Appendix 3

RPS Aquaterra Report



GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT FOR DIXON SAND OPERATIONS, LOT 1 AND 2 DP547255, MAROOTA NSW













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Our ref: S95/021D Date: 17 August 2012 Prepared for:

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Document Status

	Issue Date	Purpose of Document	
Revision A	29/07/2011	First Draft	
Revision B	25/01/2012	Second Draft	
Revision C	02/02/2012	Third Draft	
Revision D	17/08/2012	Final	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd owns and operates a sand quarry comprising four separate parcels of land which include the current pits Lots 1 and 2 DP 547255. These lots were approval for a maximum permissible mining depth of 2 metres above the wet weather groundwater level (under the development consent condition 5.2.5).

This groundwater assessment was undertaken to assist with the identification of the 'wet weather' regional groundwater level to justify the proposed modifications to the existing licence consent conditions and extend the maximum depth of extraction on Lots 1 and 2 to two-metres above the regional groundwater table.

- This groundwater assessment was undertaken with a number of aims;
 - To clearly define and delineate the extent of the perched groundwater observed in the Hawkesbury sandstone which was previously incorrectly identified as the regional groundwater level;
 - To define the accurate regional groundwater table level in the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source underlying the site;
 - To recommend a depth of mining that would extend 2 meters above the wet weather regional groundwater level;
 - To define the lateral extent of the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source; and
 - To assess any potential impacts resulting in the deepening of Lot 1 & 2 pits.

The only gazetted groundwater source found to be underlying the Lot 1 and 2 development areas is the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source. Previous investigations involving the installation of shallow groundwater monitoring bores incorrectly identified small perched groundwater levels in the upper unsaturated part of this aquifer as the regional groundwater level. These perched layers are associated with thin shale, clay or ironstone bands that are of limited spatial extent and are not hydraulically connected to the regional groundwater level or the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater source, which is absent from the area.

The Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Source 2011 identifies the Maroota Tertiary Sands as underlying Lots 1 and 2. Both site specific drilling logs and an independent geological report commissioned conclude that the Maroota Tertiary Sands groundwater source is not present in the development areas. Furthermore, geological logs obtained from a large number of boreholes which have been drilled much further to the east and south east of Lots 1 and 2 do not show any evidence of the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source, as it is indicated in the WSP, therefore suggesting that the extent of this source is incorrect and the boundary is much further south than the WSP indicates. A small thin (<0.9m deep) deposit of unsaturated sand is located to the east of the development area. This deposit may represent a thin "feather edge" of the Maroota sands where it has pinched out between the underlying sandstone and the ground surface.

Following detailed site specific investigations the regional groundwater table level was determined to be about 171mAHD in the east and 151mAHD in the west. Therefore, sand extraction in Lot 1 and 2 could extend to a depth of 173mAHD in the east grading to 153mAHD in the west.

The total or partial removal of semi-isolated perched zones is unlikely to have any significant impact on the local hydrogeological regime, other than potentially increasing the rate of rainfall recharge, due to the partial removal of low permeability layers.

The deepening of the quarry pit will not involve contact with, or removal of groundwater from either of the two gazetted groundwater sources in the region (Marrota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source and the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source) and therefore will not impact users abstracting from this source. This includes no impacts to:

 Any registered groundwater abstraction bores. Nine bores are located within 1km of Lot 1 and Lot 2, however all bores are deep and target the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source and do not abstract groundwater from the perched groundwater lenses.

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Local GDEs as the quarrying activities will not intersect either the saturated Maroota sands
or the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater source. Therefore no impacts whatsoever on any
flow paths or discharges to any local GDEs is possible.

In conclusion, the proposed modification is in accordance with the provisions of the WSP for the Metropolitan Region Groundwater Sources.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd owns and operates a sand quarry off Old Northern Road. The quarry comprises four separate parcels of land identified as Lots 1 and 2 DP547255 and Lot 29 and Lot 196 DP752025.

In 2004, Development Consent No. 250-09-01 was issued by the Land and Environment Court of NSW. The development consent allowed for the operation of extractive industry, water management and rehabilitation on Lots 1 and 2 and the continued use of the existing control processing plant located on Lot 196. The approval for extraction on Lots 1 and 2 is applicable until 24 May 2022 and permits the development of Lot 1 and Lot 2 mine areas down to a depth of 2 metres above the wet-weather groundwater level (under the development consent condition 5.2.5).

RPS Aquaterra was engaged by Nexus Environmental Planning Pty Ltd (on behalf of Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd) to undertake a groundwater study in support of the application to amend the existing Development Consent No.250-09-01 on Lots 1 and Lots 2 DP547255. The main objectives of the study were to refine the hydrogeological conceptual model, and more specifically determine the high wet-weather groundwater level.

The amendment also extends to an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) exclusion area of Shale Sandstone Transition Forest and a delineated buffer zone. In recent times, Dixon Sand Pty Ltd has commissioned an independent investigation of the EEC with a view to determining its current status. Preliminary advice has indicated that the EEC area is most likely not Shale Sandstone Transition Forest. These findings could potentially lead to reclassification and as such, the area might become available for extraction.

In addition, as part of the application for modification, Dixon Sand Pty Ltd is seeking to increase the permitted depth of extraction over Lots 1 and 2 (to also include the EEC and buffer area). The extent of extraction has previously been restricted by the perceived depths to groundwater under Lots 1 and 2. Data obtained from the existing monitoring bore network has indicated the presence of shallow, small and semi-isolated perched lenses of temporarily stored groundwater. These lenses do not represent the regional groundwater table level. As a result, deeper monitoring bores were installed on Lots 1 and 2 (and the surrounding allotments) in order to identify and determine the depth of the deeper regional groundwater table and potentially increase the depth of permitted extraction at Lots 1 and 2.

1.2 Key Project Issues

The key technical issues pertinent to Lots 1 and 2 are as follows;

- The total depth of extraction that will be permitted on Lots 1 and 2 will be limited by the depth of the regional water table "to a depth not exceeding 2 meters above the highest recorded wet weather groundwater level", which until recently has not been well defined;
- The current depth of extraction permitted on Lots 1 and 2 was based on the information obtained from shallow monitoring bores which have been monitoring localised perched aquifers and not the regional aquifer system in the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater source; and
- Information obtained from a recent drilling program carried out in areas surrounding Lots 1 and 2, indicated that the regional water table is in fact between 35 and 60m below ground level.

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1.3 Project Objectives

The objectives of this assessment were to:

- Review existing hydrogeological studies with reference to the location of Lots 1 and 2 DP547255 and the surrounding area;
- Install two deep monitoring piezometers on Lots 1 and 2 DP547255 to refine the conceptual model of the area that was developed following previous assessments;
- Determine the lateral extent of the perched aquifer in order to ascertain the significance of the system and to provide regulators with sufficient satisfactory information to make informed decisions in relation to the modification of the current consent condition on Lots 1 and 2;
- Determine the wet weather groundwater level beneath Lot 1 and 2, such that the target depth of extraction can be clearly determined; and
- Identify and assess the potential impacts of the proposed amendment to other groundwater users in the area.

1.4 Site Description

The quarry site comprises four separate parcels of land identified as Lots 1 and 2 DP547255 and Lot 29 and Lot 196 DP 752025, at 4610 Old Northern Road, Maroota (Figure 1).

The majority of the northern, central and eastern parts of Lots 29 and 196 are being used for extraction operations.

Lots 1 and 2 are two rectangular shaped Lots running parallel to one another occupying an area of approximately 20ha. The current EEC occupies around half of the area that makes up Lots 1 and 2.

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2. PREVIOUS STUDIES

The hydrogeological system underlying Lots 1 and 2 has been previously assessed by ERM (2005) and more recently by E3 (2010). However, due to the limited amount of site specific groundwater data available, the regional hydrogeological system was not well understood and any potential impacts to groundwater as a result of the proposed extension would have limited site specific emphasis.

In order to address the gaps in the site specific data four monitoring bores were established on Lots 1 and 2 by ERM in 2005, MW1, MW2, MW3 and MW4 (Figure 1) and MW5 located on adjacent Lot 196. These monitoring bores were terminated at relatively shallow depths (ranging from 15.5 to 33.8m). An assessment of groundwater data recorded from the monitoring network has indicated the presence of a shallow 'perched' groundwater table of limited lateral extent, sitting above combinations of shallow confining clay sequences, shale lenses and bands of ironstone. These zones commonly permit the formation of shallow 'perched' aquifer systems well above the deeper regional groundwater level of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. These groundwater bodies generally have limited resource value due to limited extent and storage (DLWC, 2001).

Shallow 'perched' aquifers were also identified in logs of boreholes drilled in the greater Maroota area by Farley and Lewers Ltd (1978) which also reported the presence of shallow clay lenses of limited lateral extent.

An assessment carried out by E3 (2010) concluded that perched groundwater was only present during and shortly after wet periods and that observations from monitoring bores (MW1 to MW4) indicated that the water tables monitored on Lots 1 and 2 were not representative of the depth of water-bearing strata or saturated depth of the regional aguifer system.

For this reason the 'wet-weather' regional groundwater level of the area could not be established from observations recorded from the existing monitoring bore network. In November 2010, Aquaterra Pty Ltd (now RPS Aquaterra) was commissioned to refine the conceptual hydrogeological model of the area, and determine with greater accuracy the depth of the regional groundwater system. This assessment included a review of information obtained from existing licensed bores and the drilling of 3 deep groundwater monitoring bores on nearby allotments (Figure 1). BH1 was installed on the western boundary of Lot 196 DP752025, and BH2 and BH3 were drilled to the east, on Lot 196 DP204159. All three monitoring bores were drilled along an east to west transect, and were completed within the Hawkesbury Sandstone aquifer. The depth of the regional groundwater level was reported to range from 35m in the east to about 60m in the

The study also confirmed that the site (and the surrounding area) is underlain by a shallow, narrow, non water bearing, and unconsolidated horizon of weathered clays, sandstones and shales that are likely to be part of the Eluvial Sand unit that grades rapidly to the massive sandstones of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. The weathered clays and shale bands permit the intermittent formation of shallow 'perched' water tables, which are of limited extent and act as temporary storage of groundwater prior to release, by either seepage at topographic lows or by leakage to the deeper underlying aquifers.

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3. HYDROGEOLOGY

The geological formations present in the Maroota area have variable hydrogeological characteristics (URS, 2006). The high degree of lithological variability (i.e. sands, clays, ironstone, shale and sandstone) and permeability contrasts often result in the establishment of localised perched water tables in both the Maroota Sand and in the Hawkesbury Sandstone; and possibly within the latter, at the base of the weathered profile above fresher sandstone beneath.

Under these conditions, two separate aquifers in the vicinity of the site can be identified, although the extent of their hydraulic separation or, conversely, interconnection, is sometimes uncertain. These aquifer units are the:

- Maroota Sands, gazetted as "The Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source"; and
- The fresh Hawkesbury Sandstone, gazetted as "The Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source".

3.1 The Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source

The Maroota Tertiary Groundwater Source is a sandy formation of limited areal extent which has been mapped adjacent to Lots 1 and 2 development areas. While there is some evidence of a thin horizon of sands to the east of Lots 1 and 2, the actual groundwater source itself does not underlie the development areas as is identified in the Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Source 2011 report.

Here, to the east of Lots 1 and 2 the thin unsaturated sands (approximately 0.9m thick), represent the feather edge or pinched out part of the Maroota sands matrix and do not represent the saturated Maroota Tertiary Groundwater Source. An independent report investigating the extent of the Maroota Sand in the vicinity of the site was commissioned by VGT Pty Ltd in August 2012. This report is attached as Appendix C. The report concluded that the 2011 WSP report incorrectly identifies that Lot 1 & 2 sites are underlain by the Maroota Tertiary Groundwater Source. This conclusion is confirmed by site specific and regional drilling data in the area as shown on Figure 2. The correct hydrogeology underlying Lots 1 and 2 consists primarily of unsaturated Hawkesbury Sandstone, with some small thin deposits of sand to the east. This is further discussed in the following sections.

Regionally, the Maroota Tertiary Groundwater Source was deposited mainly in two palaeochannels located to the east of the site which have been eroded into the exposed surface of the Hawkesbury Sandstone (Figure 2).

Away from the palaeochannels, the presence of considerable clay and cemented layers gives rise to localised perched water tables. From a resource viewpoint, the perched water table aquifers have limited value due to their small extent and limited storage. These water bodies are found at variable elevations and depend upon rainfall infiltration for their persistence. The Maroota Sand, where it occurs below the water table such as in the deeper sections of the palaeochannels, constitutes a substantially unconfined water table aquifer open to direct rainfall infiltration.

3.2 Weathered Profile of the Underlying Hawkesbury Sandstone

Small aquifer zones have developed in the eluvial sand, which comprises the leached and weathered profile of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. These zones often form perched aquifer systems above the deeper regional water level of the Hawkesbury Sandstone. In the majority of cases, these perched aquifer systems have limited resource value because, like the Maroota Sand, they have small extent and storage. They act as temporary storage of groundwater prior to release to streams or leakage to underlying aquifers. Dams and large diameter wells constructed into this material can provide a source of farm water supplies, but generally the permeability is too low to yield significant supplies to small diameter boreholes.

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3.3 Hawkesbury Sandstone

The Hawkesbury Sandstone is generally an impermeable rock, due to the fine grained clayey matrix (generally kaolinite and illite) and large degree of grain cementation resulting from the development of secondary minerals in the interstitial spaces, such as secondary silica and siderite (iron carbonate). Although the rock has very little primary permeability, fracturing and jointing, where open and interconnected, provides secondary permeability and storativity.

A review of the bore records held by the NSW Office for Water, for the Maroota area (including observation bores established during the Stage 2 Maroota Groundwater Study), showed that different water tables are intersected during drilling in the Hawkesbury Sandstone, due to the different degree of fracturing and the presence of confining layers (such as the shale lenses) within the rock mass. Three nested bores (GW075000/1,2,3) located approximately 2.6km to the south of the quarry area are approximately 22m, 43.5m and 110m deep, with corresponding groundwater levels of 14.4m (Maroota Sand), 27.7m (Hawkesbury Sandstone) and 29m (Hawkesbury Sandstone) below ground level respectively. The water level at 14.4m is interpreted to be a localised perched aquifer, while the two deeper levels at 27.7m and 29.0m are considered to represent the regional groundwater aquifer system. The slightly lower level for the deep bore indicates a downward head gradient and is indicative of the variable and layered nature of the aquifer system.

Most of the bores in the area are in elevated locations along the Maroota Ridge which represents a surface drainage divide and a likely groundwater divide.

Groundwater gradients measured in recent investigations in closely spaced bores are variable and steep in places due to the low permeability of the rock mass. Groundwater flow directions are expected to be generally to the northwest, east and south, away from the main axis of the groundwater divides, which coincide with the main topographic divides.

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4. SITE INVESTIGATIONS

4.1 Drilling Programs

Three deep monitoring bores (BH1, BH2 and BH3) were originally drilled along an east to west transect and completed within the Hawkesbury Sandstone Aquifer. BH1 was located on the western boundary of the north western extraction area (Lot 196) and BH2 and BH3 were located on Lot 196 DP204159 (Figure 1).

Drilling was undertaken by Terratest Pty Ltd, using conventional air-rotary hammer techniques. Air hammer drilling uses compressed air, which is used to work a pneumatic down-hole hammer and return drill cuttings to the surface. One of the major advantages of conventional air hammer drilling is that water-bearing zones and yields can be identified when formation water is discharged with the cuttings.

The geological log, water strike information and construction details of BH1, BH2 and BH3 are presented in Appendix A and summarized below in Table 4.1.

The construction of each piezometer comprised of surface casing installed within upper unconsolidated sequence of the sandstone. Each monitoring bore was drilled at 90mm diameter to accommodate 50mm diameter PVC casing to depths of up to 75m.

The screened intervals were 3 to 6m in length and constructed of Class 12, 50mm diameter, machine slotted PVC (0.8mm aperture). Graded gravel pack was installed within the bore annulus and extended 2m above the top of the screens. A 5m bentonite and cement/grout seal was installed into the annulus of the borehole above the gravel packed zone.

Each monitoring bore has been surveyed relative to the Australian Height Datum (AHD).

4.2 Additional Drilling Program for Lot 1 and Lot 2

Two additional groundwater monitoring bores (BH6 and BH7) were installed following a subsequent drilling program in the vicinity of Lots 1 and 2 DP547255. Both monitoring bores were drilled to 60m in an attempt to establish the wet weather groundwater level of the regional aquifer underlying Lots 1 and 2.

BH6 was drilled along the northern boundary of Lot 1, and BH7 was drilled along the southern boundary of Lot 2, with both being completed within the Hawkesbury Sandstone (Figure 1). Both monitoring bores were drilled in close proximity to existing shallow monitoring bores (MW1 and MW3). This was done to demonstrate the degree of separation between the perched localised system and the deeper region aquifer identified in previous drilling.

The geological log, water strike information and construction details of BH6 and BH7 are presented in Appendix A.

Both monitoring bores were surveyed relative to the Australian Height Datum (AHD).

A summary of both the deep and key shallow boreholes, relevant to this study have been listed in Tables 4.1 and 4.2.

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Table 4.1: Deep Borehole Summary

Monitoring bore	Easting	Northing	Ground RL (mAHD)	Screen interval	Bore Depth (m)	Top of Standpipe (mAHD)	GWL (mAHD)	GWL (mbgl)
BH1	312290	6297040	166.18	68 - 74	75	166.89	108.95	57.2
BH2	313426	6297209	201.88	67 - 70	70	202.33	164.88	37.0
вн3	313805	6297092	193.54	57 - 60	60	194.06	160.94	32.6
вн6	313151	6296826	195.41	54 - 60	60	~195.91*	164.51	30.9
BH7	313068	6296495	181.47	54 - 60	60	~181.97*	160.77	20.77
GW105044	312044	6297105	-	-	144.5	-	-	61.8
GW105047	312504	6296897	-	-	156.8	-	-	60.0

^{*}approximate standpipe height. Not surveyed at time of reporting standpipe height above ground level assumed at 0.5m mbgl – meters below ground level.

Table 4.2: Shallow Borehole Summary

Monitoring bore	Easting	Northing	Ground RL (mAHD)	Screen interval	Bore Depth (m)	Top of Casing (mAHD)	GWL (m AHD)	GWL (m bgl)
MW1	-	-	182.6	-	15.5	182.98	175 – 178*	4.6 - 7.6
MW2	-	-	215.49	-	25.3	215.8	192 – 200*	15.49 - 23.49
MW3	-	-	195.42	-	33.8	196.45	175 – 178*	17.42 - 20.42
MW4	-	-	187.83	-	29.5	188.92	171 – 173*	14.83 - 16.83
MW5	-	-	-	-	-	167.44	162 – 163*	4 - 5

^{*}GWL ranges taken from July 2007 to June 2008 – Annual Environmental Management Report (ERM July 2009)

mbgl - meters below ground level.

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5. HYDROGEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source

Evidence based on the bore logs and the monitoring wells located on Lots 1 and 2 shows that the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source does not underlie these areas. Information from the logs indicate that Lot 1 and Lot 2 and the remainder of the site is underlain by a shallow and narrow non water bearing and unconsolidated horizon of weathered clays, sandstones and shales, which are likely to be part of the Eluvial Sand unit that grades rapidly to massive sandstones of the Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Geological logs obtained from a large number of boreholes which have been drilled further to the east and south east of Lots 1 and 2 do not show any evidence of the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source where it is indicated in the WSP, suggesting that the extent of this source is incorrect and the boundary is probably much further south than the WSP indicates (Figure 2).

Table 4.3 presents a summary of the horizons encountered in the boreholes drilled in the proximity of Lots 1 and 2. It should be noted that the Maroota Sands were not encountered in the drilling of these boreholes. The full drilling logs of the boreholes are provided in Appendix A.

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Table 5.1: Summary of the horizons encountered in boreholes near Lot 1 & 2.

ВН6	BH6 BH7		GW034628	GW034628		MW2		GW48741	
Horizon	Depth (mbgl)	Horizon	Depth (mbgl)	Horizon	Depth (mbgl)	Horizon	Depth (mbgl)	Horizon	Depth (mbgl)
Sands	Not encountered	Sands	Not encountered	Sands	Not encountered	Silty sand	0 - 0.8	Sands	Not encountered
Sandstone	0 - 60	Clay	0 - 0.1	Topsoil	0 - 1.22	Sandstone	0.8 - 25.3	Sandy soil	0 - 0.9
				Sandstone	1.22 - 91.44			Shale clay	0.9 - 2.4
								Sandstone	2.4 - 5.6
		Ī						Clay	5.6 – 11.8
								Sandstone	11.8 - 30

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Furthermore, an independent report investigating the lateral extent of the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source was commissioned by VGT Pty Ltd which also concludes that Lots 1 and 2 development areas are not underlain by the groundwater source. The report identifies a small area to the east of the site where a shallow (0.9m deep) unsaturated sand unit is present at ground surface. This horizon may represent the thin "feather edge" of the Maroota Tertiary Sands where it pinches out between the underlying sandstone and the ground surface.

5.2 Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source

Shallow perched water tables have been found to exist above semi confining layers such as clay lenses, shale or ironstone bands throughout the area. These shallow groundwater lenses are commonly referred to as 'perched' aquifers and are defined as 'an aquifer that forms in the otherwise generally unsaturated zone above the regional aquifer in the saturated zone'. The use of the term 'perched' aquifer in this case, can be misleading as it suggests that the perched aquifer could be of significant importance hydrogeologically and from a potential resource perspective. The perched groundwater identified in this area is reported to have limited resource value because of its isolated nature, limited extent and low storage capacity (DWLC, 2001).

MW1, MW2 and MW3 located on Lots 1 and 2 revealed perched water tables at approximately 6 to 19m below ground level (177mAHD). Perched groundwater was also found to exist above thin clay bands at depths of 14 to 18m during the drilling of BH6 and BH7 (Appendix A). It was reported in Aquaterra 2010, that the groundwater levels in MW1 and MW4 did not respond greatly to significant rainfall (i.e. 53mm events). This suggests that the perched aquifers are not extensive and act as temporary storage of groundwater followed by rapid release to the deeper underlying aquifers.

Groundwater elevations for paired groundwater monitoring sites (BH6/MW3) and (BH7/MW1) are shown on Figure 3. They show that the elevation of the regional groundwater level (measured in BH6 and BH7) ranges from 160 to 163mAHD, approximately 14 to 16m deeper than the overlying perched water tables (177mAHD), measured at their respective locations (MW3 and MW1).

Groundwater elevation contours underlying Lots 1 and 2, and the surrounding area are shown on Figure 4. The contouring highlights a groundwater divide, which coincides with the main topographic divide of the Maroota Ridge. The groundwater gradient flows to the east and west (away from the divide) towards the upper tributaries of the Hawkesbury River. At lower elevations, the tributaries represent areas of possible groundwater discharge from the Hawkesbury Sandstone aquifer. The inferred groundwater elevations beneath Lots 1 and 2, range from 170mAHD in the east, to 150mAHD in the west (Figure 4). The groundwater gradients across the area are quite steep, due to flow being controlled predominantly by fracture zones across the sandstone unit.

5.2.1 Perched Aquifer Zone Geometry

The lateral extent and depth of the perched groundwater zones can be inferred from the observations made from the drilling program. The drill logs indicate the presence of clay bands across the site at depths ranging from approximately 180 to 165mAHD or around 10 to 20m below ground level (Refer to Table 5.1). The drilling records also indicate that the first water strike (during drilling) was observed between these low permeability layers (Table 5.1). The occurrence of thinly banded clay layers appears to be relatively common across the middle of the site (BH6 and BH7) with two separate bands observed approximately 5m apart. The clay bands do not appear to be as prevalent in BH1 (located to the west) and BH3 (located to the east) indicating that the clay sequence is likely to thin and pinch out to the east and west, reducing the capacity of the layer to retain significant quantities of groundwater. The thinly banded and laterally discontinuous nature of the clay units and the iron stone sequences means that any perched water that is temporarily stored will eventually drain out via topographic lows, leakage into the regional Hawkesbury sandstone or drain slowly through the low permeability unit itself.

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Table 5.2: Perched Aquifer Identification Summary

Borehole Number	Semi Impermeable Layer Description	Semi Impermeable Layer Depth (mbgl)	1 st Water Strike (mbgl)	2 nd Water Strike (mbgl)	Ground RL (mAHD)	Groundwater Depth (mAHD)
BH1	Clay bands	6.0	7.8 - 10	59.8	166.18	108.24*
BH2	Harder sandstone bands	10.1 – 10.8 13.6 – 13.9 16.1 – 16.8	7.8	37.7	201.88	164.43*
ВН3	Ironstone Bands	10 and 34	13.5	34.8	193.54	160.42*
BH6	Clay bands	5.2 and 21.9	18.2	53.9	195.41	164.01*
BH7	Clay bands	14.7 and 16.4	18.2	55.5	181.47	160.27*
MW1	-	-	-	-	182.6	177.60
MW2	-	-	-	-	215.49	199.00
MW3	-	-	-	-	195.42	176.42
MW4	-	-	-	-	187.83	170.83
MW5	-	=	-	-	167.44	162.00

5.2.2 Rainfall

The groundwater levels recently monitored in MW1 and MW4 did not respond greatly to a 53mm rainfall event, which occurred on the 3rd to 5th of November 2010. The flat line hydrographs (Figure 3) supports the theory that the shallow groundwater encountered in this area is not indicative of a significant perched aquifer. Typically, rainfall is the principal mechanism of recharge to a perched system therefore a response to rainfall would normally be apparent following rainfall recharge capture and containment. In this case, it is likely that rainfall recharge gradually drains where the semi-confining layers discontinue or thin out, supporting the interpretation that storage in these shallow groundwater zones is both temporary and of limited capacity.

5.2.3 Wet weather groundwater levels

Due to the short duration of groundwater monitoring on BH6 and BH7, it has not been possible to quantify the long term variations in the regional Hawkesbury Sandstone aquifer. However, longer term groundwater monitoring has been carried out on monitoring bores VEL-MW1 to VEL-MW3 at the neighbouring quarry site (PF Formation). The locations of the monitoring bores are presented in Figure 1 and Figure 2 and hydrographs showing the groundwater elevation since 1998 have been reported by URS (2006). The groundwater levels show an annual seasonal fluctuation of up to 1m, with a long-term climate-driven range of 1 to 3m. A receding trend in groundwater levels was indicated as a result of extended periods of below average rainfall.

In the absence of long term groundwater monitoring in the vicinity of Lots 1 and 2, it is expected that the seasonal fluctuations of the Hawkesbury Sandstone aquifer beneath Lots 1 and 2 would also show a seasonal range of about 1m. Based on the inferred groundwater contouring (Figure 4) the 'wet weather high groundwater level' would be at a minimum elevation of about 171mAHD towards the east and 151mAHD in the west. An east to west cross section across Lots 1 and 2, with the proposed extraction depth of the pit is shown for reference purposes as Figure 5.

5.3 Conceptual site model

As part of this assessment a conceptual hydrogeological model has been developed to represent the conditions on Lot 1 and 2, and to assist in understanding the groundwater system both locally and at a more regional level. The conceptualisation has been developed based on the information obtained from previous studies (Aquaterra 2010, E3, 2010; and ERM, 2005), licensed bore records, and data sets and drilling records from BH1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 and MW1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Diagram 1 (Figure 6) shows the conceptual model section at a more regional scale. The groundwater divide, (which coincides with the topographic divide of the Maroota Ridge) permits groundwater flow both to the east and west towards the upper tributaries of the Hawkesbury River.

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At lower elevations, the tributaries represent areas of possible groundwater discharge from the Hawkesbury Sandstone aquifer. To the west and away from the divide the regional groundwater table exhibits a steep hydraulic gradient (due to low permeability and secondary porosity) towards a topographic low/tributary discharge point. The model also serves to show that the shallow groundwater encountered is representative of semi-isolated pockets of groundwater that accumulate temporarily above discontinuous combinations of low permeability clay bands and iron stone. Due to the limited storage potential of these low permeability layers, the shallow groundwater will gradually drain, providing some slow and low volume recharge to the regional aquifer (Figure 6 - Diagram 2).

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6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

6.1 Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater source

6.1.1 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

The development lots are not underlain by, and do not intersect with the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source. Therefore, any Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) present in the area which are fed with discharge from this groundwater source will not be impacted by the development.

The thin sands (approx. 0.9m deep) present at the eastern edge of the development lots are unsaturated and therefore do not contribute groundwater to any GDEs in the area. Similarly, the removal of this thin horizon of unsaturated sand will not have any impact on any GDEs in the area.

6.1.2 Local groundwater users

As the site is not underlain by Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source there will be no impacts to any users abstracting groundwater from this source in the region.

A review of the database has indicated that there are nine registered groundwater abstraction bores within approximately 1km of Lots 1 and 2. All of the bores listed were terminated at depths well below the extent of the low permeability layers observed in the site investigation drilling and from the borehole log review. Therefore none of these production bores would significantly rely on or abstract from groundwater stored above these layers and would therefore not be significantly impacted by an extension of the quarrying activity.

6.2 Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source

The total or partial removal of the shallow horizons which contain some perched groundwater zones is unlikely to have any measurable impacts to the local or regional hydrogeological regime, other than potentially increasing the rate of local rainfall recharge (due to the partial removal of low permeability layers) to the regional aquifer system. As mentioned, the shallow groundwater system will recharge the deeper aquifer via gradual drainage, however, this level of recharge is negligible when compared to the larger scale recharge mechanisms associated with the Hawkesbury sandstone. These mechanisms would include mass infiltration via complex networks of structurally controlled fracturing (secondary porosity) at a more regional level throughout the sandstone unit.

6.2.1 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

The development comprises the extension of pits into the unsaturated zone overlying the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source. No impact to any wetlands or GDEs in the area is expected to occur because the development remains in the unsaturated zone overlying the regional water table in the Sydney Basin Groundwater source and therefore will not intersect the flow path or hydraulic gradient of the aquifer. No impact on discharge to any local wetland can therefore occur.

6.2.2 Local groundwater Users

The impact of the extended quarrying is expected to have a minimal impact on existing users in the immediate vicinity. A summary review of other registered groundwater bores (using information contained in the NSW Groundwater Archive) in the area is summarised in Table 6.1 and is also shown on Figure 2.

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Table 6.1: Summary of Registered Bores in the Area

Registered Borehole Number	Licence Number	Geological Termination and Recorded Depth (mbgl)	Total Bore Depth (mbgl)	Recorded Groundwater Depth (mbgl)
GW060051	10BL130437	Sandstone (109.7)	172	172
GW108866	10BL165806	Not listed	36.5	18
GW055962	10BL121786	Sandstone (9.0)	22.0	-
GW048741	10BL107252	Sandstone (30.0)	30	-
GW034628	Govt.	Sandstone (83.52)	91.4	35
GW105192	10BL161673	Sandstone (234)	234	46
GW102133	10BL159032	Grey Sandstone (150)	150	-
GW101528	10BL158453	Sandstone (108)	150	20.5
GW016348	10BL006847	-	73	48

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7. COMPLIANCE WITH THE WATER SHARING PLAN RULES

The Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source is the only gazetted groundwater source underlying the development area. As discussed above, the depth of the development will not extend to the depth of the groundwater level in this aquifer and no impacts are expected. However, for clarity all of the rules and requirements of the Water sharing Plan for Sydney Basin Central Groundwater source are presented in Table 7.1 along with reasons why none of the rules are being impacted.

As mentioned in previous sections of this report, an independent geological investigation by VGT Pty Ltd and site specific drilling data has shown that the Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source is absent from the development area. However, for completeness and because it is the next nearest gazetted groundwater source, reasons why the development does not impact on the rules for this aquifer are presented in this report in Table 7.2.

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Table 7.1: Rules summary sheet for the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source

Access Rules	Relevance for this development	Reason why rule is not applicable		
Granting of access licenses may be considered for a listed number of activities	Not applicable	 No application licence is being sought. This groundwater source is absent from Lot 1 & 2 and has been confirmed by our stud be further south from Lot 1 & 2 and not present in the location shown by the WSP (Figure 2). 		
Rules for managing water allocation	accounts			
Carryover	Not applicable	 No application licence is being sought and therefore no water allocation accounts need to be amended; No interception whatsoever of the groundwater source will take place. 		
Rules for managing access licenses				
Managing surface and groundwater connectivity	Not applicable	The existing pit is >40m from the high bank of any river or creek; The extension of the pit will not intercept the groundwater source.		
Rules for granting or amending water	er supply works approv	vals		
To minimise interference between neighboring water supply works	Not applicable	The extent of the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater Source is incorrectly shown in the WSP to be adjacent to Lot 1 & 2. Our study has confirmed that this source is not present where it is shown in the WSP and that Lot 1 & 2 developments are at least 350m from this source and any groundwater licenses that may be associated with it. The closest bore (GW106261) which is located on another landholding, inside the inferred boundary of the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater source is ~350m from Lot 1 & 2 (Figure 2), However the bore depth (30m) and geological logs obtained from surrounding bores (such as GW048741 & GW105192) confirm that this bore actually targets the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source as they do not show any evidence of Maroota Tertiary Sands in this area (Appendix A). It can therefore be said that the development satisfies the following rules:		
		The pit extension is >100m from an aquifer access licence bore on another landholding; The pit extension is >100m from an aquifer access licence bore on another landholding; The pit extension is >100m from an aquifer access licence bore on another landholding; The pit extension is >100m from an aquifer access licence bore on another landholding;		
		 The pit extension is >1000m from a local or major water utility bore; The pit extension is >200m from a NSW Office of Water monitoring bore; 		
		 The pit extension is 100m from the closest active groundwater licence. This bore is owned and utilised by Dixon Sand Operations Ltd and targets the underlying Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source 		
To protect bores located near contamination	Not applicable	 No application licence is being sought; No areas of contamination have been identified within 500m of Lot 1 & 2 development; The development does not intercept or abstract groundwater and therefore will not impact hydraulic gradients, or facilitate the mobilization of any contamination in the vicinity; The development remains entirely in the unsaturated zone. 		
To protect bores located near sensitive environmental areas	Not applicable	No water supply works are being carried out as part of the development; No interception of the groundwater source will take place; The development remains entirely in the unsaturated zone and therefore will not impact any discharges to / from sensitive environmental areas.		
To protect groundwater dependent culturally significant sites	Not applicable	The development is >100m from existing bores abstracting from the aquifer; The development does not intercept any groundwater source;		

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Access Rules	Relevance for this development	Reason why rule is not applicable		
Rules for replacement groundwater water supply works	Not applicable	No replacement groundwater work is being applied for.		
Rules for the use of water supply works approvals				
To manage bores located near contaminated sites	Not applicable	No groundwater source is being abstracted or intercepted for any purpose		
To manage the use of bores within restricted distances	Not applicable	No groundwater source is being abstracted or intercepted for any purpose		
To manage the impacts of extraction	Not applicable	No groundwater source is being abstracted or intercepted for any purpose		
Limits to the availability of water				
Available water determinations (AWDs)	Not applicable	No groundwater source is being abstracted or intercepted for any purpose		

Table 7.2: Rules summary sheet for the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source

Access Rules	Relevance for this development	Reason why rule is not applicable		
Granting of access licenses may be considered for a listed number of activities	Not applicable	 No access licence is being sought as the developments do not intercept the groundwater source; The deepest extent of the pit will remain at least 2m above the elevation of the regional water table level. 		
Rules for managing water allocation accounts				
Carryover	Not applicable	No access licence is being sought and therefore no carryover is needed; The lot developments do not intercept the regional water table level.		
Rules for managing access licenses				
Managing surface and groundwater connectivity	Not applicable	 No access licence is being sought; The pit developments are >40m from the high bank of any river or creek (See Figure 6); The development of the pits will not intercept the groundwater source whatsoever (Figure 6). 		

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Access Rules	Relevance for this development	Reason why rule is not applicable			
Rules for granting and amending wat	Rules for granting and amending water supply works approvals				
To minimise interference between neighbouring water supply works	Not applicable	The developments are >100m from an aquifer access licence bore on another landholding. The closet licensed bore (GW100651) on another land holding is located 350m from Lot 1 & Lot 2 and its status is listed as Active-Current. Neighbouring bores with groundwater licences range from 83mbgl - 200mbgl and target the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source (Figure 2); Lot 1 & 2 developments are >1000m from a local or major water utility bore; The pit developments are >200m from a NSW Office of Water monitoring bore;			
To protect bores located near contamination	Not applicable	 No application licence is being sought; No areas of contamination have been identified within 500m of Lot 1 & 2 developments; The developments do not intercept or abstract the groundwater and therefore will not impact hydraulic gradients, or facilitate the mobilisation of any contamination in the vicinity; The developments remain entirely in the unsaturated zone. 			
To protect water quality	Not applicable	The pit floor will be at least 2m above the regional groundwater level of the aquifer and therefore does not intercept it; The development remains in the unsaturated zone and therefore cannot possibly initiate the onset of saline intrusion to the aquifer.			
To protect bores located near sensitive environmental areas	Not applicable	 No water supply works are being carried out as part of the development; No interception of the groundwater source will take place; The pit extension remains entirely in the unsaturated zone and therefore will not impact any discharges to / from sensitive environmental areas. 			
To protect groundwater dependent culturally significant sites	Not applicable	 The developments are >500m from existing bores abstracting from the aquifer; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source; The developments remain entirely in the unsaturated zone and does not impact any discharges to / from groundwater dependent culturally significant sites. 			
Rules for replacement groundwater works	Not applicable	 No replacement groundwater work is being applied for; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source. 			
Rules for the use of water supply works approvals					
To manage bores located near contaminated sites	Not applicable	No application licence is being sought and therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.			
To manage the use of bores within restricted distances	Not applicable	No application licence is being sought and therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.			
To manage the impacts of extraction	Not applicable	No application licence is being sought and therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.			

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Access Rules	Relevance for this development	Reason why rule is not applicable		
Limits to the availability of water				
Available water determinations (AWDs)	Not applicable	No application licence is being sought and therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.		
Trading Rules	·			
INTO groundwater source	Not applicable	No application licence is being sought therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.		
WITHIN groundwater source	Not applicable	No application licence is being sought therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.		
Conversion to another category of access license	Not applicable	No application license is being sought therefore no groundwater abstraction will take place; The developments do not intercept the groundwater source.		

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8. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Following a review of the information made available and from the findings made in this assessment the following salient points and conclusions are presented as follows.

- Lot 1, Lot 2 and the remainder of the site is underlain by unsaturated Hawkesbury Sandstone which contains some shallow perched groundwater lenses of limited extent. These temporary perched storages have no significant resource value as they are discontinuous and of limited extent and low storage. They therefore do not contribute to the regional hydrogeological regime.
- The only gazetted aquifer underlying the development area is the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater Source which will not be intersected by the development of Lots 1 and 2.
- The maximum 'wet weather' regional groundwater table level in this aquifer is estimated to be about 171mAHD in the east and 151mAHD in the west. Therefore, sand extraction in Lots 1 and 2 could extend to a depth of 173mAHD in the east grading to 153mAHD in the west
- As the development of Lot 1 and 2 will extend to a maximum depth of 2 meters above the highest wet weather groundwater level in the Sydney Basin Central Groundwater source, no interception of this aquifer will occur.
- An independent report commissioned by VGT Pty Ltd concludes that Lot 1 and 2 are not underlain by the Maroota Tertiary Sands Groundwater source and the WSP 2011 report incorrectly identifies. This fact is confirmed by drilling data in the vicinity of Lots 1 and 2 which is also presented in Figure 2.
- The proposed modification is considered to be in accordance with the provisions of the WSP for the Metropolitan Region Groundwater Source. Rational for this is presented in the rules summary sheet in Table 7.1 and 7.2.
- There are no wetlands and GDEs present in the area that could be impacted, as neither groundwater source will be intercepted by the extraction at Lots 1 and 2 which remains in unsaturated geology. Therefore no discharges to / from GDEs can possibly be effected.
- The total or partial removal of the shallow perched groundwater zones is unlikely to have any major impacts to the local hydrogeological regime, or to the regional aquifer system, other than potentially locally increasing the rate of rainfall recharge to the regional water table in the vicinity of the project. However, this potential increase in recharge is negligible when compared to the larger scale recharge mechanisms associated with the Hawkesbury sandstone.
- There are nine registered groundwater abstraction bores within approximately 1km of Lots 1 and 2. None of these production bores abstract groundwater from the perched groundwater lenses located in the area, and therefore would not be impacted by deepening of the quarry in Lots 1 and 2.

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9. REFERENCES

Aquaterra, 2010. Groundwater Assessment For Dixon Sand Operations Lot 196 DP 752025 Maroota NSW – Aquaterra 19 November 2010.

DWLC, 2001. NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation (2001) Maroota Groundwater Study Technical Status Report.

E3, 2010. Preliminary Assessment of Potential Impacts to Groundwater of Proposed Extension of Dixon Sand Operations, Lot 196 DP752025, Maroota NSW – E3 Consult Nexus Environmental Planning 17 June 2010.

URS, 2006. Environmental Assessment of the Hitchcock Road Sand Extraction and Rehabilitation Project. Maroota, NSW. Groundwater Assessment. Prepared for PF Formation 1774 Wisemans Ferry Road Maroota NSW 2756ERM, 2005. Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM) 14 June 2005.

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FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Layout and Groundwater Monitoring Network
 Figure 2: Regional Geology and Registered Bore Summary
- Figure 3: Hydrographs of Paired Monitoring Sites
- Figure 4: Groundwater Elevation
- Figure 5: Cross section of the Extraction Area
- Figure 6: Hydrogeological Conceptual Model

313000

BH2

DP752025

DP7

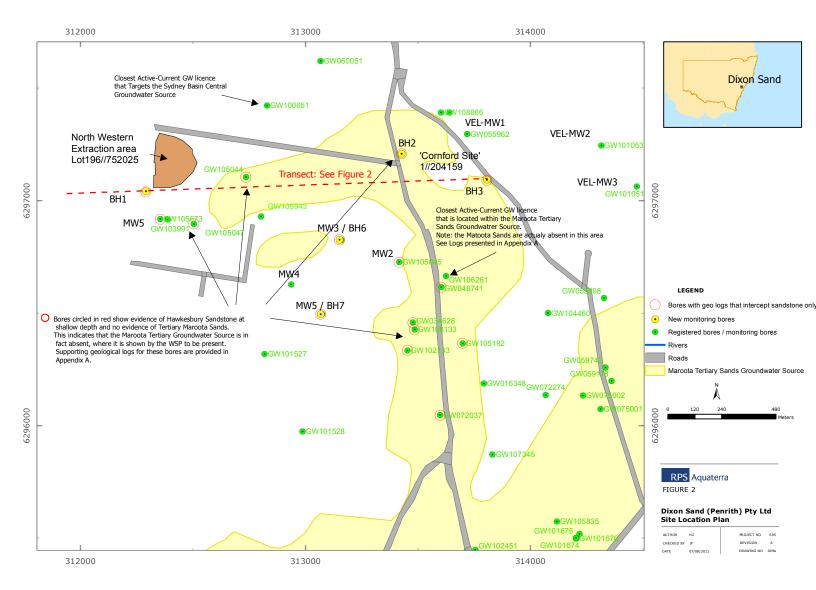
313000

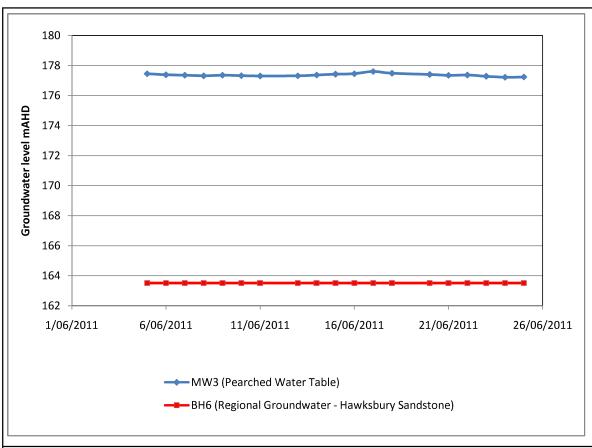
Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Groundwater monitoring plan

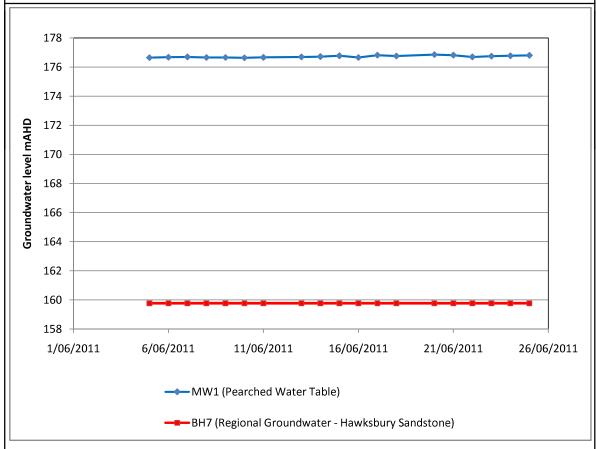
314000

6297000

6296000





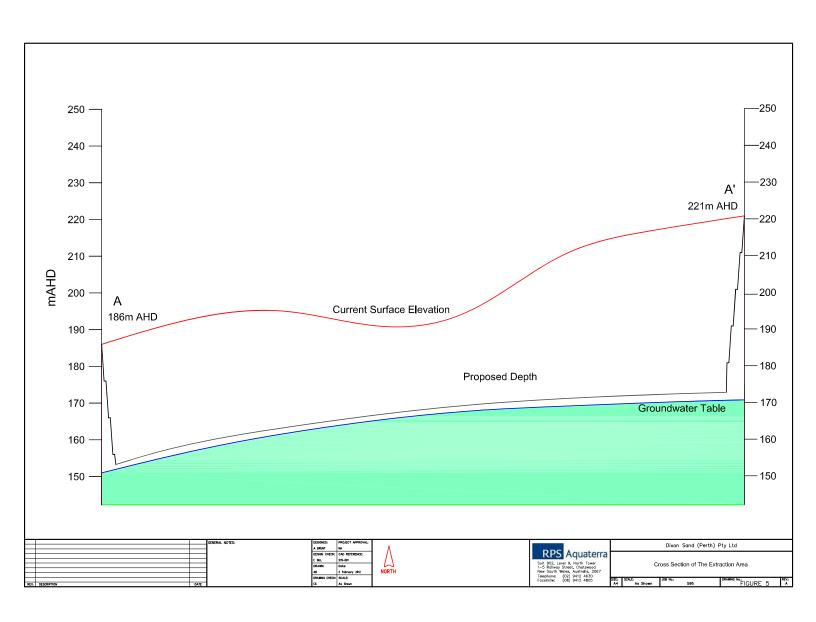


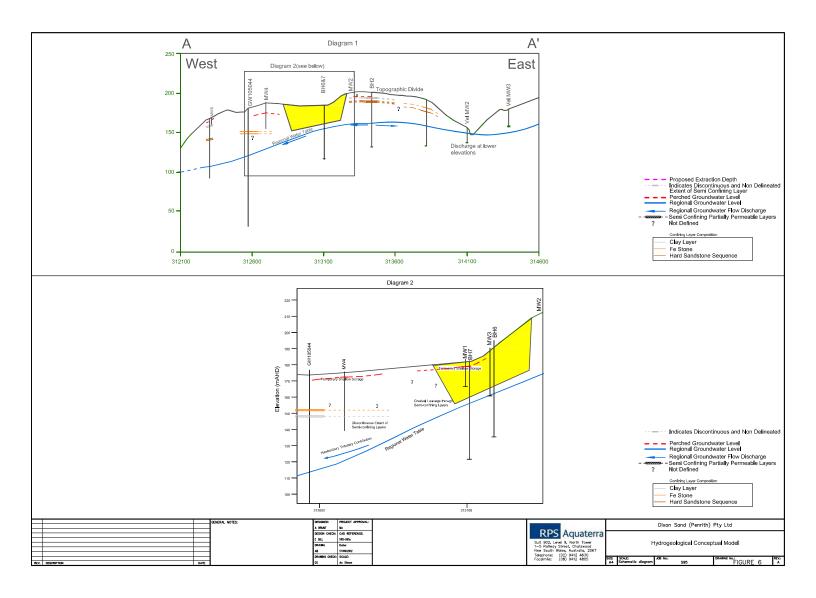


313000 314000 Dixon Sand 6297000 LEGEND Lot 196 DP752025 Shallow monitoring bores Deep monitoring bores Registered bores Groundwater elevation mAHD Minor creeks / drainage lines Roads Lot 29 DP752025 RPS Aquaterra 6296000 Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Groundwater elevation 12/7/2011

313000

314000





APPENDIX A: MONITORING BORE LOGS

Suit 902, Level 9, North Tower 1-5 Railway Street, Chatswood NSW, 2067 Australia

Tel: (+61) (02) 9412 4630 Fax: (+61) (02) 9412 4805

COMPOSITE WELL LOG

Client: Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Project: S95

Commenced: Method: Rotary Air

 Completed:
 22/10/10
 Fluid:
 East: 312290.45

 Drilled:
 Terratest
 Bit Record:
 North: 6297040.00

 Logged By:
 Collar (RL):166.18

Well No: BH1

Area: Maroota

Fax: (+61	(02	9 9412 4805	Static Water Level: 57.94		-	Date: 15/11/2010
Depth	Log	Graphic	Lithological Decembring	Field Notes	Well Co	ompletion
(mbgl)	Bit 1	Log	Lithological Description	Field Notes –	Diagram	Notes
	Sandstone		Sandstone: Sandstone white Sandstone: Sandstone brown/white Sandstone: Sandstone yellow brown Sandstone: Sandstone white brown gray yellow some clay bands. 7.8 m water 1 l/m, 10 m water 10 l/m Sandstone: Sandstone gray some large grains			
_ _ _ _ 20 _ _	Silts		Sandstone: Sandstone very hard Siltstone: Siltstone shale			
- - - - - - - - - - -			Sandstone: Sandstone very hard. 23.8 m water 2 l/m / Sandstone: Sandstone brown to gray. 37.7 m water 1 l/m			Fill to top 50 mm blank PVC (0 to 58m)
- 40 - - - - -	tone		Sandstone: Sandstone gray dry			
- 50 - - - -	Sandsto					
- 60 - - -		• • • • •	Sandstone: Sandstone course grain some shale Sandstone: Sandstone gray. 59.8 m water 13 l/m. 75			Bentonite Seal (58m to 63m)
- - - - - 70			m EOH			2mm sand gravel pack (63m to 75m) 50 mm slotted PVC (68m to 74m)
		• •				1m sump

File Ref: Well No: BH1

Suit 902, Level 9, North Tower 1-5 Railway Street, Chatswood NSW, 2067 Australia

Tel: (+61) (02) 9412 4630 Fax: (+61) (02) 9412 4805

COMPOSITE WELL LOG

Client: Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Project: S95

Commenced:

Completed: 27/10/10 Drilled: Terratest

Logged By:

Method: Rotary Air

Fluid: Bit Record: Area: Maroota

Well No: BH2

East: 313426.48 North: 6297209.18 Collar (RL):201.88

Topsoil: Top Sail Sand Sandstone: Sandstone brown yellow clay bands. 8.2 / m water 1 l/m Sity Sand: Sity Sandstone gray Sandstone: Sandstone brown, small gravel Sandstone: Sandstone brown yellow clay bands. 8.2 / m water 1 l/m Sandstone: Sandstone gray Sandstone: Sandstone gray white, some gravels. 24.7 m water 6 l/m Sandstone: Sandstone yellow brown Sandstone: Sandstone yellow	ал. (то		9412 4805	Static Water Level: 37.35	1	Date: 15/11/201
Topsoil: Top Soil Sand Sandstone: Sandstone brown yellow gray Sandstone: Sandstone brown yellow gray Sandstone: Sandstone brown yellow clay bands. 8.2 m water 1 lm water 1 lm		Bit Log		Lithological Description	Field Notes	ompletion Notes
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Sandstone: Sandstone brown some gravels Shale: Shale gray Sandstone: Sandstone gray brown small gravels Shale: Shale sandstone Sandstone: Sandstone Sandst						
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Sandstone: Sandstone gray some small shale bands, some small gravels Sandstone: Sandstone gray some small shale bands, some small gravels Cement Grout (41.3m to 60.2r		ShaS		Shale: Shale Sandstone		
Sandstone: Course grain sandstone some gravels	-0	37		Sandstone: Sandstone gray some small shale bands, some small gravels		
Sandstone: Course grain sandstone some gravels	iU	ndstone	•:•:•			Cement Grout (41.3m to 60.2m)
		Sar				
Shale: Shale Shale: Shale Sandstone: Sandstone, shale bands Sandstone: Sandstone course Sandstone: Sandstone course Gravel Pack			• • •	Sandstone: Course grain sandstone some gravels		
Sandstone: Sandstone, shale bands Sandstone: Sandstone bands Bentonite (60.2m to 65.5r) Gravel Pack	0	Shale		Shale: Shale		
Sandstone: Sandstone course Gravel Pack		Sandstone	• •	Sandstone: Sandstone, shale bands		Bentonite (60.2m to 65.5m)
0 (65.5m to 70m) Screen (67m to 70m (E	·0	Sandstone		Sandstone: Sandstone course		(65.5m to 70m)

File Ref: Well No: BH2

Suit 902, Level 9, North Tower 1-5 Railway Street, Chatswood NSW, 2067 Australia

Tel: (+61) (02) 9412 4630 Fax: (+61) (02) 9412 4805

COMPOSITE WELL LOG

Client: Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Project: S95

Commenced:

Completed: 28/10/2010

Drilled: Terratest Logged By:

Terratest Bit Record:

Method: Rotary Air

Fluid: East: 313805.95

Bit Record: North: 6297091.59

Collar (RL):193.54

Well No: BH3

Area: Maroota

	ص ق	Cuc-sl-!-			Wall C	ompletion
Depth (mbgl)	Bit Lo	Graphic Log	Lithological Description	Field Notes —	Diagram	Notes
mbgi))	Sandstone	Log	Top Soil Sand: Top soil sand Sandstone: Sandstone yellow brown Sandstone: Sandstone white Sandstone: Sandstone orange Sandstone: Sandstone brown, some small iron stone bands. 13.5 m water 5 l/m Sandstone: Sandstone orange Sandstone: Sandstone orange Sandstone: Sandstone orange		Diagram	Blank PVC (0 to 48m)
30			Sandstone: Sandstone white brown, ironstone gravels Sandstone: Sandstone brown, some small ironstone bands. 34.8 m water 2 l/m			
40	ISarShale		Shale: Shale Sandstone: Sandstone gray shale bands Ironstone: Ironstone Sandstone: Sandstone yellow brown, some ironstone bands		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Grout (38m to 48m)
50	Sandstone		Sandstone: Sandstone white brown, some small ironstone bands Sandstone: Sandstone gray, some small shale bands. Water 54.6 m 10 l/m			Bentonite (48m to 52.4m) Gravel Pack (52.4m to 60m)
60		· · · · ·				Screen (54m to 60m)
70						

File Ref: Well No: BH3

Suit 902, Level 9, North Tower 1-5 Railway Street, Chatswood NSW, 2067 Australia

COMPOSITE WELL LOG

Client: Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Project: S95

Commenced: 31/01/2011 Method: Rotary Air

Completed: 01/02/2011 **Fluid:**

Drilled: Terratest Bit Record: North:
Logged By: Collar (F

Well No: BH6

East:

Area: Maroota

		9412 4630	Logged By:		Collar	(RL):	
Fax: (+61) (02	9412 4805	Static Water Level: 31.4mbgl		Date: 01/02/		
Depth	Log	Graphic	Lithological Description	Field Notes	Well Co	ompletion	
(mbgl)	Bit I	Log	Lithological Description	Field Notes —	Diagram	Notes	
- 0							
-		• • •	Sandstone: Orange brown clayey sandstone				
_			Sandstone: Brown gray	/			
-		• • • •	Sandstone: Gray white (15.2m clay seam)				
-		• • • •					
- 40		• • • •					
– 10 -		• • • •					
-		• • • •					
-		• • •				Blank PVC	
-		• • •				(0-54m)	
-		• • •	Sandstone: Brown (21.9 clay seam)	Water Strike at 18.2m			
– 20 -		• • • •					
_		• • •	Sandstone: Brown gray				
-		• • •				Backfill	
		• • •				(0-49m)	
- 30	Sandstone	• • •					
- 30	Sand						
-		• •	Sandstone: With shale				
-		••••					
-		•••					
- 40			Sandstone: Yellow				
- -		• • •	Caridatoric. Tellow				
- -		• • •					
-		• • •	Sandstone: Gray, with some small raw stone				
- -			Sandstone: Yellow brown, with some small raw stone				
- 50		• • •				Bentonite	
- -		• • •				(49-53m)	
- -			Sandstone: Brown, with some small raw stone ar	nd Water Strike		Gravel Pack (53-60m)	
-		• • • •	gravels	at 53.9m		PVC Screen	
-		• • •				(54-60m)	
- 60		• • •		Total Depth 60m			
- -				. San Bopar oom			
- -							
- -							
- -							
- 70							

Suit 902, Level 9, North Tower 1-5 Railway Street, Chatswood NSW, 2067 Australia

COMPOSITE WELL LOG

Client: Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd Project: S95

Commenced: 02/02/2011 Method: Rotary Air

Fluid: **Completed:** 03/02/2011 East: Bit Record: Drilled: Terratest North:

Well No: BH7

Area: Maroota

(02)	9412 4630		Dit Necolu.		
				Conai	Date: 03/02/2011
og	Graphic			Well Co	ompletion
Bit	Log	Lithological Description	Field Notes	Diagram	Notes
Sandstone Cla Bit	Log	Clay: Orange sandy clay Sandstone: Brown gray Sandstone: Brown red Sandstone: Fine brown Sandstone: Fine gray Sandstone: Fine gray brown, clay band at 11.6i Sandstone: Brown orange Sandstone: Fine gray, water at 14.7m, clay band 16.4m Sandstone: Fine orange Sandstone: Gray shale sandstone Sandstone: Gray, some shale Sandstone: Fine orange	m Water Strike	Diagram	Blank PVC (0-54m) Backfill (0-49m)
		Sandstone: Gray brown, some raw stone Sandstone: Fine brown, some raw stone	Water Strike at 55.2m Total Depth 60m		Bentonite (49-53m) Gravel Pack (53-60m) PVC Screen (54-60m)
	(02 Bit Log	Log Sandstone	Graphic Log Lithological Description Clay: Orange sandy clay Sandstone: Brown gray Sandstone: Fine brown Sandstone: Fine gray Sandstone: Fine gray brown, clay band at 11.6 Sandstone: Fine gray, water at 14.7m, clay bar 16.4m Sandstone: Fine orange Sandstone: Fine orange Sandstone: Fine gray Sandstone: Fine gray water at 14.7m, clay bar 16.4m Sandstone: Fine gray brown Sandstone: Fine gray brown Sandstone: Fine gray brown Sandstone: Gray shale sandstone Sandstone: Fine gray Sandstone: Fi	County Static Water Level: 21.2mbgl	Collar Static Water Level: 21.2mbg Collar

APPENDIX B: GEOLOGICAL LOGS OF REGISTERED BORES

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW105044	0	12.5	SANDSTONE SOFT	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	12.5	21.8	SANDSTONE/QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	21.8	22.8	SANDSTONE/IRONSTONE BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	22.8	24.8	SANDSTONE	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	24.8	25.5	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105044	25.5	25.8	CLAY	CLAY	Clay
GW105044	25.8	30.5	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105044	30.5	38	SANDSTONE	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	38	39	SANDSTONE/IRONSTONE BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	39	52.6	SANDSTONE LIGHT GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	52.6	55.7	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105044	55.7	57	SANDSTONE L/GREY/CLAY BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	57	68.6	SANDSTONE/QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	68.6	69	CLAY	CLAY	Clay
GW105044	69	73.6	SANDSTONE/QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	73.6	89	SANDSTONE DARK GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	89	112.5	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	112.5	120.5	SANDSTONE/QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	120.5	127.8	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	127.8	135	SANDSTONE/QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105044	135	144.5	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW105047	0	0.2	FILL	FILL	Fill
GW105047	0.2	5.5	SHALE/CLAY/SANDSTONE	SHLE	Shale
GW105047	5.5	16	SANDSTONE WITH IRONSTONE BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	16	19.3	SANDSTONE HARDER	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	19.3	24.3	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105047	24.3	26.5	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	26.5	28	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105047	28	31.5	SANDSTONE	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	31.5	32.5	SANDSTONE AND CLAY BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	32.5	33	SANDSTONE AND CLAY FRACTURED	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	33	35.5	SANDSTONE	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	35.5	35.9	IRONSTONE	IRSN	Ironstone
GW105047	35.9	51.5	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	51.5	52.5	SHALE FRACTURED	SHLE	Shale
GW105047	52.5	65.5	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	65.5	81	SANDSTONE DARK GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	81	82.5	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	82.5	84.5	SANDSTONE FRACTURED	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	84.5	111.6	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	111.6	111.7	SANDSTONE FRACTURED	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	111.7	131	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	131	132.8	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ FRACTURED	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	132.8	152.3	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	152.3	153.8	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ FRACTURED	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	153.8	154.8	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105047	154.8	155.1	CAVITY	CVTY	Cavity
GW105047	155.1	156.8	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW105192	0	0.8	SANDSTONE SOFT IRONSTONE BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	0.8	8.5	CLAY WHITE	CLAY	Clay
GW105192	8.5	18	SANDSTONE FIRM LT BROWN	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	18	22	SANDSTONE IRONSTONE BANDS	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	22	22.5	CLAY	CLAY	Clay
GW105192	22.5	39	SANDSTONE LT GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	39	42	SHALE AND CLAY	SHLE	Shale
GW105192	42	56.5	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	56.5	57	CLAY AND SANDSTONE LT BROWN	CLAY	Clay
GW105192	57	58.5	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105192	58.5	82.5	SANDSTONE LT GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	82.5	124.5	AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	124.5	147.5	SANDSTONE GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	147.5	150	QUARTZ	15	Invalid Code
GW105192	150	175	SANDSTONE HARD LT GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	175	177	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW105192	177	198	SANDSTONE GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	198	201	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105192	201	234	SANDSTONE GREY/LT GREY	SDSN	Sandstone

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW101527	0	0.3	SANDY LOAM	20	Invalid Code
GW101527	0.3	48.5	SANDSTONE, RED AND GREEN	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	48.5	49	IRONSTONE	IRSN	Ironstone
GW101527	49	50.5	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW101527	50.5	56.5	SANDSTONE, GREY, M. GRAIN	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	56.5	57.2	SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ, FRACTERED (WATER)	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	57.2	58.5	SANDSTONE, GREY, M. GRAIN	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	58.5	60	SHALE	SHLE	Shale
GW101527	60	74	SANDSTONE, GREY. M. GRAIN	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	74	75.5	SANDSTONE, QUARTZ (WATER)	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	75.5	92	SANDSTONE, GREY. M. GRAIN	SDSN	Sandstone
GW101527	92	138	SANDSTONE,GREY. M. GRAIN	SDSN	Sandstone

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW108133	0	1.5	SANDY CLAY, L/BROWN	20	Invalid Code
GW108133	1.5	3.6	BROWN SANDSTONE WEATHERED	BNST	Invalid Code
GW108133	3.6	5.2	L/BROWN CLAY	CLAY	Clay
GW108133	5.2	5.8	RED CLAY	CLAY	Clay
GW108133	5.8	42.8	BROWN SANDSTONE	BNST	Invalid Code
GW108133	42.8	43.1	L/GREY SHALE	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	43.1	44.5	D/BROWN SANDSTONE WEATHERED	DCIT	Dacite(Tonalite)
GW108133	44.5	49.4	PINK SANDSTONE	PKST	Invalid Code
GW108133	49.4	49.7	GREY CLAY	CLAY	Clay
GW108133	49.7	53.6	GREY SANDSTONE	GYST	Invalid Code
GW108133	53.6	53.9	D/GREY SHALE	DCIT	Dacite(Tonalite)
GW108133	53.9	75.6	L/BROWN SANDSTONE	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	75.6	76	L/GREY SANDSTONE FRACTURED	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	76	78	L/GREY SANDSTONE	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	78	79.2	GREY SHALE	GYST	Invalid Code
GW108133	79.2	87.8	BROWN SANDSTONE	BNST	Invalid Code
GW108133	87.8	89.7	IRONSTONE AND QUARTZ	IGVL	Ironstone Gravel
GW108133	89.7	101.2	L/GREY SANDSTONE	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	101.2	101.5	GREY SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	GYST	Invalid Code
GW108133	101.5	101.7	RED SHALE	RDST	Invalid Code
GW108133	101.7	105.7	BROWN SANDSTONE	BNST	Invalid Code
GW108133	105.7	105.8	QUARTZ	15	Invalid Code
GW108133	105.8	108.5	D/GREY SANDSTONE	DCIT	Dacite(Tonalite)
GW108133	108.5	109.3	DARK GREY SHALE SOFT	DGRY	Invalid Code
GW108133	109.3	139.9	L/GREY SANDSTONE	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	139.9	149.9	L/GREY SANDSTONE AND QUARTZ	LBIL	Invalid Code
GW108133	149.9	150.6	L/GREY SANDSTONE	LBIL	Invalid Code

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW034628	0	1.22	Topsoil Sandy	TPSL	Topsoil
GW034628	1.22	3.35	Sandstone Yellow	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	3.35	12.8	Sandstone Dark Yellow Water Supply	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	12.8	15.85	Sandstone White	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	15.85	27.43	Sandstone Yellow	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	27.43	38.4	Sandstone White	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	38.4	42.67	Sandstone Yellow	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	42.67	48.77	Sandstone Dark Yellow	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	48.77	60.96	Sandstone Grey	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	60.96	77.72	Sandstone White	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	77.72	82.3	Sandstone Yellow	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	82.3	83.52	Sandstone Yellow Open Water Supply	SDSN	Sandstone
GW034628	83.52	91.44	Sandstone Yellow	SDSN	Sandstone
Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW048741	0	0.9	Soil Sandy	SOIL	Soil
GW048741	0.9	2.4	Shale Clay	SHLE	Shale
GW048741	2.4	5.6	Sandstone Yellow Silty	SDSN	Sandstone
GW048741	5.6	6	Pipe Clay White	CLAY	Clay
GW048741	6	8.1	Clay White Some Fine Gravel Water Supply	CLAY	Clay
GW048741	8.1	11.8	Clay	CLAY	Clay
GW048741	11.8	30	Sandstone Silty Water Supply	SDSN	Sandstone
GW048741	11.8	30	Clay Bands	CLAY	Clay

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW102133	0	6.5	Brown Clay	CLAY	Clay
GW102133	6.5	10	Weathered Sandstone	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	10	18.5	Grey Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	18.5	19	Grey Clay	CLAY	Clay
GW102133	19	28	White Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	28	29.5	Ironstone	IRSN	Ironstone
GW102133	29.5	43	White Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	43	45.5	Claystone	CLSN	Claystone
GW102133	45.5	47	Brown Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	47	49.5	Claystone	CLSN	Claystone
GW102133	49.5	54	Black Shale	SHLE	Shale
GW102133	54	76	Grey Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	76	78	Ironstone	IRSN	Ironstone
GW102133	78	84	Brown Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	84	86.5	Ironstone	IRSN	Ironstone
GW102133	86.5	114	Grey Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	114	118.5	Sandstone and Quartz	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	118.5	130	Grey Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	130	132	Sandstone and Quartz, fractured	SDSN	Sandstone
GW102133	132	150.5	Grey Sandstone M.G.	SDSN	Sandstone

Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW105493	0	1	SANDY TOPSOIL	20	Invalid Code
GW105493	1	12	FINE YELLOW SANDSTONE	FINE	Invalid Code
GW105493	12	34	COARSE ORANGE SANDSTONE	CRSE	Invalid Code
GW105493	34	37	SILTSTONE	SLSN	Siltstone
Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW105673	0	0.5	TOPSOIL	TPSL	Topsoil
GW105673	0.5	1.6	WEATHERED SANDSTSONE	WRCK	Invalid Code
GW105673	8.5	10	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105673	1.6	8.5	SANDSTONE L/BROWN	SDSN	Sandstone
Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW105673	0	0.5	TOPSOIL	TPSL	Topsoil
GW105673	8.5	10	SANDSTONE L/GREY	SDSN	Sandstone
GW105673	1.6	8.5	SANDSTONE L/BROWN	SDSN	Sandstone
Work No	From Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description	Rock Type Code	Rock Type
GW072037	0	1.2	SOIL	SOIL	Soil
		9.1	SOFT SANDSTONE	SFBD	Invalid Code
GW072037	1.2	9.1	00.10,1120.0112	OI DD	mirana coac
GW072037 GW072037	9.1	48.5	SANDSTONE	SDSN	Sandstone
		-			-

APPENDIX C: GEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE MAROOTA SANDS -VGT PTY LTD AUGUST 2012





Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd

Geological Assessment of the Maroota Sand Maroota South of Wisemans Ferry August 2012



Prepared by:

VGT Pty Ltd

for:

Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd

Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Ltd

Geological Assessment of the Maroota Sand Maroota South of Wisemans Ferry August 2012

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Figure One. Site Location

Figure Two. Geology plan Figure Two A. Geology Plan and Air photograph

Figure Three. Three dimensional cross section

Figure Four. Thickness of Resource

Figure Five. Comparison of Geological and Water Maps

Figure Six. North eastern area of Lot 1

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Acronyms and Terms Used Throughout the Report

Through this document, a number of Acronyms and reference terms are frequently used. To assist the reader, the following lists are provided.

ACRONYMS	
AHD	Australian Height Datum
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement

Terms

Alluvial: Detrital material which is transported by a river and deposited – usually temporarily – at points along the flood plain of a river. Commonly composed of sands and gravels. *D.G.A Whitten with J.R.V. Brooks, The Dictionary of Geology 1982*

Conformable: A sequence of beds are said to be conformable when they represent an unbroken period of deposition. *D.G.A Whitten with J.R.V. Brooks, The Dictionary of Geology 1982*

Disconformably: The overlying Maroota sands have been placed disconformably over the Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Eluvial: Weathered material (float) which is still at, or near, its point of formation. *D.G.A Whitten with J.R.V. Brooks, The Dictionary of Geology 1982*

Ma: Million years old.

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Section 1. Executive Summary

This report documents the geological assessment of the Maroota area which included a site visit, and reviews of the L.T. Etheridge 1980 report Ref. 2 and the Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Source 2011, Maroota Sands Groundwater Source (2011 plan).

Upon examination of these it was determined that the 2011 plan has incorrectly identified two key areas to be part of the Maroota Sands and as outlined in this report they are in fact Hawkesbury Sandstone.

As such sand extraction operations in these areas will not affect the Maroota Groundwater source.

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Section 2. Introduction

VGT Pty Limited at the request of Dixon Sand (Penrith) Pty Limited (the proponent) have investigated the extent of the Maroota Sand, at Lots 1 and 2 DP 547255 and Lot 1 204159 (the Cornford site), *Figure One* shows these areas.

2.1. Purpose of this Investigation

The proponent is seeking to confirm if Maroota Sands occur on these sites. If Maroota sands do occur then extraction within these areas may affect the localised ground water table.

2.2. Site Background

Dixon Sand has consent, DA 250-09-01, for extraction, processing and rehabilitation activities on Lots 1 and 2 DP 547255. The Cornford site is an area of interest for the proponent and liaison with the land owner is being undertaken.

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Section 3. Field Geological Assessment

3.1. Assessment

A field assessment was undertaken on 24th July 2012 where existing sand extraction operations were examined on Lots 1 and 2, DP 547255 (Lots 1 and 2) and at Hearses Road. At Lots 1 and 2 it was noted that the material extracted is sandstone and is ripped by a dozer. *Figure Two* shows the geological map prepared by Etheridge Ref. 2 found in his report. The photographs below are for the locations shown on *Figure 2*.



Photoplate 1 - Dixon Sands Lot 1 Extraction area

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Photoplate 2 – Dixon Sands Hearses Road area (Maroota Sands)

Extraction activity at the Hearses Road site is undertaken mostly within the friable Maroota sands.

The Maroota Sands seen in *Photoplate 2* exhibit the red iron colouring which is indicative of water moving through the deposit and the white pea sized gravels showing different stream layers.

Photoplate 3 shows an outcrop adjacent to where Lot 1 meets The Old Northern Road. Geological mapping shows this is Maroota Sand out cropping as evidenced by the iron colouring as well as the occasional white pebble.



Photoplate 3 - Maroota sands on Old Northern Road

Figure Two shows the lateral extent of the Maroota Sand, Hawkesbury Sandstone and Eluvial deposits.

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Large Hawkesbury Sandstone float was found at the location seen on *Figure Two*. Referring to *Photoplate 4* below, logic that dictates "rocks do not roll up hill" this sandstone can only have originated from the site it was found (in situ) or further up slope into the Maroota Sand sequence. This sandstone float indicates coupled with the Etheridge mapping, the contact between the Hawkesbury Sandstone and the Maroota Sands is nearby.

Photoplate 4 - Hawkesbury Sandstone float on Lot 1 130 metres west of Old Northern Road



Photoplate 5 - Hawkesbury Sandstone adjacent to Lot 1



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Photoplate 6 - Hawkesbury Sandstone at Cornford Site

The mapping confirms the findings outlined in the Etheridge report.

3.2. Geology Discussion

Etheridge has outlined clearly in his report that the Early Tertiary (55 to 65 ma) Maroota Sand deposit was laid down unconformably in a channel formed in the Triassic (237 to 245 ma) Hawkesbury Sandstone. The main Maroota Sand deposit is presented in *Figure Two* which has been sourced from Etheridge.

Etheridge states "The sequence mainly consists of the Triassic Hawkesbury Sandstone disconformably overlain by the Tertiary Maroota Sand...."

"The Maroota Sand comprises a sequence of interbedded clayey gravels, gravels, gravelly sands, pebbly sands, clayey/silty sand, sand, silty clay and clay which range from unconsolidated sand and gravel to partly consolidated clay and clayey sand".

Although this is a wide ranging description of the materials found in this area he goes on to say more specifically "The bulk of the Maroota Sand consists of sand sized material" and "Overall, the Maroota Sand sediments are poorly sorted".

3.2.1. Difference between Eluvial and Alluvial

The outcrop of the Eluvial and alluvial deposits, as mapped by Etheridge, has been presented in *Figure Two and 2A*.

A diagram has been prepared (see *Figure Three*) which attempts to show the physical difference between these.

As evidenced in *Figure Four* taken from the Etheridge report (which identifies the thickness of the Maroota Sands) the Eluvial deposits at Maroota must be weathered Hawkesbury Sandstone.

The Maroota Sand is an alluvial deposit which is detrital material transported by a river and deposited – usually temporarily – at points along the flood plain of a river. Commonly composed of sands and gravels as defined by Ref. 1 (Whitten and Brooks).

The Eluvial sand deposit is defined as weathered material (float) which is still at, or near, its point of formation. *Ref. 1 (Whitten and Brooks)*.

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These Eluvial deposits were formed (weathered upper portion of the Hawkesbury Sandstone) in the Holocene (1 ma to now), this means these deposits are 50 million years younger than the Maroota Sands.

Structurally these deposits are also different where the Maroota Sands being mostly unconsolidated or loose which is deposited in a stream bed up to 30 metres deep and has a high permeability where water can flow through these with ease. Whereas, the Eluvial material is an insitu sand and clay material which has a lower permeability and is around 1 to 2 metres deep.

3.3. Groundwater Discussion

The Etheridge report Ref. 2 has been used by many authorities to determine the extent of the Maroota Sands, including the Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Sources 2011 – Maroota Tertiary Sands Ground Water Source.

Figure Five shows the plan for the Maroota area and adjacent to this plan is the Etheridge Ref. 2 Geological plan showing the extent of the Maroota Sands. It can be seen that the areas are very similar in shape and size.

Figure Two A shows the Etheridge Ref. 2 geology, property details and air photograph to assist with presentation, this clearly illustrates that the western lobe of sand in Lot 1 is actually Eluvial (Hawkesbury sandstone) not Alluvial (Maroota Sand) and the Cornford site is all Eluvial.

3.4. North-Eastern Corner of Lot 1, DP 547255

Maroota Sand extraction activities in the north eastern corner of Lot 1, DP 547255 are mostly constrained by the 250 metre buffer from the school. Extrapolating from Google maps and property boundaries, *Figure Six* shows that there is an approximate 40 metre wide and 130 metres long strip that can be accessed by the proponent, which has been identified as the Maroota Sand, by Etheridge.

Figure Four shows that the Maroota Sand, identified by Etheridge, in this area of interest could be up to a maximum 2 metres thick and outcropping at the surface. Drill hole GW 048741 is located within the Maroota Sand area, identified by Etheridge, as presented in Figures 4 and 6, and the log is presented below.

Drill log

Work No Froi	m Depth	To Depth	Drillers Description Rock
GW048741	0	0.9	Soil Sandy
GW048741	0.9	2.4	Shale Clay
GW048741	2.4	5.6	Sandstone Yellow Silty
GW048741	5.6	6	Pipe Clay White
GW048741	6	8.1	Clay White Some Fine Gravel Water Supply
GW048741	8.1	11.8	Clay
GW048741	11.8	30	Sandstone Silty Water Supply
GW048741	11.8	30	Clay Bands

The drill log is a simplistic drillers log but the identification of Shale / Clay overlying a sandstone unit indicates to the author that at 0.9 metres the Hawkesbury Sandstone commences, which has numerous shale lenes, whereas the Maroota Sands do not.

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Etheridge has previously identified the Maroota sand to be 5 metres thick at this location but he was that the time without the benefit of data from drill hole 048741, so interpolating from this point now the area of interest would have a maximum thickness of 0.45 metres of Maroota Sand, as shown on *Figure 6*.

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Section 4. Conclusion

A geological assessment was undertaken in the Maroota area on 24th July 2012, the aim of this assessment was to confirm the findings of the Etheridge report Ref. 2, with specific regard to the lateral extent of the Maroota Sand deposit.

This report presents the field geological findings, outcomes from reviewing the Etheridge report Ref. 2 and the Water Sharing Plan for the Greater Metropolitan Region Groundwater Source 2011, Maroota Sands Groundwater Source (2011 plan).

Upon examination of these it was determined that the 2011 plan has wrongly identified two key areas to be part of the Maroota Sands when they are in fact Hawkesbury Sandstone.

As such sand extraction operations in these areas will not affect the Maroota Groundwater source.

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Section 5. References

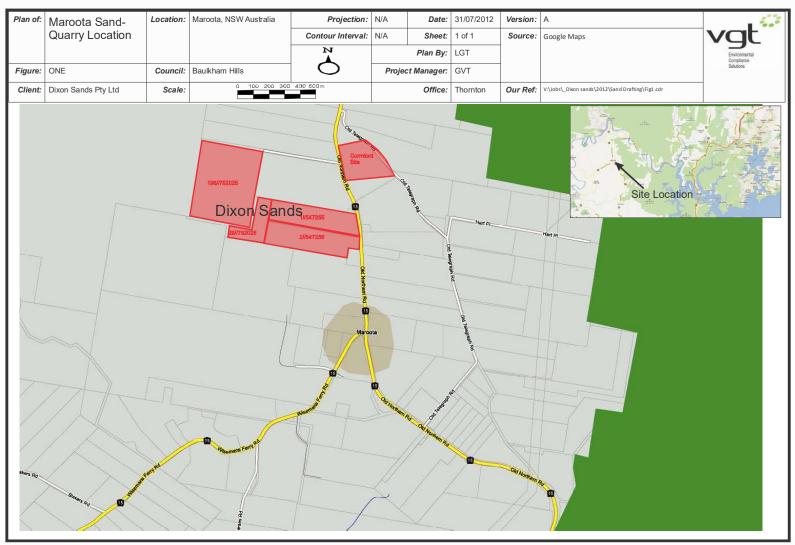
Ref. 1. D.G.A Whitten with J.R.V. Brooks, The Dictionary of Geology 1982. D.G.A Whitten with J.R.V. Brooks,

Ref. 2. *L.T. Etheridge* - Geological Investigation and Resource Assessment of the Maroota Tertiary Alluvial Deposit" dated August 1980

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Figures

6/8/2012 Appendices



VGT Pty Ltd 4/30 Glenwood Drive, Thomton NSW 2322 PO Box 2335, Greenhill NSW 2323 ph: (02) 4028 6412 fax: (02) 4028 6413 email: mail@vgt.com.au www.vgt.com.au ABN: 79 103 636 353

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