

13th May 2021

For the attention:

Liam Jukes

Senior Planner – Major Assessment
City Development Branch
Council of City of Gold Coast

Dear **Liam Jukes**,

Objection submission COM/2019/81 -
Critical Corridor and Substantial Remnant Mapping

Please accept this objection as it highlights that the Nucrush quarry is part of the Critical Corridor as highlighted in the Gold Coast Council official report: *'Critical corridor and Substantial Remnant mapping Final Report'*, dated January 2016, which can be found at:

<https://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/documents/bf/critical-corridor-substantial-remnant-mapping-final-report-part-1.pdf>

In this report the Nucrush quarry (Lot 467) and its surrounding Lots (Lot 906, Lot 468, etc.) are identified as Critical Corridor (Attachment A1, close up attachment A2).

In the report it is noted that buffer widths should be a minimum of 500 m wide (Attachment B1). Therefore, the current DA proposal to reduce the Critical Corridor to just 150 metres would seem contra to the requirements of this Gold Coast Council report and highly environmentally damaging.

Conclusion

Clearly the Nucrush quarry, and its surrounding Lots, are part of the Critical Corridor as highlighted in the above Gold Coast Council Report.

To permit the destruction of this area would be completely contra to the requirements for the Critical Corridor. As per the executive summary states: *"This conservation network includes 'substantial remnants' and 'critical corridors' and encompasses land under a broad spectrum of tenures. Substantial remnants represent areas of sufficient habitat to support a variety of wildlife and contain much of the remaining biodiversity within the urban footprint. In addition to their ecological value, these remnant areas are important for their contribution to the city in terms of scenic amenity, opportunities for low impact recreation and microclimate control. Critical corridors link important natural habitat areas, providing opportunities for wildlife movement, gene flow and access to habitat refuge, particularly in response to the effects of climate change. The corridors also link to the substantial remnants, affording connection potential to important biodiversity areas within adjacent local government areas. The underlying intention of the conservation network is to enable persistence, and allow for enhancement, of biodiversity across the Gold Coast. This requires a detailed understanding of where these ecologically important areas occur, and their priority for management*

so that their contribution to the conservation network can be considered during planning, development and conservation programs” (Attachment C1).

It would thus seem imperative to not ignore the clear requirements of this Gold Coast Council report by permitting this, I believe highly flawed development application, and sanctioning this highly significant area of *‘Critical Corridor’* for destruction throughout the next one hundred plus years.

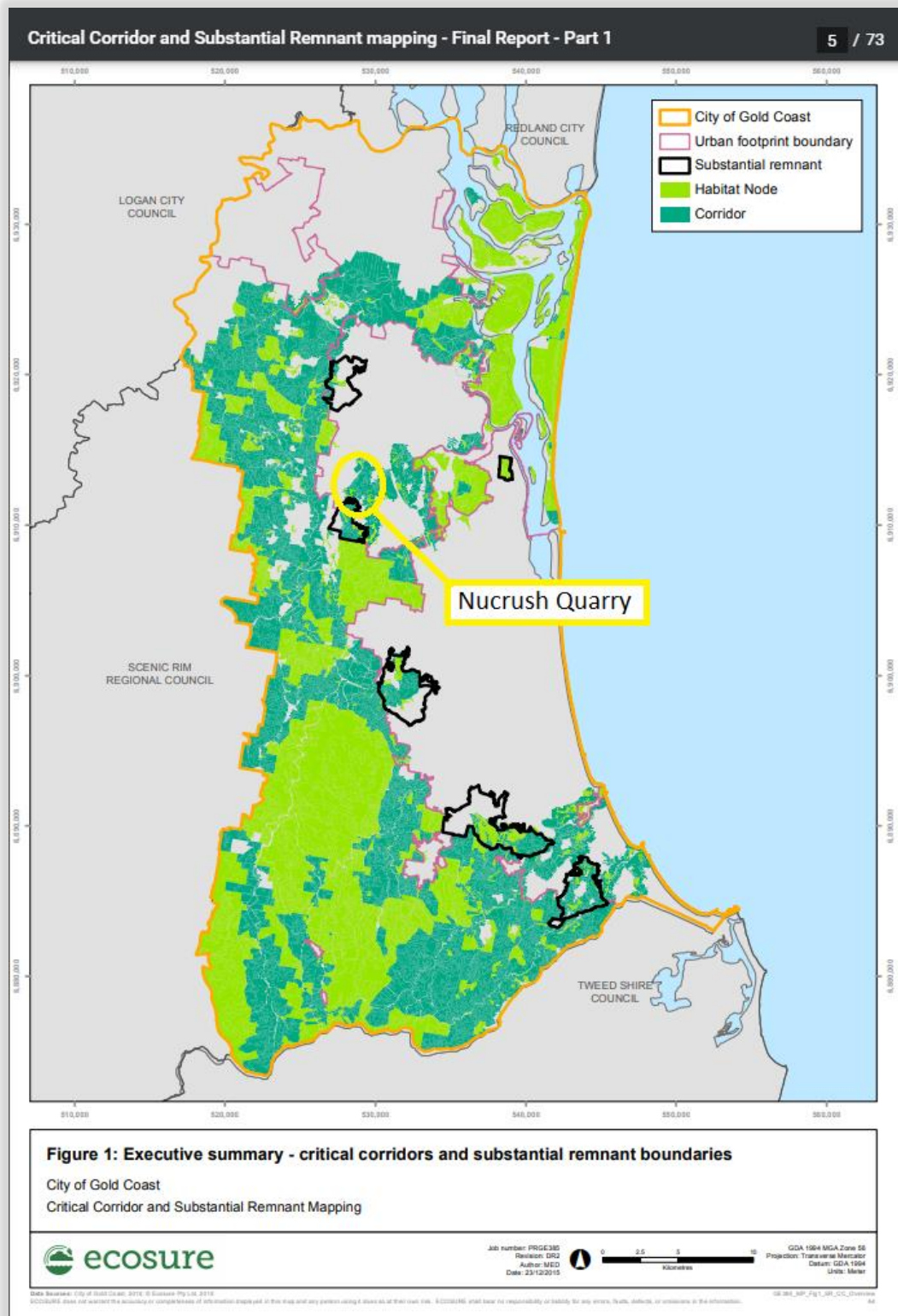
To permit this development application and its subsequent destruction of this *‘Critical Corridor’* would seem highly immoral and very damaging for: *‘The City of Gold Coast’s Nature Conservation Strategy’*.

Thank you in anticipation,

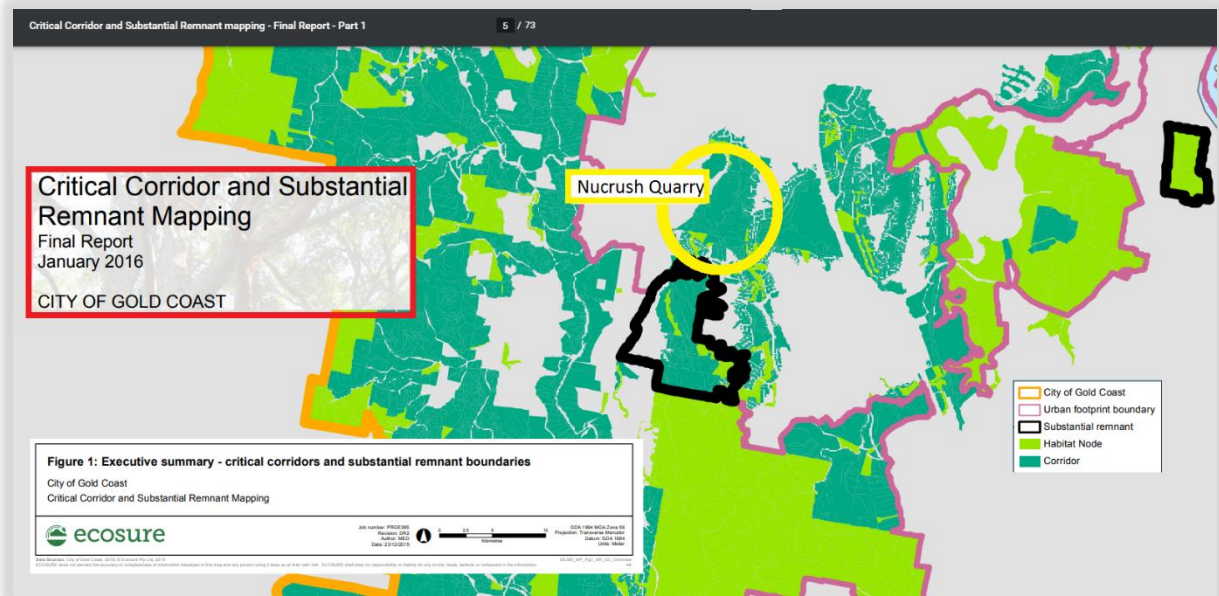
Kind regards

Tony Potter

* Disclaimer. Please note my findings are believed correct and are to the best of my ability. However, there may be errors and assumptions I have made that are incorrect. I do not believe this to be the case, but, realise with the vast amount of submitted data from the applicant, errors and assumptions on my part may occur. Hopefully this is not the case, but please accept my apologies if this is so. Thank you.



Attachment A2 - Gold Coast Critical Corridor (Close up Nucrush Quarry)



Attachment B1 - Gold Coast Critical Corridor - Buffer areas

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3.6.3.1 Buffer areas

While the critical corridors were identified on the basis of the prevalent broad vegetation types within the corridor, in many instances it was not possible to locate sufficient habitat to achieve the minimum corridor width requirements (i.e. Section 2.2.2).

To address this, a supportive buffer was applied to each of the critical corridor routes within the urban footprint so that they achieve a minimum width of 500 m. This is intended to serve multiple objectives, namely to:

- Spatially demarcate sufficiently wide areas to function as regional corridors. While there might be insufficient habitat within these buffer areas at present, demarcation of the optimal corridor locations will assist with efficient direction of revegetation efforts within the regional corridors. Identification of regional scale corridors will also assist with the prioritisation of future mitigation measures to improve corridor functionality over time.
- Manage for edge effects: given that most urban corridors routes are less than 100 or 200 m wide, it becomes all the more important to provide appropriate management and education within the surrounding areas to minimise detrimental edge effects and disturbance to species potentially using the corridor. Delineation of supportive buffers outside of the critical corridor footprint will assist with focusing actions on the ground.

The 500 m width is consistent with the approach taken in previous corridor projects (i.e. Chenoweth 2009; 2010). It also aligns with the findings of the literature review; discussed in Section 2.2.1, which recommends that regional corridors be greater than 500 m wide.

Executive summary

The City of Gold Coast's Nature Conservation Strategy (2009-2019) conceptually identifies areas both within the hinterland and the urban footprint which provide a '*diverse, connected and viable conservation network across public and private lands*'.

This conservation network includes 'substantial remnants' and 'critical corridors' and encompasses land under a broad spectrum of tenures. Substantial remnants represent areas of sufficient habitat to support a variety of wildlife and contain much of the remaining biodiversity within the urban footprint. In addition to their ecological value, these remnant areas are important for their contribution to the city in terms of scenic amenity, opportunities for low impact recreation and microclimate control. Critical corridors link important natural habitat areas, providing opportunities for wildlife movement, gene flow and access to habitat refugia, particularly in response to the effects of climate change. The corridors also link to the substantial remnants, affording connection potential to important biodiversity areas within adjacent local government areas. The underlying intention of the conservation network is to enable persistence, and allow for enhancement, of biodiversity across the Gold Coast. This requires a detailed understanding of where these ecologically important areas occur, and their priority for management so that their contribution to the conservation network can be considered during planning, development and conservation programs.