

MT COTTON QUARRY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP



**MT COTTON
QUARRY**

MEETING #3 SUMMARY

Date and time: Monday 13 May 2024, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

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

Chairperson: Richard Lemon

Attending CRG members: Sue Panuccio, Kerstin Moloney (for Anthony Moloney), Richard and Beverley Lemon, Christine Melling, Rodney Powell

Attending observers: Cr Julie Talty

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

Apologies: Ewen Thomson, Liza'l and Scott Textor, Peter Spencer, Jacob Carlyle, Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Stephen Bennett (Barro Group)

Items discussed	Action
<p>A. Welcome</p> <p>Chairperson Richard Lemon opened the meeting and ran through the agenda.</p> <p>He welcomed Kerstin Maloney to the group and invited her to share her connection with Mt Cotton.</p> <p>Kerstin advised she was attending on behalf of her husband Anthony. She had lived in the area for about 30 years after marrying Anthony (whose family had a local broiler farm) and raising three children. Kerstin is a teacher at Thornlands State School.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>B. Feedback from site tours</p> <p>Site tours for interested CRG members were held on 27 and 30 April 2024.</p> <p>Sue Panuccio and Rod Powell, who attended the 30 April visit, advised the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • they appreciated being able to see the quarry site for themselves • it was useful to move around the site with the Barro Group's map as the undulating terrain made it difficult to see any property boundaries or neighbouring houses from within the site • vegetation is very different in the northern corner of the site (denser and in some areas rainforest) than the remainder of the site which is more open woodland <p>Harry Clark noted that Scott and Liza'l Textor, who had attended the 27 April visit, had advised that their property experienced dust impacts which they had attributed to Mt Cotton Quarry. However, while on site and reviewing the distance between the quarry pit and their West Mt Cotton Road property it was less certain that Mt Cotton Quarry was the contributor.</p> <p>Christine Melling and Cr Talty advised they remained interested in a site tour. Christine and Cr Talty were invited to suggest suitable dates to Harry Clark.</p>	<p>Christine and Cr Talty to suggest dates for a site visit</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>C. Action items from previous meeting</p> <p>The group reviewed action items from the previous meeting. The following comments were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Dam designs and capacities: John Taylor showed a drawing of the site's dams and drains, and a more detailed drawing of the stepped sediment ponds. He noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater on the quarry site must be collected and treated before it is able to leave the site. Barro Group's water treatment is more than is required under the quarry's development conditions. Within the bund around the quarry extension area, water will be collected in a pond where sediment will settle. The sediment will be extracted and added to some quarry products (eg road base). The level of this pond will be lowered as quarrying progresses. A separate series of stepped sediment ponds on the south eastern part of the site capture stormwater which passes through the walls of the ponds to filter out sediment. The cleaned water then passes over grassed areas for further polishing before entering California Creek. Constructed diversion drains help to manage stormwater runoff from the high points of the site. These do not feed water into a dam. <p><i>Qu: Are there any heavy metals in the sediment ponds?</i></p> <p>A. There are no heavy metals. The ponds contain slightly acidic water (California Creek is slightly acidic) and sediment. On similar hard rock quarry sites, there can be traces of nitrogen which typically results from blasting activities but this is unusual, and if it occurs readings are typically almost negligible.</p> <p><i>Qu. In rainy periods, do the dams fill and overtop their walls?</i></p> <p>A. No, not unless a catastrophic (eg 2011) storm event occurs. The ponds are over-designed, plus Barro Group pumps out a lot of water from the ponds for its operations (eg for dust suppression and as an additive to quarry products).</p> <p>Weather station: After a two-year negotiation process for the noise and dust ambient monitoring equipment and the weather station with the State Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI), the equipment has been ordered. It is expected to arrive for installation in late May / June 2024. The weather station has a range of monitoring equipment on it which is required to meet Australian standards. It will provide real time measurements of things like wind direction, wind speed, rainfall and dust. The location of the noise and dust ambient monitoring equipment has been selected based on advice from a specialist consultant and DESI, and the weather station will be located alongside the dust ambient monitoring equipment. It was noted that the weather station was movable if needed.</p> <p>The separate ambient noise monitoring equipment will be located at a high point on the north western boundary of the site, on the residential property owned by Barro Group.</p> <p><i>Qu. What is the prevailing wind direction on site?</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group noted it did not have wind data on hand, but would provide information at the next meeting if available. CRG members discussed prevailing wind directions, with some suggesting south-easterly being prevalent and others north-easterly in the afternoons.</p> 	<p>Barro Group to attach map of dams on site and sediment ponds drawings to meeting notes</p> <p>Barro Group to provide information on wind direction once the weather station has been installed</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>D. Development conditions discussion: dust</p> <p>John Taylor provided an overview of the development conditions relating to air quality, and particularly dust, affecting the operation and extension of Mt Cotton Quarry. The conditions are provided in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Change approval issued by Minister's office on 17 April 2022 • Approved plans including the staging plans • Environmental Authority permit issued by DESI on 13 May 2020 <p>It was noted that there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two conditions of development relating to dust from the Minor Change approval (Section 13, items a to i, and Section 14 items i and ii) • eight conditions relating to dust in the Environmental Authority (Section A1 to A8). <p>John Taylor facilitated a detailed discussion about the conditions affecting dust management at the quarry. He noted the difference between the overarching guidelines in the development approval, and day-to-day dust control and monitoring requirements in the Environmental Authority. He also noted that while the Minister set development conditions, it was Redland City Council's responsibility to regulate them.</p> <p>Questions and actions arising:</p> <p><i>Qu. Are the dust conditions fairly standard for all quarries?</i></p> <p>A. No. Some are specific to Mt Cotton Quarry. For example, the need to cover the (future) fixed crushing and screening plant conveyor on three sides to minimise dust is unusual.</p> <p><i>Qu. What are the dust control measures on the internal haul road?</i></p> <p>A. The conditions require that this road must be well built and maintained. Barro Group will use a truck that carries and sprays water (water cart) to dampen the surface several times a day. Weather station data will be used to help determine the frequency of watering the haul road and use of water sprinklers on stockpiles.</p> <p><i>Qu. What is the baseline for dust readings on the site at present?</i></p> <p>A. Once the new dust monitoring equipment is installed on site (before the quarry extension is operational) then Barro Group will obtain some baseline data prior to starting. This will only cover a limited variation of weather conditions but it is important to note that the approval conditions do not require Barro to collect baseline data. Notwithstanding, Barro Group will start monitoring as soon as the equipment is in place.</p> <p><i>Qu. As there is going to be more moisture in quarry materials leaving the site, will the trucks be heavier and impact the local road surfaces?</i></p> <p>A. No. Trucks leaving site have a maximum weight. At the weighbridge, they are assessed and if found to be over their maximum weight they cannot leave site (ie. can't be 'ticketed out'). Cr Talty noted that compliant trucks (from quarries and other businesses) were legally able to use the road network and Council had previously been unable to impose additional conditions. Cr Talty also advised that advisory signage on Council roads was one of the only avenues available for influencing driver behaviour.</p> <p><i>Qu. Is the new dust monitoring equipment the only way dust will be measured on site?</i></p> <p>A. No. Apart from the monitor, there are also several dust deposition gauges around the site which are already in place and will remain. These are essentially a funnel and cannister on a pole, and the gauges are emptied after taking readings.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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<p><i>Qu. The criteria for silica dust limits stated in the conditions has a stated limit (3 ug/m³) based on an annual average. Does this mean that if there is a non-compliant event on a particular day then this will not be evident as the data is averaged out over the year? What is a reportable amount of silica and is this reported within 14 days?</i></p> <p>A. As the data coming from the new dust monitoring equipment will be real-time and continuous, any event that was non-compliant would be recorded and reviewed. Barro Group will check on the requirements for reporting specific events to DESI and advise the CRG.</p> <p><i>Qu. What is the silica content of the greywacke rock material on site?</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group's consulting geologist will provide advice to the CRG on the silica content. Based on the long history of quarrying greywacke material in the region, Barro Group is not aware of reported health concerns related to silica / respirable crystalline silica.</p> <p><i>Qu. What are the exposure limits for silica (fine particles called respirable crystalline silica)?</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group will provide further information on this for the CRG. The generic Safe Work guidelines are included below.</p> <p>Safe Work Australia's workplace exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica is 0.05 mg/m³ (eight-hour time weighted average). A person must not be exposed above this standard. Information is available from Safe Work Australia at: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/crystalline-silica-and-silicosis and Worksafe Queensland at: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/hazards/hazardous-exposures/respirable-crystalline-silica</p> <p><i>Qu. Does wetting down dust containing silica help to reduce exposure risks?</i></p> <p>A. Overall, dust suppression is an important part of reducing dust impacts. Barro Group is required to undertake regular occupational health screening of workers (eg medical check-ups including chest x-rays) during and after employment. The results must be reported to DESI.</p> <p><i>Qu. What air quality data is reportable to DESI?</i></p> <p>Under the conditions, Barro Group will report five sets of air quality related data being: dust deposition, total particulates, PM2.5, PM10, and silica as per condition A2 of the Environmental Authority.</p> <p><i>Qu. How many hours a day will the weather station and dust monitor operate, or does it operate continuously?</i></p> <p>A. Readings will be taken during operating hours but Barro Group will confirm with the supplier if the equipment also operates outside of these hours.</p>	<p>Barro Group to provide more information on reportable events and limits</p> <p>Geologist to provide advice to CRG on silica content at next meeting</p> <p>Barro Group to confirm operating hours of weather station and dust monitor at next meeting</p>
<p>A. Additional community questions</p> <p>The CRG and Barro Group reviewed four questions from community members that were submitted by Anthony Moloney before the meeting. Answers are provided below:</p> <p><i>Qu. Barro Group made a referral under the Commonwealth EPBC Act, (EPBC 2011/6225), based on the information submitted in their 21 December 2010 Development Application to Redland Council. At that time, the koala was not EPBC listed as a species of special conservation significance, although the new development site was included for conservation in the STATE PLANNING POLICY 1/97 Conservation of koalas in the Koala Coast. It has been 13 years since that decision and there have been significant changes, a) the Koala now being listed as</i></p>	

Items discussed	Action
<p><i>Endangered under the EPBC Act in February 2012 and b) changes to the development design and offsets. It is noted that in the last variation of Development Conditions, the Deputy Premier (Hon Steven Miles MP, MC21/6086) in April 2022 provided advice to Barro Group of their need to ensure compliance under the Commonwealth's EPBC Act. Given these material changes, has an updated referral been made to Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water?</i></p> <p>A. The Minister's decision dated 13 May 2013 shows that the action (being the quarry extension) was determined not to be a controlled action at the time. Under Division 3A, Section 158A of the EPBC Act, once a decision has been made for such matters, the Commonwealth is not able to add or retrospectively apply any new matters (ie new species and/or upgrading of existing species) to the action.</p> <p>Therefore the upgrading of the koala listing from vulnerable to endangered in February 2022 does not have a bearing on the quarry extension as the Commonwealth assessment and decision under the EPBC Act had been made.</p> <p>The development conditions relating to koala habitat resulted in offset planting at Mt Cotton Quarry. For Stage 1 of the extension, About 3,300 native trees and shrubs have already been planted on site. This will increase to more than 32,000 over the life of the extension project to offset the removal of native vegetation. This is replanting at a rate of about three trees for every one removed.</p> <p><i>Qu. Mobile Plant – where will it be located operationally?</i></p> <p>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 several years away. The mobile crushing and screening plant will be located in the extraction area, inside the bund, as well as up at the top level.</p> <p><i>Qu. Use of trucks instead of conveyor – original noise modelling was on 1-2 trucks/day. Once operations commence, how many trucks will there be per day without the conveyor? Has the noise modelling been updated - if so, please provide.</i></p> <p>A. Construction of a conveyor is not envisaged for many years; potentially up to 10 years away. Noise modelling associated with truck movements up the haul road for stage 1A was checked and approved and will be commencing in the coming months. The number of internal quarry truck movements is not known as this is based on the expected tonnages of material to be moved. Barro Group will share the estimated truck movements with the CRG when this is available.</p> <p><i>Q. What is the crystalline silica content of the greywacke dust?</i></p> <p>A. Refer to the discussion on this topic above.</p> <p>Questions and actions arising:</p> <p><i>Qu. Are other quarries in the local area subject to the same development conditions as Mt Cotton Quarry, and can they be updated?</i></p> <p>A. No. Cr Talty advised that the conditions are set at the time that approvals are granted, which in some cases can mean they are older. The conditions cannot be retrospectively changed. John Taylor agreed and advised the group of one exception that he was aware of where DESI was attempting to roll out additional conditions for soil conditioning uses. John expressed that this process was extremely rare.</p> <p><i>Qu. Where is the crushing equipment located, and will it operate daily?</i></p> <p>A. The main crushing plant is located in the stockpiling/sales area (top of the hill) and will potentially be used continuously during the approved hours of operation, being Monday to Friday - 6:30am to 6:00pm and Saturday - 6:30am to 4:00pm.</p>	<p>Barro Group to update CRG on truck movements at a later meeting in the year</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p><i>Qu. What are the quarry's operating hours?</i> The quarry's approved operating hours are from Monday to Friday 6:30am to 6:00pm and Saturday from 6:30am to 4:00pm. After hours maintenance activities can occur between 6:00am and 8:00pm, Monday to Saturday. There is no work on Sundays or public holidays.</p> <p>However, Harry Clark noted that equipment was not usually started on site until 7:00am, and the quarry was often closed at 4:00pm.</p> <p><i>Qu. Are there any limits on the time quarry trucks can be on the road or the number of trucks?</i> A. Truck movements align with the quarry's operating hours. There are no limits on the number of trucks that can be on the road at any one time but there is limited capacity to hold large numbers of trucks on site.</p>	
<p>E. Next steps / general business</p> <p>The CRG agreed on the next meeting timing:</p> <p>Monday 12 August 2024 at 5:00pm on site.</p> <p>The next development conditions topic nominated by CRG members was: water quality</p>	<p>Barro Group to issue meeting and site visit invitations in July 2024</p>