



EXTRACTION POLICY

Extraction of sand, topsoil and gravel Policy

Sand is mostly required for community development activities, and requests for local reserves are regularly made. While in the past the requests have been for low volume amounts, recent house construction and upgrades of community water mains has seen a number of requests for high volumes (up to 8,000 cubic metres).

Sand reserves close to community centres are becoming increasingly scarce. The practice of taking sand from coastal areas has continued, despite previous recommendations from Land-owners and the Tiwi Land Council that it ceases. As a general rule, coastal sand does not meet high grade construction standards due to salt content and particle size. This is of particular concern to bedding water mains.

Taking sand from coastal areas is also environmentally unsound.

There are some (not many) potential sand reserves remote from communities. These are mostly located in wetlands that are subject to seasonal flooding and access constraints. Many are also subject to environmental protection through the plantation forestry project.

Taking small amounts of sand locally for cultural purposes does not impact on the resource.

Tiwi Land Council Policy is that community development projects include the provision for barging in construction sand from the mainland, and that the practice of sourcing local sand for large projects ceases.

Topsoil is used almost exclusively for beautifying around communities. There are a number of areas close to communities that have been used as sources of topsoil. While this is generally a low volume use, there are some areas that have been exhausted.

Tiwi Land Council Policy is:

- ***That exhausted topsoil pits are progressively rehabilitated through surface reshaping and replacement of vegetative material that has been pushed to the edges.***
- ***Should there be an ongoing demand for topsoil, that extraction areas are selected and managed in accordance with the Tiwi Land Council's 'Standards for borrow pit operation on the Tiwi Islands'.***





Tiwi Land Council

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Gravel reserves at the top of the catchment (where the major roads are located) are often shallow, and large areas sometimes need to be accessed to gain sufficient material. There is also high variability in the quality of gravel along main roads. There are some potential reserves remote from the communities, however the extent and quality of the gravel is unknown.

With plantation forestry, there is now a commitment to manage red goshawk and masked owl populations on the islands. These birds use trees that are located in areas that may be a potential source of gravel.

Gravel pit rehabilitation has not been a common practice in the past, and issues associated with a number of these pits include weed outbreaks, soil erosion and water ponding (a risk of mosquito borne diseases).

Tiwi Land Council Policy is:

- *That landowners are consulted and required to approve the opening of new gravel pits;*
- *That potential pit areas are assessed for red goshawk and masked owl nests prior to disturbance;*
- *That for major works, gravel is assayed and only high quality gravel used for construction;*
- *That the location, management and rehabilitation of gravel pits is formalised, and follows recommendations from the Tiwi Land Council's existing Standards;*
- *That exhausted pits, or areas of exhausted pits, are progressively rehabilitated on a priority basis according to Landowner advice and environmental and visual amenity.*

Royalties

The Tiwi Land Council has determined that sand, topsoil and gravel resources may attract a royalty that will be determined from time to time. Royalties will not include developing the pits or cartage.

G. J. Illortaminni

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Tiwi Land Council