

July 2023



**MT COTTON
QUARRY**

Mt Cotton Quarry - Stage 1 extension

Frequently asked questions

Owner and operator of Mt Cotton Quarry, Barro Group, is conducting the first stage of an approved quarry extension.

Extending the quarry over time will help our local economy and community continue to grow. Stage 1 involves replacing the previous extraction area with a 15-hectare quarry zone.

Is this extension new?

No. Barro Group received development approval for the current project, with conditions, in 2013. Following several approved extensions to the development timeframe, works to enable the quarry extension began in 2023.

What does the extension involve?

The total approved quarry extension is 45 hectares, which will be conducted in stages over several decades.

Stage 1 of the extension will establish an active quarry zone of about 15 hectares. This replaces the previous extraction area.

A new intersection with Mt Cotton Road and internal access road will be constructed, quarry dams and drainage upgraded, modern crushing and screening equipment installed, and site buildings upgraded.

Why is this needed?

Mt Cotton Quarry's active quarrying area is being extended to help meet the growing demand for construction materials in south east Queensland. The hard rock resources in the previous quarry area were largely depleted.

Stage 1 of the extension will provide materials for about 20 years.

What does the quarry produce?

Mt Cotton Quarry has been operating since the 1960s. It is a hard rock quarry which produces up to one million tonnes of products per year depending on demand. Products include aggregates, road base, rail ballast, drainage media, various gravels, sand, fill and premixed concrete (Pronto brand). These are the raw materials used for constructing roads, land subdivision projects, buildings and other infrastructure projects in the region. Local building projects like Mt Cotton State School, Redland Bay Fire Station and Cleveland Showgrounds were built using products from the quarry.

How long will the quarry operate?

Mt Cotton Quarry is within the Queensland Government's Mt Cotton KRA (No 71); a resource of State significance and a key source of construction materials for the Brisbane to Gold Coast growth corridor. The quarry could operate for the next 100 years.

Will local residents be affected by the new quarry area?

Much of Mt Cotton Quarry is naturally surrounded by ridges, providing visual and physical separation from surrounding properties (600m to 1km separation distances, depending on the location). As part of Stage 1 of the quarry extension, a new 8m high vegetated bund has been built around the quarry zone to reduce any potential visual or noise impacts for surrounding residents.

Any noise, dust and vibration impacts of ongoing quarrying activities must be managed in line with approved management plans and environmental license requirements.

What about truck movements and traffic impacts?

Some minor, temporary disruptions to usual traffic flows on Mt Cotton Road may occur while roadworks are underway from July to October 2023 (weather and construction conditions permitting) at the entrance to the quarry.

Stage 1 of the quarry extension will result in the return of more regular truck movements to and from the site via Mt Cotton Road.

Will working hours change?

No. The quarry's operating hours are from Monday to Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm and Saturday from 6:30am to 4:00pm. After hours maintenance activities occur between 6:00am and 8:00pm, Monday to Saturday. There is no work on Sundays or public holidays.

The concrete batching plant's operating hours are Monday to Friday 5am to 6pm and Saturday 5am to 4pm.

What about blasting activities?

Blasting by a licensed contractor usually occurs once or twice a month (depending on production requirements) during the day. Local residents who have requested that their details be placed on a notification register for blast events are notified at least 24 hours prior to the activity.

How will wildlife on the site be protected?

More than 190 hectares (approximately 75%) of the 250 hectare site will be retained for conservation purposes under all stages of the quarry extension.

For Stage 1 of the extension, About 3,300 native trees and shrubs have already been planted on site as part of the Stage 1 extension. This will increase to more than 32,000 over the life of the extension project to offset the removal of some vegetation. This is replanting at a rate of about three trees for every one removed, and it will support existing and new wildlife on the site.

What does the quarry do for the local community?

Mt Cotton Quarry contributes to the local economy. This includes providing jobs for about 20 staff and contractors on site as well as employment opportunities for many more local suppliers and service providers. The quarry also provides educational tours and resources for local schools.

How can the community have a say?

Barro Group values positive working relationships with community members around Mt Cotton Quarry. Community members can contact the Operations Manager Harry Clark during business hours by phone on 0409 023 100.

In 2023, Barro Group will seek nominations from Mt Cotton residents to form a Mt Cotton Quarry Community Reference Group. This group will help to promote information sharing and feedback between Barro Group and the community. We will write to residents and post information on our website, but you can register your interest now by emailing harry.clark@barro.com.au.

Which government agency oversees operation of the quarry?

Quarrying is administered by the Department of Environment and Science and subject to the requirements of the Redland City Council's City Plan, existing development approvals and an Environmental Authority permit issued by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

Who is the owner of the quarry?

Mt Cotton Quarry is owned and operated by family-owned Australian company Barro Group. The company has been a supplier of construction materials and services to the development industry since 1946. It purchased Mt Cotton Quarry in 1992.