Karuah East Quarry - Community Consultative Committee

Site Inspection Record of Discussion – 8 August 2016

Venue: Karuah East Quarry Site

Time: Start 3.00pm
End 4.20pm

Attendees: Michael Ulph (Chairperson), Wade Cameron (Community Representative), Goetz Schraer (Community Representative), Tony Ebben (Community Representative), Matthew Bell (Great Lakes Council), Gerard Bowen (Karuah East Quarry), Tim Grugeon (Karuah East Quarry), Chris Jones (SLR) and Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson)

Record of Site Inspection

- All CCC members were signed in as visitors at the Hunter Quarries office (Lot 21 DP 1024341) at 3pm.
- Gerard Bowen and Tim Grugeon transported the CCC members to the following locations:

    1. Centrally within the Karuah East Quarry site at an area north of where the quarry plant will be constructed (and south east of the extraction area) on Lot 13 DP 1024564; and
    2. To the *Tetratheca Juncea* translocation area on Lot 14 DP 1024564.

    When traveling from point 1 to point 2, vehicles travelled along existing tracks generally south along the Lot 12 / Lot 13 boundary to the area cleared for the internal access road at the southern extent of lot 12, before travelling east to the *Tetratheca Juncea* translocation area.

- CCC members were returned to the Hunter Quarries office at 4.20pm.

Record of Matters Discussed During Site Inspection

1. ***At location centrally within the Karuah East Quarry site at an area north of where the quarry plant will be constructed (and south east of the extraction area) on Lot 13 DP 1024564***

Matters Discussed:

- Gerard Bowen and Tim Grugeon outlined the works undertaken to date:
    - Vegetation clearing completed for much of the approved disturbance area. Some areas in the extraction area at the northern end of Lot 12 are yet to be cleared.
    - Pink flagging tape was used to delineate disturbance vs offset areas during clearing.
    - The southern extremity of the approved extraction area on Lot 12 is unlikely to be disturbed due to topography restricting surface water management considerations.

- Gerard Bowen and Tim Grugeon outlined the following planned works over the next 6 months:
    - Vegetation clearing and preparation for the external haul road through RMS land (Lot 16 & 17 DP 1024564) is scheduled to progress within the next 2 – 3 weeks.
    - Dam construction.
    - Bulk earthworks to accommodate the crushing plant.
    - The power poles through Lot 13 (which supply power to Lot 5 to the north east only (and owned by KEQ) will be removed. Re-establishing a power supply to Lot 5 will be considered by KEQ in due course in consultation with the electricity supplier.
    - KEQ intend to extract rock in early 2017 to cap prepared infrastructure plant areas to protect from weather.
    - Installation of a 'floppytop' chain wire fence to act as an interface between the disturbance and biodiversity offset areas.

- Wade Cameron – How will potential contamination from fuels / oils etc within the plant area be controlled?

  Chris Jones Response – A groundwater monitoring program will be in place (refer to the Water management Plan). In the event of a spill, the water management strategy will result in any potentially contaminated runoff being contained within a 'dirty' dam.

  Mat Radnidge Response – Fuel and oils will be stored in a nominated bunded area within the quarry and all refuelling will be undertaken in this bunded area.

  Tim Grugeon – Emergency spill procedures will also be adopted as part of the water management plan.

  Gerard Bowen – Diesel will be stored in double skinned tanks.

- Wade Cameron – During operation, what dust suppression matters will be in place?

Chris Jones Response – Any non sealed parts of the site will be subject to water spraying. The noisy / dusty sections of the plant will be enclosed. Regular air monitoring will be undertaken (refer air quality management plan).

Gerard Bowen Response – The crushing process will incorporate dust management technology that includes the use of an orange peel product that minimises dust. The added benefit of this product is that it reduces water usage.

Mat Radnidge Response – During the assessment / approval phase, the NSW DPE requested that KEQ consider the cumulative impacts of both the existing Karuah Quarry (at maximum production) and the Karuah East Quarry (at maximum production) combined, and demonstrate that the quarries can operate in accordance with air quality standards. This was successfully demonstrated to the satisfaction of the NSW DPE and NSW EPA prior to project approval.

- Goetz Schraer and Tony Ebben - How will the quarry secure power?

  Gerard Bowen Response – Diesel generators will be used until a power supply is secured from the electricity supplier.

- Matthew Bell – Prior to clearing, were pre-clearing surveys completed and what was identified?

  Tim Grugeon – Yes, pre clearing surveys were conducted by Kleinfelder in accordance with the Project Approval and EPBC approval. Sugar gliders and diamond pythons were identified and protected.

- Wade Cameron – Where will top soil be stockpiled? What measures are in place to ensure it does not become weed infested?

  Gerard Bowen Response – Along the eastern boundary of the disturbance area on Lot 13.

  Chris Jones Response – Native pasture mix and grasses will be planted on the top soil stockpiles to assist will holding it together. Weed management practices will be adopted.

- Wade Cameron – Will noise be an issue? The existing quarry is audible over the Pacific Highway. Wind conditions will influence how the noise travels.

  Chris Jones Response – Noise monitoring is undertaken and compliance with the Environment Protection Licence (EPL) and terms of project approval is required. A noise management plan is in place.

  Mat Radnidge Response – Similar to air quality considerations, cumulative noise impacts considering the existing Karuah Quarry at maximum production and the Karuah East quarry at maximum production were required to be considered and demonstrated acceptable to the NSW DPE and EPA prior to project approval.

Goetz Schraer – Noted that due to the topography of the site, the location of the infrastructure plant is in a suitable location in terms of noise as it is in an area of lower topography.

2. At Tetratheca Juncea translocation area on Lot 14 DP 1024564

Matters discussed:

- Tim Grugeon:
    - Outlined that the *tetratheca juncea* (TJ) translocation works were carried out in accordance with the TJ translocation plan endorsed by the NSW DPE.
    - The pink tape represented clumps of TJ.
    - The work was undertaken and supervised by Firebird Ecology (Sarah Jones).
    - TJ expert Colin Driscoll was consulted before the TJ translocation was undertaken.
    - Confirmed that a number of the TJ stems are starting to bud. In September KEQ will have a good gauge on initial success of the program.
    - An irrigation system has been established for the TJ translocation area.

- Wade Cameron – Has photo evidence been taken / recorded of each step of the process and will photo recording continue.

  Tim Grugeon Response – Yes.

- Wade Cameron – What contingencies are in place if the TJ translocation plan is unsuccessful?

  Tim Grugeon Response – The TJ translocation plan will be adhered to.

  Mat Radnidge Response – In excess of 6,000 clumps of recorded TJ are within the biodiversity offset area which will be protected long term.

- Wade Cameron – Was the translocation area soil type matched with the soil type where the TJ plants were removed? Concern that there are no other TJ clumps in the area of translocation.

  Tim Grugeon Response - Yes the soil type was matched and deemed suitable by previous ecological surveys.

- Matthew Bell – Indicated that lots of effort has clearly gone into the TJ translocation program and he commended the works.

- Wade Cameron – Agreed with Matthew Bell that the effort on the TJ translocation program is good.