Minutes

19 September 2022

Project name	Karuah East Quarry - Community Consultative Committee	**From**	Michael Ulph
Subject	Meeting Minutes – September	**Tel**	0458 049 847
Date / Time	19 September 2022 / 3:56 pm	**Project no.**	2218437
Attendees	Michael Ulph (Chairperson), Joel Fleming (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd), Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson), Isaac Daley (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd), Tessa Hestelow (Community Representative), Bob Trotter (Community Representative), Shane Emmanuel (Community Representative, delegate for Uwe Seil), Wade Cameron (Community Representative), John Lyall (Port Stephens Shellfish Program)	**Apologies**	Michael Todd (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd), Uwe Seil (Community Representative), Dean Coles (Port Stephens Shellfish Program), Janine Reid (North Arm Cove Residents Assoc)
Others not present	Goetz Schraer (Community Representative), Mathew Bell – Midcoast Council Shai Richardson – Karuah LALC		
Objective	Record discussion and actions from this meeting.		

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome	– Michael Ulph paid respect to the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the Karuah region, and Elders past, present and future. – A few non attendees noted. Some had accepted the meeting request. – Welcome to Shane Emmanuel – Wade's neighbour and delegate of Uwe Seil
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	– Michael Ulph confirmed that KEQ Pty Ltd is paying GHD (his employer) a fee for Michael to act as the Independent Chairperson for the CCC. – Mat Radnidge confirmed that KEQ Pty Ltd is paying ADW Johnson (his employer) a fee for Mat to be a member of the CCC. – Joel Fleming and Isaac Daley are employees of Hunter Quarries / Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd.
Acceptance of Previous Minutes	– Draft CCC Meeting Minutes dated March 14th 2022. Moved: Mat Radnidge Seconded: Tessa Hestelow
Correspondence	• 25 March 2022 – Michael Ulph supplied an email from the NSW DPE providing information on the NSW DPE's review of the *Community Consultive Committee Guideline, State Significant Projects.* The NSW DPE invited feedback from CCC's on the existing guidelines.

Agenda Item	Notes
	• 31 March 2022 – Mat Radnidge supplied to CCC members an email re: confirmation that the EPBC Referral for MOD 10 had been lodged with the Federal DAWE and confirmed the exhibition period. • 12 April 2022 - Michael Ulph supplied the draft minutes of the CCC meeting dated 14 March 2022 to all members and invited comment. • 4 May 2022 – Mat Radnidge supplied an email confirming that the revised Noise Management Plan for the KEQ to incorporate the MOD 9 approval (extended hours of operation) that has been recently approved. The email also confirmed that the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) which is issued by the NSW EPA, would require updating separately. • 22 July 2022 – Joel Fleming supplied an email confirming MOD 10 had been lodged with the NSW DPE and confirmed the public exhibition period.

Company Report & Overview of Activities	• Joel described the project in summary, including current approvals, licences, management plans and previous Modifications.
	
	Project Summary
	• Approved by the NSW Independent Planning Commission on 17 June 2014.
	• Operational since late 2017.
	• Quarrying operation is permitted on site until 31st December 2034.
	• The extraction, processing and transport of up to 1.5 million tonnes of andesite material per year from a total resource of approximately 29 million tonnes.
	• Establishment of quarry plant, infrastructure, roads and stockpile areas.
	• Total permitted disturbance area of 33.01ha.
	• Establishment of a biodiversity offset area on land adjacent to the quarry (Approx. 138ha).
	• Conditions apply to manage potential impacts associated with quarry operation including:
	  • Noise & Blasting
	  • Air Quality
	  • Soil and Water
	  • Transport
	  • Biodiversity
	  • Heritage
	  • Emergency Response
	  • Construction of Blue Rock Close.
	
	• Wade asked if Management Plans are available on the company website? Mat replied yes, they are as well as monitoring results.
	
	Figure 8: KEQ Air Quality Monitoring Equipment
	
	• Compliance monitoring including:
	  ○ Air quality – no issues in the reporting period. The 2019 bushfires caused a spike which is visible on the graph.

Agenda Item	Notes

- Dust Deposition Gauges (DDGs) – five located SE to SW of site closest to residents. Left out for 30 days prior to analysis. DDG jars (glass) sometimes shatter when handled.

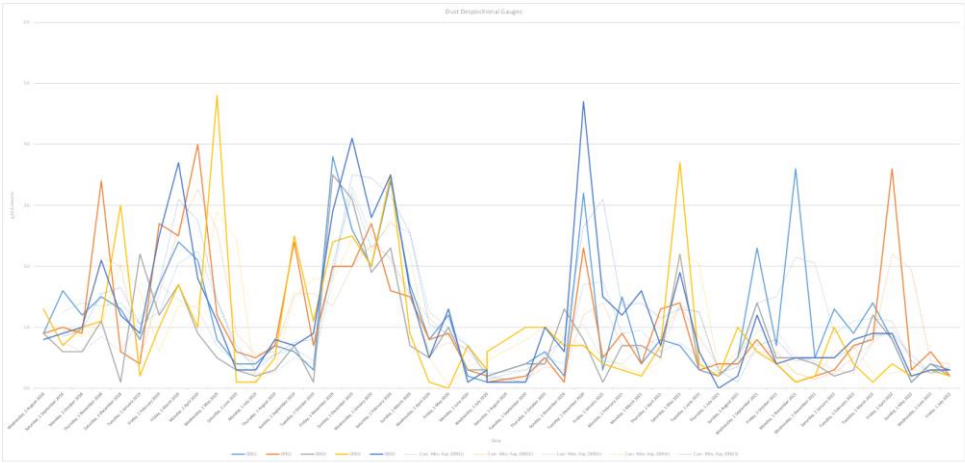

Figure 6: Air quality monitoring - DDG

NB: John Lyall arrived at around 4:20pm. John is a representative of Port Stephens Shellfish Program.

Wind is predominantly NW **–** SE. Wade asked does ongoing monitoring consider the prevailing winds? Joel confirmed that monitoring is undertaken at the closest sensitive receivers. Mat confirmed that this monitoring in conducted in line with the NSW DPE approved Air Quality Management Plan.

A meteorological station at Karuah Quarry measures rainfall, temperature, wind, solar radiation; among other parameters. Recent rainfall has been quite high with multiple 1 in 100 year events, and one 1 in 200 year event in the reporting period, 176.8ml in less than 12 hours last October.

Dam 1 is the primary water storage for KEQ, designed to have 12ML of water storage. It also collects sediments.

- There were 15 days of uncontrolled discharging with daily sampling. Uncontrolled discharges in early and late March due to rainfall. Messages are sent to the community when this occurs, as well as contact with EPA and DPE. Report to regulators within 7 days.

Dam 1 (Licensed Discharge Point 1)

Dam 1 is the primary water storage for KEQ and provides water for operational purposes; such as dust suppression. The designed capacity is 12ML.

There were a total of **15** days of discharging, during which daily monitoring was undertaken. See a summary of results in table below.

Dam 1 discharges into the Bulga Creek catchment.

	pH	EC	Turbidity	TSS	Oil and Grease
No. Samples	15	15	15	15	2
Min	7.1	284	59	20	<5
Mean	7.2	538	1,257	1,298	<5
Max	7.6	960	5,000	3,200	<5

Figure 10: Dam 1 (7:12am 7 April 2022)

- Dam 1 is the largest dam.

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Agenda Item	Notes

- Wade asked where the monitoring point is for dam 1. Joel answered that it is at the discharge point.
- Dam 2 is 0.5 megalitres in size and had 1 uncontrolled discharge and a couple of controlled discharges.

Dam 2 (Licensed Discharge Point 2)

The designed capacity of Dam 2 is 0.5 ML.

There was a total of **9** days of discharging, during which daily monitoring was undertaken. See a summary of results in table below.

Dam 2 discharges into the Yalimba Creek catchment.

	pH	EC	Turbidity	TSS	Oil and Grease
No. Samples	9	9	9	9	0
Min	6.7	102	15	5	NV
Mean	7.0	445	304	234	NV
Max	7.3	629	1,600	1,300	NV

Figure 11: Dam 2 (8:47am 30 May 2022)

- Dam 3 had 1 uncontrolled discharge event in March. Some controlled discharges.

Dam 3 (Licensed Discharge Point 3)

The designed capacity of Dam 3 is 2 ML.

There was a total of **16** days of discharging, during which daily monitoring was undertaken. See a summary of results in table below

Dam 3 discharges into the Bulga Creek catchment.

	pH	EC	Turbidity	TSS	Oil and Grease
No. Samples	16	16	16	16	0
Min	7.1	329	15	6	NV
Mean	7.5	533	111	59	NV
Max	7.7	654	850	500	NV

Figure 12: Dam 3 8:45am 23 March 2022

- John asked if there were any chemicals released during the discharges as March was when the oysters died. Joel replied that as a quarry there are not high levels of any chemicals and water is treated prior to discharge. Only calcium chloride is added which is a form of salt, and this is added responsibly to manage turbidity.
- John said that the industry is looking for any answer.
- Dam 1 does not flow into Number 1 creek which is the Yalimbah Creek catchment.
- Dam 2 does flow into Number 1 creek and so the priority is to get water into dams 1 and 3 and to discharge from those.
- Monitoring for pH, EC, TSS, turbidity, oil and grease is also carried out monthly.

Agenda Item	Notes
	• Noise monitoring – there is a new noise management plan recently approved to include the outcomes of the MOD 9 approval (extended hours of operation). Monitoring occurs quarterly. Various variables (rain, wind) are taken into account whilst monitoring. KEQ was compliant on both monitoring occasions.

Noise Monitoring

KEQ engaged acoustic consultants EMM to complete a review of operational noise from Karuah East Quarry within the surrounding community based on attended measurements conducted during the day, evening and morning shoulder periods on 18 and 22 August 2022.

The assessment of noise contributions from Karuah East Quarry included consideration of modifying factors for noise characteristics where relevant and in accordance with the *Noise Policy for Industry* (NSW EPA, 2017).

Karuah East Quarry noise contributions were below (satisfied) the noise limits at all monitoring locations for this round of monitoring.

Figure 13: KEQ Project Approval; Noise Policy for Industry (NSW EPA, 2017); KEQ Noise Management Plan.

- Occasionally audible are engine revs, plant, and reversing beepers.
- Reversing beepers are mostly quackers and not beepers.
- John said they can hear the crushing plant whilst working on the water sometimes. Joel mentioned there were sometimes noise-enhancing factors such as wind, or an extremely calm day.

Blast Monitoring

- During this reporting period, there have been 13 blasts undertaken.
- Monitoring is undertaken to measure compliance with the Principal Approvals criteria for airblast overpressure and ground vibration.
- Monitoring is conducted at the closest receptor to the blast.
- All blasts were compliant with the criteria.

Production and Sales

- Previous reporting period - 444,716 tonnes of material processed.
- This reporting period - 401,016 tonnes of material processed.

Figure 15: Post blast photo

- Blast monitoring. There were 13 blasts in the reporting period. All were compliant.
- Tessa asked if monitoring occurred at the end of her street. Joel replied that it depended on where in the pit the blast occurred – such as higher or lower.
- Joel played a short video that showed a blast, to illustrate how well controlled the blasts are. Electrical detonators have 'changed the game'.

Complaints: There was one general complaint made to the Department of Planning and Environment about the cumulative impacts from quarries and extractive industries in the region generally, and the contribution to air quality and water pollution issues. KEQ provided a range of information and the issue was closed out.

Agenda Item	Notes

Non-Compliance

Date	Condition Summary	Notes
4 March 2022	Uncontrolled discharge, exceedance of pollution criteria (*Project Approval; Environmental Protection Licence)*	Excessive rainfall was received over a prolonged period resulting in uncontrolled discharge from KEQ Dam 1. Daily discharge monitoring concluded that water quality exceeded pollution criteria outlined in the *Project Approval* and *Environmental Protection Licence*. The *Pollution Incident Response Management Plan* was enacted and appropriate regulatory authorities were notified.
31 March 2022	Uncontrolled discharge, exceedance of pollution criteria (*Project Approval; Environmental Protection Licence)*	Excessive rainfall was received over a prolonged period resulting in uncontrolled discharge from KEQ Dam 1. Daily discharge monitoring concluded that water quality exceeded pollution criteria outlined in the *Project Approval* and *Environmental Protection Licence*. The *Pollution Incident Response Management Plan* was enacted and appropriate regulatory authorities were notified.

Table 2: Non-compliance January 2022 – June 2022

Non-compliance: Two water discharges early March and then late March. The first one was dam 1 only, the latter was all three dams during the heavy rainfall.

Mod 10 Update

Recap:

- Approx 7.17Ha for additional stockpiling next to the existing stockpile area. The blue area on the map.
- Facilitate improved surface water management and infrastructure.
- Include area for administration building and heavy vehicle parking.
- No change to annual extraction limits, hours of operation, processing or vehicle frequency.

UPDATE: Proposed MOD 10 (Increase Disturbance Area)

Re-Cap:

- Approximately 7.17ha of additional disturbance area.
- Primary purpose is to establish additional stockpile area.
- Logically positioned next to existing stockpile areas at the southern end of the site.
- Will facilitate improved surface water management and infrastructure.
- Will include area for an administration building and heavy vehicle parking.
- No change in annual extraction area, rates, hours of operation, quarrying/processing methods or vehicle frequency.

Status Update:

- Lodged with the NSW DPE in July 2021
- It currently under assessment by the NSW DPE.
- Is being assessed under the bi-lateral agreement between the NSW DPE and Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE).
- Public exhibition concluded on 17 August 2022.
- A number of agencies have completed their assessment including:
  - NSW DPE – Biodiversity Conservation Division
  - NSW DPE – Water
  - NSW Environment Protection Authority
  - Heritage NSW (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage & European Heritage)
  - NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
  - NSW Resources Regulator
  - Transport for NSW
- All agency referrals are generally positive with no significant issues raised. Information has been requested (clarifying information) which KEQ Pty Ltd are currently in the process of responding to.

Update:

- Lodged with NSW DPE in July 2021. Currently under assessment by NSW DPE and Federal DAWE.
- Exhibition concluded on 17th August 2022 (after a one-month exhibition period).
- Assessed by Biodiversity Conservation Division, NSW DPE Water, EPA, Heritage NSW, DPI fisheries, Resource Regulator and Transport for NSW.
- No significant issues raised. Some further information requested (clarifying information) which KEQ Pty Ltd are currently in the process of responding to.

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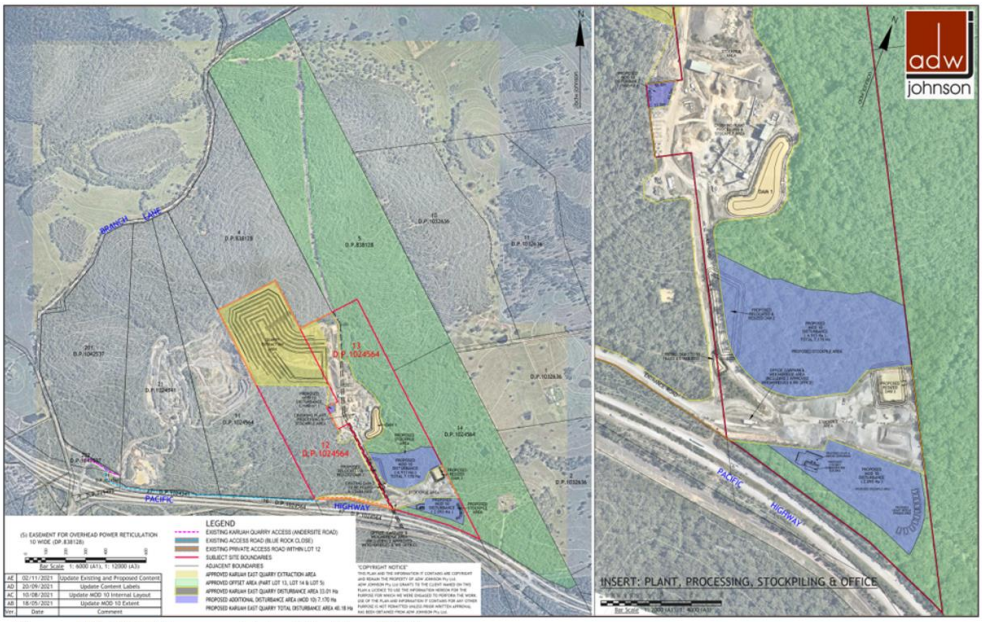
Agenda Item	Notes
	Water management strategy: • Incorporates best practice storm water management. • Regulation of site discharges and provides an appropriate degree of water security for operations (eg. for dust suppression). • Eastern portion drains to the East to Bulga Creek, which joins the Karuah River approx. 3.5km away. • Western portion drains to the west into Yalimbah Creek, which joins the Karuah river approx. 1km away. • Discharging is preferred to the Bulga Creek catchment. • 3 dams – each a licenced discharge point. • Dam 2 to be decommissioned, repositioned and resized. • Dams 2 and 3 to be upgraded and sized appropriately for the additional disturbed areas. • Dam 1 to stay as is. • Diversion drains and earth bunds will divert water runoff from disturbed areas into the dams. • Dam one to stay at 12 megalitres, dam two increases to 8 megalitres, dam three to around 5 megalitres. Total onsite water storage to be 25.26 megalitres. Surface water monitoring to continue.  **Figure 16**: KEQ Proposed Modification 10 Plan
General Business	• Joel showed images of a contractor using a long-reach front end loader to de-silt all of the dams and some retention basins. (see below). • Wade asked where the silt goes. Joel advised that the silt will be taken higher in the quarry to dry out, for either mixing with other material for sale or re-use. • Wade asked if the silt was tested. Joel advised it was not tested. • Michael asked for any other questions from CCC members or community members via the CCC members. • Joel mentioned that demand for quarry products was high.

Agenda Item	Notes
	General Business KEQ Dam De-silting Project • The region has experienced above average rainfall for an extended period of time. • The three dams at KEQ have capture rainfall and subsequent material laden surface runoff. • Over the first week of June 2022, a dam de-silting project was undertaken to remove sediment from dams and restore dam storage capacity. • See progressive photos of Dam 1 below. **Figure 19:** KEQ Dam des-silting project • Shane asked how far the KEQ operation is under the approved production limit of 1.5 million tonnes per annum. • Joel replied they are not over one million tonnes yet. The KEQ has only been fully operational since 2019. Demand is expected to be high for high quality material for upcoming bypasses etc (eg. the Heatherbrae bypass project) in the medium term. The 1.5 million tonne productivity is likely still years away. • Shane asked about Karuah South Quarry. It is proposed to be around 600,000 tonnes per annum. Not part of Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd or KEQ Pty Ltd. • Wade described the site visit. • Mat described the proposed MOD 10 offset arrangements (including land based 'like for like' replacement offsets) for vegetation proposed to be removed under Mod 10. • John described the oyster industry as being pretty ordinary. Many oyster growers have shut down. Constant fresh water from flooding has damaged the oysters' immune systems and they have suffered badly. Chemicals can be purchased and used by any resident and development nearby has increased. Sewage in the water has been another impact. Many growers are older and can't continue. Some younger growers will continue.
Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.	Next meeting scheduled for: March 13th 2023 • 3pm – Site Inspection (meet at Karuah East Quarry Office, Blue Rock Close, Karuah); and • 4pm – CCC Meeting at Karuah RSL Club. Michael Ulph to issue calendar invites to CCC members.
Meeting close	The meeting was closed at 5.05pm

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