Sand mine production increase means local jobs until 2045

Local jobs will be protected for years into the future as production steps up at an expanded Tinda Creek Sand Quarry, following approval by the Department of Planning and Environment.

“The original approval was to mine and process up to 125,000 tonnes of sand per year until 2021,” a spokesperson for the Department said.

“The Department has now given the green light to increase production maximum of 300,000 tonnes per year until 2045.

“Not only does this mean ongoing jobs for the 18 employees and contractors who work at the quarry, but the increase secures vital sand supplies needed for growth in Sydney’s booming north-west over the next 25 years.”

The increase in production comes with an expansion to the size of the quarry, which is around 65 kilometres north of Windsor on Putty Road.

“In approving the expansion, the Department looked closely at the potential environmental and biodiversity impacts on neighbouring bushland and made changes in response to issues raised by environment groups,” the spokesperson said.

“The Department’s assessment also found the expansion would not result in any significant impacts on water resources or the regional road network.”

In response to feedback from environment groups received by the Department during the public exhibition of the proposal:

- the expansion was scaled back to increase buffer zones between the quarry and the nearby Yengo National Park
- the biodiversity offset areas were expanded
- changes were made to the size of the pits to avoid vulnerable plants and animals.

Conditions have been applied to ensure the site is revegetated and returned to a natural condition so it integrates with the surrounding area after quarrying has finished.
The company will be required to lodge a substantial amount of money in a rehabilitation bond with the Department to ensure this occurs.

For more information about the project and to view the Department’s assessment, visit www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

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