

MT COTTON QUARRY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP



MT COTTON
QUARRY

MEETING #2 SUMMARY

Date and time: Monday 12 February 2024, 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, Jacob Carlyle, Christine Melling, Rodney Powell

Observers: Cr Julie Talty

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

Apologies: Liza'l Textor, Peter Spencer, Sue Panuccio, Hon Mick de Brenni MP

Items discussed	Action
<p>A. Welcome</p> <p>Chairperson Richard Lemon opened the meeting and ran through the agenda.</p> <p>He welcomed Jacob Carlyle to the group. Jacob noted he had lived in the region since 1992 and had been a Mt Cotton resident for about 12 years. He was a local employer, and wanted to be part of the community reference group to share information with his community about its operations. He felt there was some confusion in the community about what Mt Cotton Quarry did and who operated the site (the site was sometimes confused with other quarry operations in the area).</p>	Noted
<p>B. Action items from previous meeting</p> <p>The group reviewed action items from the December 2023 meeting. The following comments were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It was noted Barro Group had provided the CRG with a site map with 5m contours and street numbers on it.2. It was noted John Taylor had provided the CRG with information on development conditions for all stages of the quarry extension, along with an indication of which conditions had been met and which hadn't.3. With regard to quarry dams, Barro Group's Stephen Bennett monitored dam levels daily. There was capacity on site to 'hold' stormwater for a period in a series of retention basins. The aim was to avoid releasing any fine material / silt from the site. Any releases had to be reported and samples of water leaving site were taken and tested. Stormwater could be pumped to the workshop dam, where it could be harvested for dust suppression as needed. <p><i>Qu. How much rain would be needed before the dams would spill over? Isn't the dam design '1 in 5'?</i></p> <p>A. The dam had been able to hold all recent heavy rain without spilling. Barro Group would provide more information about the dam designs and capacities at the next meeting.</p>	Noted Barro Group at April 2024 meeting

Items discussed	Action
<p>Qu. <i>Community members had previously shared images of California Creek at the Gramzow Road crossing after rain events on Facebook (refer to supplied attachment – images dated 13 February 2020, 2 January 2021, 2 March 2021 and 16 March 2023). In the images, the water appeared discoloured due to sediment. Was it correct that Barro Group had had had problems with clay materials on site and sedimentation settling times in the dams previously? Had flocculant been used to try to clear the water?</i></p> <p>A. The current Barro Group site team had not been present during most of those events and had not witnessed California Creek coloured brown as shown in some images. Flocculant was not used on site by the team. Construction of major stormwater diversion drains on site in the past year appeared to be effective in directing water away from traditional overland paths and into retention basins / dams where sediment could settle. The drains and their operation were regularly inspected by Barro Group and Council.</p> <p>4. It was noted that due to ongoing rain, the site tour for CRG members had been postponed. Barro Group would issue potential dates to CRG members including options for a weekday and a weekend day.</p> <p>5. It was noted that Barro Group had circulated CRG member contact details within the group.</p>	<p>Barro Group by 29 February 2024</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>C. Development conditions discussion</p> <p>John Taylor provided an overview of the range of development conditions affecting the operation and extension of Mt Cotton Quarry. The conditions were provided in several supplied documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Change approval issued by Minister’s office on 17 April 2022 (note: the document shows ‘tracked changes’ which were made by the Minister’s office) • Approved plans including the staging plans • Environmental Authority permit issued by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) dated 13 May 2020 <p>It was noted that at the time of the meeting, there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57 conditions of development from the Minister. Of these, 22 conditions required works, related approvals and/or actions prior to the commencement of the use (being the sale of product from Stage 1 of the quarry extension which was expected to occur on or before July 2024). There were five conditions yet to be completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Condition 3 installation of a weather station which would collect real time noise, dust and other measurements – Conditions 33, 34 and 54 revisions to the site’s Environmental Management Plan – Condition 39 – installation of a fauna underpass on the internal haul road (including the haul road design). • 40 conditions from State agencies such as the Department of Resources, Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Energex. Of these, 11 conditions required works, related approvals and/or actions prior to the commencement of the use. All of these conditions had been completed/complied with to enable the use to commence. 	<p>Noted</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>• 49 conditions included in the Environmental Authority permit from DESI. Of these, five conditions required works, related approvals and/or actions prior to the commencement of the use. There were four conditions yet to be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Condition A3 Air Quality Management Plan update – Condition A5 air quality dust equipment – liaising with DESI – Condition N2 – Noise monitoring equipment – liaising with DESI – Condition N4 – Noise Management Plan update. <p>John Taylor facilitated a detailed discussion about noise conditions affecting the quarry. He noted the difference between the overarching guidelines in the development approval, and day-to-day noise limits and testing requirements in the environmental authority. In relation to the development approval conditions for noise (noise bunds and equipment certification etc.), while the Minister set the conditions it was Council's responsibility to regulate them.</p> <p>Questions and actions arising:</p> <p><i>Qu. Where will the weather station be located on site and what does it comprise?</i> A. The location of the weather station hasn't been decided as yet, and Barro Group may need to work with DESI on picking the right spot. Barro Group will provide updates to the CRG. The weather station has a range of monitoring equipment on it which has to meet Australian standards.</p> <p><i>Qu. Would the original development plan showing 'sensitive receptors' (eg residential neighbours) help with selection of a site for the weather station?</i> A. That would be part of the consideration for DESI and Barro Group.</p> <p><i>Qu. Who paid for the roadworks out the front of the quarry on Mt Cotton Road – Barro Group or Council?</i> A. Barro Group funded the roadworks. The roadworks were a condition of the development. Mt Cotton Road is a State controlled road.</p> <p><i>Qu. Where is the fauna underpass situated and what is the design?</i> A. It is under the main haul road where most animal crossings have been recorded. It is about 30m long and a culvert type structure which has to be designed so that there is light visible to animals at either end. It will be constructed in the next three to four months.</p> <p><i>Qu. Was there a condition requiring Barro Group to install wildlife nesting boxes on site?</i> A. No. There was no requirement for nesting boxes. However, when visiting the site shortly CRG members will see lots of wildlife, and particularly wallabies.</p> <p><i>Qu. Has the new rock drill to be used on site (for setting up blasting) been tested on the site, and does it operate at 110dba?</i> A. The new drill has been certified to operate at the conditioned noise levels. Rock drill technology has advanced significantly. Barro Group uses a contractor to conduct the drilling for 1-2 blasts per month.</p> <p><i>Qu. What are the noise mounds made of around the new quarry area?</i> A. They are earth mounds and the design is based on noise modelling. The design has been certified.</p> <p><i>Qu. When will mobile plant be used compared with fixed plant?</i> A. Stage 1A of the extension allows operations to start using mobile crushing and processing plant. Stage 1B is when fixed plant will be used. This could be at least two or three years away. Construction of the fixed plant will involve some</p>	<p>Barro Group to update at April 2024 meeting</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>construction noise even though components are modular. The noise would mainly be associated with building concrete pad(s) and steel construction.</p> <p><i>Qu. There is some community concern about noise limits, what constitutes nuisance noise, and measured background noise. Community member(s) previously used a consultant to measure background noise at 27db and this was submitted to court during the development application process. The measurement was accepted. Barro Group is able to contribute 5dba of noise above background levels. However, the frequency of noise from the site is generally low (low rumbling noise) but for some neighbours, the ongoing low frequency noise could be very annoying. For example, it could be unpleasant to sit outside on a deck for meals.</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group is obliged to meet the noise limits that are specified in the development conditions. Noise levels are not constant during the day (up and down) and quarry operations are not permissible after 6pm.</p> <p><i>Qu. What time is there activity on site on operating days?</i></p> <p>A. Staff are on site at 6am but machinery is not operating before 6:30am.</p> <p><i>Qu. If 27db is measuring sounds from bushland, perhaps it is reasonable that heavy industry like a quarry would add noise to the environment? For affected community members, maybe the issue is more with the Department's noise limits rather than Barro Group's compliance?</i></p> <p>A. CRG members discussed this question, with one suggesting that there would always be issues with a "quarry versus a rural lifestyle".</p> <p><i>Qu. Are noise complaints from residents made to Council or DESI?</i></p> <p>A. Noise complaints are directed to DESI.</p> <p><i>Qu. How is airblast overpressure from blasting measured?</i></p> <p>A. This is measured at several receptor sites around the boundaries of the property. There have been about five blasts in the past 19 months and these have not been the subject of any complaints. CRG members had different feedback about the blasts, with some saying they were not noticeable at all, and others noting they felt vibration at their home before a second or two of airblast pressure on windows.</p> <p><i>Qu. Can information be provided to CRG members about a community Facebook group focusing on the quarry? Some members wanted to join the group to see what feedback other residents had about the quarry.</i></p> <p>A. The Facebook group is 'No to Mt Cotton Superquarry' and it has about 800 members.</p> <p><i>Qu. Were fire ants a problem on the site? Some neighbours were experiencing issues with nests.</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group conducted site inspections for fire ants almost daily, and reported and baited any nests in line with requirements.</p>	
<p>D. Next steps / general business</p> <p>The CRG agreed on the next meeting date:</p> <p>Monday 29 April 2024 at 5:30pm on site.</p> <p>Date(s) for the site visit will also be issued by 2024.</p> <p>The next development conditions topic nominated by CRG members was: dust.</p>	<p>Barro Group to issue meeting and site visit invitations by 15 March 2024</p>