosion (water and wind) if left bare, potentially creating a dust issue or run-off/sediment transport issue.</p> <p>Table 44 demonstrates that available topsoil is present at Dinmore, Greenwood Village and Redbank Plain only.</p> <p>Various topsoil depths have been proposed for rehabilitation which varies from 75mm (page 13) to 150mm (Table 52 RM6; pg161). It is unclear what the proposed target topsoil depth is throughout each of the various sites.</p> | <p>Provide information confirming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the soil surface will not remain bare at time of relinquishment</li> <li>- if an industrial cover will not be in place soon after relinquishment then a vegetation cover will have been established to minimise potential wind and water erosion</li> <li>- in the absence of topsoil use, the soil characteristics and suitability for establishing and maintaining a vegetation (grass) cover has been confirmed by a suitably qualified person</li> </ul> <p>Please provide information on potential sources of topsoil and protocols to ensure poor quality or contaminated soil is brought onsite.</p> <p>Please provide and justify the proposed topsoil depths to be utilised in rehabilitation activities for each of the various sites.</p> |
| 7    | 6.4.2 Backfill materials                                   | The application states that the volume of backfill materials required to achieve a stable condition is unknown.   | Please provide an estimate of the volume of fill materials required to complete rehabilitation activities and achieve a PMLU of Industrial, Residential or Native Ecosystem.   |
| 8    | Vegetation communities and ecological information          | <p>This section also provides species lists for Native ecosystems PMLU however the information is not provided to demonstrate how the species mix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflects the species composition similar to the pre-mining composition (as required by the Environmental Authority), or</li> <li>• Reflects regional ecosystems found in the surrounding environment</li> </ul>   | Please provide an updated Rehabilitation Planning part which includes further information regarding proposed revegetation required by the revegetation part of section 3.6.1 of the PRCP Guideline.  |

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|      |  | <p>It is also noted that this section does not include details of any site investigation or flora surveys which have been completed to ground-truth the species present.</p> <p>A groundcover percentage of both 60% and 70% is stated throughout the PRCP. It is unclear which of these will be utilised.</p> <p>Section 6.7.2.1 states that the primary method of revegetation will be via natural regeneration with supplementary seeding and or planting carried out when required.</p> <p>It is stated throughout section 6.7.2.2 that alternate methods of achieving groundcover may be utilised such as hydro-mulch. It is unclear how this alternate method of groundcover will align with achieving a PMLU of native ecosystem.</p>   | <p>Please provide clarification on the proposed groundcover percentage (60% or 70%) for native ecosystem PMLU and justification for why this percentage has been adopted.</p> <p>Please provide information which justifies how alternate methods of groundcover facilitates a similar species composition for native ecosystem PMLUs.</p> |
| 9    | Post mine land use 5.                                      | <p>The Darra site is currently approved with a PMLU of residential. PMLU's of industrial and state road have been proposed throughout this PRCP as substantially similar. It is noted that the state road PMLU is a result of an acquisition for a State road, on this basis no further justification for this PMLU is required. However, with respect to the industrial PMLU it is noted that section 6.1.1. states that various sections of disturbed land for an industrial PMLU may be left disturbed if there is planned operational works where the rehabilitation will be made redundant. It is unclear how the landform will demonstrate safe, stable and non-polluting and if this outcome is consistent with what would be expected from rehabilitation to a residential land use outcome.</p> | <p>Please provide further information which demonstrates that the land rehabilitated to an industrial use will achieve stable condition and not be left in a disturbed state or in a manner that is inconsistent with the residential land use outcome.</p>  |
| 10   | Hydrogeological assessment 6.2                             | <p>A hydrogeological assessment has not been included to assess the impacts to environmental values. Section 6.2 states that all in-filled</p>   | <p>Please provide a hydrogeological assessment/ study which considers the interaction between in-filled voids and the perched</p>  |

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|                      |  | voids throughout the landform are to be backfilled with suitable material. The underlying hydrology presents a shallow/perched water table over the duration of the year. It is unclear how the in-filled voids and final landform will interact with a shallow/perched water table and if there is potential for the landform to be a groundwater source/ sink.  | water table, with description of whether the landform behaves as a source or sink.  |
| 11                   | Risk Assessment  | Risks associated with the underground mine shaft have not been assessed throughout the risk assessment.   | Please provide a risk assessment which includes the risks associated with the underground mine shaft.   |
| 12                   | 9 Maintenance and Monitoring                               | <p>Further information relating to section 3.8 of the PRCP Guideline is required. For example, information regarding proposed monitoring to determine whether intervention is required and demonstrate success of rehabilitation.</p> <p>The monitoring and maintenance section should document a monitoring program to gather data relevant to each milestone and milestone criteria in a manner that will demonstrate a stable condition has been achieved and the land is suitable for surrender. Noting that the information request items below may result in changes to the schedule and criteria, the monitoring and maintenance section may need to be revised accordingly.</p> | Please provide an updated Rehabilitation Planning Part that includes further information regarding monitoring and maintenance in accordance with section 3.8 of the PRCP Guideline and considers any relevant updates to the PRCP schedule resulting from this information request.   |
| <b>PRCP Schedule</b> |  |   |   |
| 13                   | Milestone Criteria Generally                               | <p>Milestone criteria require refinement to make them more specific and include measurable parameters against which the achievement of milestones can be assessed. Some examples where revision is required include, but are not limited too:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RM4 – “erosion and sediment systems installed”</li> </ul>  | <p>Provide a revised PRCP schedule that provides rehabilitation milestone criteria that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow the SMART principles.</li> <li>- Assigns rehabilitation milestones to rehabilitation areas that are appropriate for the type of disturbance, rehabilitation method and nominated PMLU and show</li> </ul> |



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|      |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RM6 – “source, cart and spread growth media (topsoil and overburden)”</li> <li>• RM7 – “weeds controlled to reduce competition”</li> <li>• RM8 – “monitoring to determine whether vegetation is self-sustaining” and “monitoring to determine that species composition is adequate”</li> <li>• RM9 – “monitoring to determine whether landform is geotechnically safe and stable”</li> <li>• RM10 – “Erosion equivalent to, or less than, natural rates for the locality as measured by an SQP” and “Species composition consistent with PRCP”</li> <li>• RM11 – “Stormwater management assessment to confirm site is non-polluting”</li> </ul> | <p>progressive rehabilitation towards achieving the nominated PMLU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Includes final rehabilitation milestone that demonstrates the PMLU will be sustainable in the long term</li> </ul> |
| 14   | RA1 and RA2  | RA1 (Darra site) includes two different proposed PMLUs of Industrial and state road. In accordance with Step 2 of section 4.1 of the PRCP Guideline, RAs may only contain one PMLU. The area identified for the state road may be better identified as third party infrastructure in accordance with the PRCP guideline.   | Please provide an updated PRCP Schedule that proposes a single PMLU for each RA at the Darra Site.   |
| 15   | RA8  | The designated PMLU for RA8 is native ecosystem, however most of the Rehabilitation milestones (RM11 and RM9 in particular) indicate the rehabilitation to an Industrial PMLU.   | Please provide an updated PRCP Schedule which addresses the inconsistency identified.  |

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| 16   | RA10   | RA10 has a nominated PMLU of native ecosystem, yet rehabilitation milestones (RM5 and RM9) to rehabilitate an industrial landform have been selected.   | Provide an updated PRCP Schedule which addresses the inconsistency identified.   |
| 17   | RM4  | RM4 states that erosion and sediment control systems will be installed however information relating to these erosion controls has not been included throughout the PRCP.  | Provide an updated PRC plan which addresses the inconsistency identified.  |
| 18   | RM6  | RM6 states that topsoil volumes have been calculated to be sufficient for respread to a depth of 150mm, however varying topsoil depths have been provided throughout the Rehabilitation Planning Part.                                | Provide an updated PRC plan which addresses the inconsistency identified.  |
| 19   | RM11   | The milestone criteria for RM7 references that certain disturbed areas will remain post surrender however measurable milestone criteria which demonstrates these landforms are safe, stable and non-polluting have not been supplied. | Provide an updated PRCP Schedule that sets rehabilitation milestones which demonstrates a safe, stable and non-polluting landform. |