

INFORMATION NOTE

DATE: April 14, 2023

PREPARED FOR: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

ISSUE: s.13

KEY FACTS:

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- The Bamberton quarry expansion would be a local source of aggregate, gravel, and stone to the construction industry on the south and mid-Island. This briefing note outlines implications of designating the Bamberton quarry expansion as reviewable for the Minister's consideration in final decision making. These could include:

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BACKGROUND:

- In its final report to the Minister, the EAO recommended that the Bamberton quarry expansion **not** be designated for review under the Act because:
 - The proposed expansion disturbance (16 percent) is well below the required threshold of 50 percent increase in disturbance;
 - Permitting processes can address concerns raised by the applicant, designation review participants, and the public;

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- Permitting agencies have a legal duty to consult with First Nations and hold the same consultation obligations as the EAO; and,
- The quarry expansion would not result in effects equal to or greater than the effects of a reviewable project.

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DISCUSSION:

In addition to information provided by the EAO in the Designation Application Evaluation Report, the EAO notes that there is typically significant public interest in any mine or quarry operation near populated areas, with opposition increasing as a function of population density near the project.

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Implications of designating the project as reviewable includes:

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- Under the 2018 Environmental Assessment Act, no projects have been designated as reviewable.
- Several other quarries within urban proximities with larger production capacities are currently undergoing permit amendments under the *Mines Act*.

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- The Bamberton quarry expansion would provide an additional source of aggregate to road building and housing developments potentially reducing the costs of these developments throughout south Vancouver Island.
- The Bamberton quarry predominantly ships gravel by barge, which uses one tenth the fuel per tonne per kilometre travelled and, depending on barge size, can transport the equivalent volume of 100 trucks, s.13

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s.13 After consideration by EAO of proposed mitigation measures by the proponents and those that are or will be required by permit conditions together with required best management practices, it is unlikely that the Bamberton quarry expansion would result in substantive cumulative effects on the Saanich Inlet.

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