

# MT COTTON QUARRY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP



MT COTTON  
QUARRY

## MEETING #1 SUMMARY

**Date and time:** Monday 4 December 2023, 6pm – 7:45pm

**Venue:** Mt Cotton Quarry office, 1513 Mt Cotton Road, Mt Cotton

**Chairperson:** Richard Lemon

**Attending CRG members:** Ewen Thomson, Anthony Maloney, Richard and Beverley Lemon, Liza'l Textor, Christine Melling, Rodney Powell, Peter Spencer and Sue Panuccio (via Microsoft Teams)

**Observers:** Cr Julie Talty

**Attending Barro Group team:** Harry Clark, Stephen Bennett, John Taylor, Kate Thomas (note taker)

**Apologies:** Jacob Carlyle, Hon Mick de Brenni MP

Items discussed	Action
<p><b>A. Welcome</b></p> <p>Harry Clark thanked community reference group (CRG) members for nominating themselves and agreeing to participate in the group. He introduced Richard Lemon as Chairperson, and the attending Barro Group representatives. Harry noted that Stephen Bennett was an important contact for the community as he was the Site Senior Executive (SSE) which is a mandatory role under the <i>Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020</i> (RSHQ Act).</p> <p>Harry also provided an overview of the Barro Group, which is an Australian family-owned company involved in quarrying and concrete production around Australia.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>B. Introductions</b></p> <p>CRG members each provided a brief overview of their backgrounds and what they wanted to contribute to the group:</p> <p><b>Ewen Thomson:</b> Is a direct neighbour of the quarry and interested in any dust, noise or other impacts associated with the quarry extension or general operations. A priority for Ewen is bushfire management. He joined the group to learn more about what's happening at the quarry, and the extension project.</p> <p><b>Anthony Maloney:</b> Is a direct neighbour of the quarry and a 40-year resident of the area. He has had direct contact with Barro Group owners and operators since the group purchased the quarry in the early 1990s. He has been a committee member of several community groups concerned with amenity, social and other impacts from local extractive industries and is in regular contact with about 800 community members who share his interest in social and environmental issues. His involvement in the CRG is to represent these interests.</p> <p><b>Liza'l Textor:</b> Is a direct neighbour of the site, a 20-year resident of the area and a local business owner. She is interested in any dust, noise or other impacts associated with the quarry extension or general operations. She joined the group to provide feedback on these issues from a resident's point of view.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p><b>Peter Spencer:</b> Is a direct neighbour of the site and has lived in the area since 1975 with his wife. He has had a long interest in quarrying. While he does not object to the extension of Mt Cotton Quarry, he joined the CRG to ensure that neighbours' views are heard. He noted a positive relationship with Barro Group and felt comfortable raising any queries or concerns directly with site managers. These were always addressed.</p> <p><b>Rod Powell:</b> Lives locally, has detailed local knowledge and a previous work history at Redland City Council. He has a particular interest in traffic flows on Mt Cotton Road and other local roads. He joined the group to be involved in his community and experience the 'other side' of projects (as a resident rather than a Council officer as he was previously). He noted that when he first moved to the area, he used to hear sirens from the quarry (ahead of blasting) and other noise, but this had abated over time.</p> <p><b>Christine Melling:</b> Is a direct neighbour of the site and involved on the committee of several local community groups. She is in regular contact with Barro Group site managers and has a generally positive working relationship with staff. She joined the CRG to 'keep an eye' on quarry operations and the extension project.</p> <p><b>Richard and Beverley Lemon:</b> Are direct neighbours of the site and have known the quarry staff since it was it was called Delta Rock in the 1960s. Their former business provided services to the quarry over the years. Richard's family also owned the Fabian Road property and lived there for 18 years running dairy and beef cattle and growing pasture. He noted that the quarry land was much more cleared at that time than it is now. He joined the CRG to bring a positive attitude to relationships with Barro Group. He noted that he and Beverley had been happy with Barro Group's willingness to address any issues they raised. Richard and Beverley liked the quarry as a neighbour as it was quiet at night and on weekends.</p> <p><b>Sue Panuccio:</b> Is a direct neighbour of the site and owns and operates a nature retreat. Sue's focus is sustainability; both as operator of the nature retreat and in a national corporate role. She joined the CRG as she believes there are many potential points of tension between quarry operations and the community, and wanted to understand how Barro Group would respond to these. She was particularly interested in noise, dust and other environmental impacts of the quarry extension on neighbours.</p> <p><b>Cr Talty:</b> Is a West Mt Cotton Road resident, has a long family history in the area (timber gathering and Blunt's sawmill) and is a member of many local community groups. As the Division 6 Councillor for Redland City, Julie represents the interests of local people and is often contacted about local projects and issues that residents wish to be addressed. As such, she wanted to attend the CRG meetings to hear feedback about Mt Cotton Quarry from both community members and Barro Group. She has in-depth knowledge of the planning and approvals process surrounding Mt Cotton Quarry.</p>	
<p><b>C. Discussion about Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>Kate Thomas outlined the purpose of the Terms of Reference for the CRG and requested any feedback or comments about the document. CRG members agreed that the Terms of Reference were appropriate for operation of the group, and no objections were raised. Once question was raised:</p> <p><i>Qu: The CRG Terms of Reference encourage members to share information discussed at meetings with their community groups / contacts. However, they also reference that confidential items could be raised. How will this be managed?</i></p> <p><i>A: While it is unlikely that confidential items are raised, should this occur the Chairperson will identify that an item is confidential.</i></p>	Noted

Items discussed	Action
<p><b>D. Overview of Mt Cotton Quarry operations and extension</b></p> <p>Harry Clark and John Taylor provided an overview of the Mt Cotton Quarry operation including the site's history, approvals process, development conditions and extension staging. The CRG asked a range of questions about these topics and shared feedback. Key matters raised were:</p> <p><i>Qu: Was the old nursery property purchased by Council?</i> A: No, it was purchased by a private company.</p> <p><i>Qu: Community members understood a conveyor system was to be constructed to move extracted material from the Stage 1 extension area to the sales area (uphill). However, a haul road is proposed to be used. Is the conveyor concept abandoned and is this allowable under the development conditions?</i> A: The first stage of the extension, being Stage 1A, does not involve the installation of a conveyor system. It has always been the case that on initial startup of the extension area, the main internal haul road with a grade of no more than 1 in 10 will be used. The conveyor system is an option for future stages, however development of this would likely be costly and technically challenging. The development conditions allow for internal haulage by road.</p> <p>Discussions were also held about the pros and cons of the quarry truck haulage versus the conveyor system. Some CRG members did not support the conveyor system as they felt this would be more noisy and others were concerned that the truck haulage would be the noisier option.</p> <p><i>Qu: Will trucks using the haul road also travel on local rounds around the quarry?</i> A: No. The quarry trucks on the internal haul road will move from the extraction area to the fixed crushing and screening equipment and/or sales floor and back.</p> <p><i>Qu: Will noise and vibration levels from blasting and rock crushing be the same as it is now once the extension is operating? One neighbour experienced increased noise levels about 1.5 weeks previously and a two-month period of high noise in years past when dams were being built. Another felt that blasting routinely caused windows to shake.</i> A: A mobile crushing plant is being used on site at present and this will ultimately be replaced by a permanent crushing plant. The design of this is not yet complete but it will be designed to meet relevant noise and dust limits. Blasting on site currently has a 'low powder factor' which means it just 'pops' the layer of material to be extracted (ie: aims to cause no disturbance to neighbours). Future blasting will be carefully designed to ensure compliance with the limits imposed in the conditions of development. There is also a constructed bund around the area to assist with managing noise, dust and vibration. Siren noise may still be heard at times. Stormwater drains were built on site 6-8 months ago and there was an extended period of excavation in rock for these. It was noted that there were no reports of noise disturbance from this activity.</p> <p><i>Qu / discussion: Quarrying in the area is within a State Government declared Key Resource Area (KRA). There is a separation zone between the KRA and neighbours but neighbours are subject to development restrictions in this zone. For example, granny flats cannot be built. This is restrictive. What can be done?</i> A: Please contact Cr Talty directly for more information on development in the separation zone, or contacts to her counterpart(s) at Logan City Council.</p> <p><i>Qu: Is Barro Group able to extract material from any part of the approved extension area (ie: beyond the Stage 1 area) if it wants to? That's how it sounds from the description provided.</i></p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>A: While the approvals in place could allow extraction in different areas, Stage 1 offers opportunities to extract material for the next 20 or so years. It is not practical or safe to open up multiple work fronts on site. For example, the future approved stages after Stage 1 are in an area which requires benching. This has to be done with an extensive level of forward planning and in accordance with legislation. If these more remote working areas were disturbed/accessed now, these workings would then have to be rectified in order to continue in other areas of the quarry. This is not practical.</p> <p><i>Qu: To what extent have development conditions been met (eg testing the rock drill), and doesn't Barro Group have a deadline on commencing operations under Stage 1?</i>  A: Barro Group is currently cleaning up the sales floor area ready for the fixed crushing plant (which is in the design stage). There are only a couple of conditions yet to be met such as completing the haul road with a fauna crossing. Roadworks on Mt Cotton Road are done, as are new stormwater drainage channels within the site. While the comments raised regarding the currency period of the extension approval were correct (the date is 25 July 2024), it was confirmed that to give effect to the extension approval a major proportion of the required works and conditions was needed to enable the project to be considered as having been "substantially started". Barro Group's completion of most major items (such as the Mt Cotton Road roadworks, stormwater management, amenity bunds and offset requirements) is in line with that. It's Barro Group's intention is to have sale of product from the Stage 1 extension occurring on, or before, July 2024.</p> <p><b>Actions arising:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Produce a version of the site map with contours and street numbers on it and share with the CRG.</li> <li>2. Provide a list of development conditions for all stages of the extension, along with an indication of which conditions have been met and which haven't. Share with the CRG.</li> <li>3. To enable discussion about development conditions, and encourage understanding of key issues among CRG members, dedicate time at each CRG meeting for one topic (eg bushfire management, dust management, noise management, stormwater management, traffic management).</li> </ol> <p><i>Qu: There appears to be evidence that quarrying operations have led to sedimentation in California Creek. How does Barro Group respond to that?</i>  A: Barro Group is required to conduct regular testing of water quality in California Creek (at the boundaries of the site). This is documented by Groundwork Plus on behalf of the Barro Group. It was advised that the site has only experienced a couple of occurrences over the years where stormwater quality limits have recorded minor levels of non-compliances (not recently). The Barro Group is confident that it is meeting its water quality requirements. Recently, a couple of local residents reported they felt that the quarry may be preventing flows from entering the creek and wondered if a dam was in place. They were invited to visit the site (and did so) to see that no dam was in place to prevent water from flowing to the creek.</p> <p><i>Qu: Will the internal haul road be sealed. If not, how will dust be managed?</i>  A: The haul road will not be sealed but a water cart will be used throughout the work day (as it is already, and is common practice at quarries) to suitably manage potential dust impacts.</p> <p><i>Qu: How will dam water be managed to ensure that neighbours' own dams do not run dry? How much water is needed for dust suppression on the new haul road?</i>  A: Barro Group will continue to monitor the water levels in the dams on site. If neighbours request water for their own dams, pumps can be used to transfer water</p>	<p>Barro Group by 30/1/2024</p> <p>Barro Group by 30/1/2024</p> <p>Barro Group to add to Feb 2024 meeting agenda</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Barro Group ongoing</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>downhill to share water. Barro Group will be able to identify how much water is needed for dust suppression on haul roads once the number of internal truck movements are confirmed.</p> <p><b>Actions arising:</b></p> <p>4. Barro Group to monitor dam levels and update the group at the next meeting.</p> <p><i>Qu: What has Cr Talty heard about the quarry from residents over the past 12 months?</i></p> <p>A: (Cr Talty): Most residents don't know a quarry is located on Mt Cotton Road. It was only when the roadworks were occurring out the front (and residents received a letter from Barro Group) that they became aware of the location of the quarry.</p>	<p>Update at Feb 2024 meeting</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><b>E. Next steps</b></p> <p>The CRG agreed on the next meeting dates.</p> <p><b>Actions arising:</b></p> <p>5. Barro Group to coordinate a site tour for CRG members on Saturday 3 February at 9am.</p> <p>6. Next CRG meeting to occur on Monday 12 February 2024 at 6pm on site.</p> <p>7. CRG members to submit requested agenda items for the next meeting to Richard Lemon and Harry Clark by 30/1/2024. Draft agenda to be issued to all CRG members.</p>	<p>Barro Group to issue invitations by 22/12/23</p> <p>CRG members to submit agenda items by 30/1/2024</p>
<p><b>F. General business</b></p> <p><b>Actions arising:</b></p> <p>8. Agreed that CRG member contact details are to be shared among the group.</p>	<p>Barro Group by 30/12/203</p>