

# MT COTTON QUARRY COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP



**MT COTTON  
QUARRY**

## MEETING #7 SUMMARY

**Date and time:** Monday 1 September 2025, 5:00pm – 6:15pm

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

**Chairperson:** Richard Lemon

**Attending CRG members:** Anthony Moloney, Richard Lemon, Peter Spencer, Jacob Carlyle, Sue Panuccio, Rodney Powell

**Attending observers:** None

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

**Apologies:** Christine Melling, Liza'l and Scott Textor, Beverley Lemon, Ewen Thomson, Cr Julie Talty, Hon Mick de Brenni MP

Items discussed	Action
<p><b>A. Welcome</b></p> <p>Chairperson Richard Lemon opened the meeting and ran through the agenda.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p><b>B. Update on quarry activities</b></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"> <li>• Barro Group had reported pothole damage on Mt Cotton Road near the quarry to Transport and Main Roads, and this had been repaired.</li> <li>• The haul road within the quarry site had been completed and the road was a 1 in 10 grade. The fauna underpass – under the new haul road had also been installed.</li> <li>• After consultation with Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), Barro Group had installed an additional stormwater retention basin to capture runoff from the haul road; allowing any sediment to settle before it is transferred to the onsite treatment ponds. Some finishing works were occurring in this area. A further retention basin was located in the lower extraction pit area.</li> <li>• DETSI remained supportive of Barro Group's current actions and environmental monitoring approach to date.</li> <li>• Processing of quarry materials in the lower extraction area was starting in the coming weeks. There would be two blasts in the pit during October 2025 – one for material and one to expand the quarry sump holding capacity.</li> <li>• Barro Group had placed barriers near Gramzow Road to prevent 4WD vehicles and motorcycles from entering the quarry land and accessing adjoining private properties. However, 4WD drivers had tried to move and go around the barriers which appeared to have resulted in a car accident on site and tree damage. More work was needed to prevent access and surveillance cameras were an option.</li> <li>• Some tree lopping had occurred along the quarry entry road after trees were damaged in Cyclone Alfred.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Barro Group to install additional barriers near Gramzow Road</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p><b>Questions and actions arising:</b></p> <p><i>Qu. Will the extraction in the lower pit area involving quarrying of grey wacke material?</i> A. Yes. That is the main material being targeted.</p> <p><i>Qu. One CRG member noted that a group of motorcycle riders were provided access to his own property for recreation. The riders were known to him and did not access quarry land. The riders knew to report any suspicious riding behaviour or unauthorised access to him.</i> A. Barro Group thanked the CRG member.</p> <p><i>Qu. Are residents informed of blasts at the quarry?</i> A. There is no formal register for residents to add contact details to, but Barro Group would be happy to advise CRG members of the upcoming blasts via SMS. The blasts would be on weekdays.</p>	<p>Barro Group to send email request to all CRG members to obtain agreement to be placed on a site blast notification register (via SMS).</p>
<p><b>C. Action items from previous meeting</b></p> <p>The group reviewed action items from the previous meeting. The following comments were made:</p> <p><i>Item a: Barro Group to review areas where motorcycle riders are accessing the quarry from Gramzow road and install preventative measures.</i> Discussed above.</p> <p><i>Item b: Barro Group to schedule site tour for Christine Melling, Cr Talty and Mick de Brenni (and other CRG members if desired).</i> Kate noted she had contacted the above people about a potential tour, but no dates had been nominated. The wider CRG noted that several members would like to visit the quarry before the end of 2025. Barro Group agreed to provide this opportunity.</p> <p><i>Item c: Barro Group to provide a calendar of activities at the quarry for the CRG.</i> Upcoming activities (until the end of 2025) were advised at the meeting and noted above. Activities for the new year would be provided via email to CRG members at the end of the year.</p> <p><i>Item d: Barro Group to provide an update on noise monitoring and the MWA Environmental review.</i> John Taylor advised that attended noise monitoring at a CRG members' property had not yet occurred. This was because live (automatic) noise monitoring also needed to be active at the property beside the CRG member's. Barro Group to arrange a time to conduct the attended monitoring at the CRG member's property.</p>	<p>Kate Thomas to schedule a site tour before the end of 2025</p> <p>Barro Group to provide an email update for CRG members in December 2025</p> <p>Barro Group to set up attended noise monitoring</p>
<p><b>D. Presentation of environmental monitoring data and discussion</b></p> <p>John Taylor provided an overview of recent (April to August 2025) data from the quarry's weather station, dust monitoring and water quality monitoring. It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on blasting, water quality, air quality, silica and noise were generally compliant apart from some smaller scale non-compliances with water turbidity and total suspended solids at the site release points at times, although the reporting shows that this is improving, with all of the work that has occurred on the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Barro Group to attach slides on monitoring data to meeting summary</p>

Items discussed	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to the higher turbidity readings, the data showed a pattern of improvement. However it was agreed through discussions with DETSI that the dispersive soils at this location were contributing to the issue. Barro remained committed to site improvements (mainly through further stabilisation of new work) to continue addressing this.</li> <li>• A small spike in dust was noted near the site office on a day in April.</li> <li>• A copy of the monitoring data presented would be provided to CRG members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions and actions arising:</b></p> <p><i>Qu. In a recent blast on site (when boulders were being split to create the haul road), where were the monitors located? It is noted that this blast was very close to the compliance limit and it was noticed at a CRG member's property.</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group can obtain the information from the blasting contractor. If there are concerns about blasting impacts, a permanent monitor could be installed near the CRG member's property. <i>Note: information provided to the CRG with the meeting notes.</i></p> <p><i>Qu. How do the blasting contractors operate so close to the compliance limit?</i></p> <p>A. Setting up for blasting is a 'science' and experienced operators know how to control blasts.</p> <p><i>Qu. Is it true to say that blasts and extraction activities are not representative of typical quarrying works at present?</i></p> <p>A. Recent blasts are not typical, but the compliance limits remain. There is some activity in the new lower extraction area but works are not in full swing as yet.</p> <p><i>Qu. Could burning off (of vegetation) in the area affect dust monitoring results?</i></p> <p>A. Yes this could potentially affect results.</p> <p><i>Qu. A CRG member raised the issue of the dust haze evident on the horizon at about 4pm in the afternoon each work day from another quarry in the region (not owned by Barro Group). A printed image was shown. The CRG member expressed concern that if compliance limits for both Mt Cotton Quarry and the other quarry were the same, then once quarrying was in full swing at Mt Cotton Quarry the local area would be full of dust.</i></p> <p>A. Barro Group responded that it was hard to know what the image shown was depicting to enable comment. Any dust issues with other quarries needs to be dealt with separately and reported to DETSI Pollution Hotline.</p> <p><i>Qu. A CRG member noted that under State Planning legislation, quarrying should be more than 1km from homes and this was not the case at Mt Cotton Quarry.</i></p> <p>A. John Taylor advised that this interpretation was not correct, and the legislation was set up to protect the quarrying resource for the State. The aim was to ensure that development did not intensify within the buffer area. <i>Note: Subsequent to the meeting, a CRG member further questioned this advice and John Taylor provided a copy of the State Planning Policy and explained the Key Resource Area Assessment Benchmarks.</i></p> <p><i>Qu. What does Barro Group do to treat turbidity of water in sediment / other holding ponds on site?</i></p> <p>A. Chemicals (flocculants) aren't used at to achieve water quality compliance. Water is held in settlement ponds to enable sediment to fall to the bottom.</p> <p><i>Qu: What was the nature of the recent public enquiry made to the Federal Environment Minister under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) about the Mt Cotton Quarry expansion?</i></p>	<p>Barro Group to obtain information from the blasting contractor and consider additional monitors</p>

Items discussed	Action
<p>A. Barro Group was contacted by the Federal department and asked a series of questions about the expansion. These were answered and there has been no further request for information.</p> <p><i>Qu. Is the fauna underpass on the haul road in place?</i></p> <p>A. Yes, it's in place. Harry Clark advised that the koala diversion fencing associated with the fauna underpass had been arranged and was scheduled to be installed in the coming weeks.</p> <p><i>Qu. Will there be more traffic on Mt Cotton Road from the quarry once extraction activities ramp up?</i></p> <p>A. There may be a slight increase in traffic movements compared with current levels, but this depends on sales activity.</p> <p><i>Qu. Will any of the construction work at Golden Cockrel (nearby business) affect noise and dust monitoring at the quarry? This is a major project and night lighting is a concern for residents.</i></p> <p>A. We don't know, but Barro Group can review monitoring data if there are changes in noise or dust levels.</p>	
<p><b>a. Next steps / general business</b></p> <p>The CRG agreed on the next meeting timing:</p> <p><b>Monday 9 February 2026 at 5:00pm</b> on site.</p> <p>No meeting topic was requested.</p>	<p>Barro Group to issue meeting invitation and agenda</p>