

MT COTTON QUARRY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP



MT COTTON
QUARRY

MEETING #5 SUMMARY

Date and time: Monday 18 November 2024, 5:00pm – 7pm

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

Chairperson: Richard Lemon

Attending CRG members: Christine Melling, Liza'l Textor, Anthony Moloney, Richard Lemon, Ewen Thomson

Attending observers: Hon Mick de Brenni MP, Fiona Lawson

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

Apologies: Scott Textor, Beverley Lemon, Sue Panuccio, Peter Spencer, Jacob Carlyle, Rodney Powell, Cr Julie Talty

Items discussed	Action
<p>A. Welcome</p> <p>Chairperson Richard Lemon opened the meeting and ran through the agenda.</p> <p>The group welcomed Chris Downing who is the Site Senior Executive (SSE) at Barro Group, replacing Stephen Bennett. Chris provided information on his background including time spent as a butcher and subsequently a supervisor at Barro Group's Mt Marrow quarry. He has been with Barro Group for 12 years.</p>	Noted
<p>B. Update on commencement of quarry extension</p> <p>Harry Clark provided an update on the operation of Stage 1 of the quarry extension including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fencing near the Gramzow Road boundary and around the weather station had been completed.• Works on the haul road including an additional stormwater catchment pond and drainage had occurred. Some blasting was used in the earthworks and reprofiling to achieve the required 1 in 10 grade.• Culverts for the fauna crossing had arrived on site, ready to be installed.• Commissioning of the weather station and monthly (or more frequently if required) collection of data on noise, dust and other parameters had occurred. There were five dust monitors around the site as well as the live dust monitoring equipment installed at the Gramzow Road property, next to the on-site weather station.• Installation of a Total Suspended Particulates (TSP) sampling unit was planned for the coming days at the Gramzow Road property.• Regular water quality monitoring was underway.• A review of the offset tree planting (re-vegetation) areas on site had been completed. Any dead trees found were being replaced and some had been trimmed. Overall, the trees were growing very well.• Blasting in the lower quarry pit was planned for early in the new year.	Noted

Items discussed	Action
<p>Questions and actions arising:</p> <p><i>Qu: Please can you supply a copy of the maps displayed on the wall of the project office (showing locations of environmental monitoring locations) with the meeting notes?</i></p> <p>A: Yes, these can be supplied.</p>	Barro Group to supply maps to the group digitally
<p><i>Qu. What does the wildlife crossing comprise?</i></p> <p>A. The crossing is made up of five sections of 1.5m diameter concrete pipe joined together. The crossing is installed on an angle.</p>	
<p><i>Qu. With the new fencing near Gramzow Road, will this prevent us using the area as an escape route for movement of horses in the event of a fire? We have used this area for this purpose in the past.</i></p> <p>A. The fencing does not cut off access and there are still open sections. Barro Group has also installed a fire break along the fence line.</p>	
<p><i>Qu. There was a blast three weeks previously (possibly a Monday at about 1pm) that was a significant impact for adjacent neighbours. What was this?</i></p> <p>A. There were two blasts in recent weeks, with one being to crack rock for construction of the haul road. However, that was later in the day (not around lunchtime). Barro Group will check monitoring data on recent blasts and report back to the group.</p>	Barro Group to check monitoring data on blasts in early November 2024 and report at the next meeting
<p><i>Qu. Information in Barro Group's development application said that wind across the site is mostly from the south east. As such, wouldn't the selected locations of the dust monitors at the south east of the site be unlikely to capture dust levels (as they are not downwind)?</i></p> <p>A. The locations of dust monitors around the site were selected by technical expert MWA Environmental and approved by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI). These were considered the most suitable and practical locations for monitoring dust. Real time wind roses (showing wind speed and direction occurrences) can be provided now that the weather station is in place.</p>	Barro Group to provide wind roses at next meeting
<p><i>Qu. Is there a noise monitor near the eastern side of the ridge facing the quarry on Barro Group's West Mt Cotton Road property?</i></p> <p>A. Yes. There is a noise monitor there and the location was again selected by technical expert MWA Environmental. It is confirmed that the noise monitoring equipment has been located such that there are no obstructions in the way of measurement.</p>	
<p><i>Qu. How does environmental monitoring (eg noise, dust) data get shared with the CRG? Barro Group previously noted it was considering doing that. Some CRG members noted access to real time data was desirable.</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group is in a data collection phase and is interpreting initial data in consultation with DESI and Redland City Council. Some data will be provided to the CRG at today's meeting (presentation). In some cases, data is showing unexpected results; for example a 43db noise reading on a Sunday when no work is occurring at the quarry and this is difficult to interpret. To check monitoring equipment, Barro Group has arranged for MWA Environmental to conduct 'attended monitoring' (monitoring with a person present) to verify results. Barro Group expects to have more information on this data set by the next CRG meeting.</p>	Barro Group to share monitoring data at next meeting

Items discussed	Action
<p>Qu. Could higher Sunday noise readings be related to either hill climb (car racing) activities nearby or unauthorised access to the quarry by motorcycle riders? The motorcycle riders are accessing the quarry via Gramzow Road and have moved boulders to gain access. Recently, riders accessed a private property adjacent to the quarry.</p> <p>A. Barro Group appreciates the information and will re-install rocks or other barriers to try to prevent access as well as signs which have been removed. Notes: Mick de Brenni offered to contact Logan City Council regarding the matter and to request CCTV or other monitoring. John Taylor also subsequently confirmed that the audio files had been checked on the Sunday and there were no vehicle or motorbike noises apparent in these.</p>	<p>Barro Group to review possible access points and install barriers and signs. Mick de Brenni's office to contact Logan City Council about the matter.</p>
<p>Qu. The original development application noted the 'haul road' was a service and maintenance road and not for routine haulage of quarry product. This is significant as noise from this road travels to neighbouring residents so using it for regular haulage will create impacts.</p> <p>A. After discussion among the group, Barro Group noted the road was always to be used for haulage in the first stage of the quarry extension (ie several years). However Barro Group was happy to check the application documents and get back to the group.</p>	<p>Barro Group to provide response at the next CRG meeting</p>
<p><i>Subsequent comment provided by CRG member on review of the meeting notes:</i> It was a CRG member's understanding that the fauna crossing and associated fencing was to be completed <i>before</i> commencement of use as was the Gilbert and Sutherland designed water treatment process.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<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"> 1. Site tour dates for Christine Melling and Cr Talty Proposed dates have not been requested as yet. During the meeting, Mick de Brenni noted an interest in visiting the site again and proposed attending with Christine Melling. 2. Barro to provide a quarterly calendar of activities at the quarry Noted that this had not yet been produced and would be provided at the next meeting. 3. Barro Group to clarify basis of noise modelling in the development application for the extension; particularly the modelled number of truck movements on the internal haul road Noted that Barro Group has sought advice from its noise consultant MWA Environmental regarding previous noise modelling. A response will be provided to the CRG at the next meeting. 4. Barro Group to provide update on main prevailing wind directions on site from the weather station data As noted above, wind roses will be provided to the CRG at the next meeting. 5. Barro Group to confirm operating hours of weather station and dust monitor It was noted that the weather station and dust monitoring are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 	<p>Christine Melling and Mick de Brenni to identify a time to visit together and advise Barro Group</p> <p>Barro Group to provide at next meeting</p> <p>Barro Group to provide at next meeting</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>6. Barro Group to share initial water quality monitoring data with the CRG (from July 2024 onwards)</p> <p>Provided as part of presentation during meeting (refer to attached presentation slides).</p>	
<p>C. Presentation of initial environmental monitoring data and discussion</p> <p>John Taylor provided an overview of available data from the quarry's new weather station, dust monitoring and water quality monitoring. It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality testing from samples taken from California Creek demonstrated compliance with conditions. • Barro Group was seeking clarification from DESI regarding which compliance framework was applicable to water quality for the operations under the Environmental Authority (there are several). • Dust monitoring results demonstrated compliance with conditions, but it was noted that no major activity was occurring in the new quarry pit at present. 	Noted
<p>Questions and actions arising:</p> <p>Qu. <i>The water quality results don't explain why people living along Gramzow Road observe that California Creek turns yellow / is discoloured after some rain events, including ones over the past week.</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group acknowledges that there are occasions when water in California Creek is discoloured and we are trying to understand that. The data so far shows elevated turbidity results at times, but the Total Suspended Particulates (TSS) levels are within compliance limits. Barro Group will share data with the CRG as it becomes available, including after rain events.</p> <p>Qu. <i>Under Barro Group's stormwater management plan (written by Gilbert and Sutherland), there is supposed to be treatment of stormwater using both a sand filter and a sedge filter system. Are these operating?</i></p> <p>A. The stormwater system in place includes a series of stormwater drainage channels, holding ponds and tiered sediment basins which remove sediment before water is released to the environment. Barro Group will review the stormwater management plan and confirm whether this current arrangement is as described and will advise the CRG. The current process was inspected by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland and confirmed as acceptable by Redland City Council.</p> <p>Qu. <i>When presentation slides are provided to the CRG, can compliance limits be noted alongside the results?</i></p> <p>A. Yes.</p> <p>Qu. <i>Considering the lack of quarrying activity on site, the recent dust monitoring results can be viewed as background levels. The compliance limit is therefore eight to ten times higher than background. How is this okay for neighbours?</i></p> <p>A. After discussion among the group, it was noted that it's Barro Group's role to comply with their conditions and not to set them. That is the role of the State Government.</p> <p>Qu. <i>Who calibrates the data shown?</i></p> <p>A. Data is calibrated by Barro Group technical expert MWA Environmental and the live data equipment for noise and air quality is calibrated by Etkimo.</p> <p>Qu. <i>Can the technical expert on environmental monitoring attend the CRG to help with interpreting results?</i></p> <p>A. Yes. Barro Group would be happy to arrange this.</p>	Barro Group to clarify at next meeting
	Barro Group to invite MWA Environmental

Items discussed	Action
	representative to next meeting
Additional comments Mick de Brenni noted that to meet the quarry's energy requirements, Barro Group may consider solar power opportunities. This could involve creation of a local renewable energy zone to tap into solar energy created by rooftop solar systems in the Mt Cotton area.	Barro Group to consider
D. Next steps / general business The CRG agreed on the next meeting timing: Monday 14 April 2025 at 5:00pm on site. A discussion topic nominated by CRG members was: review of further data captured by the weather station, and noise and dust monitoring equipment on site.	Barro Group to issue meeting invitation and agenda