



Karuah East Quarry - Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Minutes – 14 September 2020

Venue: KEQ site office (former dwelling) on Lot 12 DP 1024564

Time: CCC Meeting: Start 4.00pm
End 4.45pm

Minutes

Attendees: Michael Ulph (Chairperson), Tony Ebben (Community Representative), Wade Cameron (Community Representative), Greg Dressler (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd), Joel Fleming (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd) and Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson).

Agenda

1) Welcome

- Michael Ulph paid respect to the traditional Aboriginal land owners of Karuah, past, present and future.

2) Apologies

- Goetz Schraer (Community Representative) – Apology.
- Mat Bell (Mid Coast Council) – Absent.

3) 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.
- Greg Dressler & Joel Fleming are employees of Hunter Quarries / Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd.

4) Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- Draft CCC Meeting Minutes dated 9 March 2020 (attached to this agenda); and
- Draft Site Inspection Record dated 9 March 2020 (attached to this agenda).

Moved: Greg Dressler

Seconded: Joel Fleming

5) Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph when a decision on MOD 8 (acoustics) is made by the NSW DPIE. Michael will then advise the CCC members.

Comment – Mat Radnidge advised the CCC of the following:

- This application remains under assessment by the NSW DPIE.
- There do not appear to be any issues with the application. The NSW EPA provided recommended conditions of consent in March 2020. The NSW DPIE assessment staff confirmed in May 2020 that there is no outstanding information required.
- The most recent advice from the DPIE assessment staff is that they are currently awaiting NSW DPIE Director review / sign off.

No questions / comments were raised by the CCC.

- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph as any progress on MOD 9 (proposed additional disturbance area for stockpiling) is made. In particular when an application is lodged with the NSW DPIE.

Comments:

- Mat Radnidge advised the CCC of the following:
 - This proposed MOD application has been flagged at previous CCC meetings.
 - The project has advanced but remains preliminary in nature.
 - The proposal involves an additional disturbance area of approximately 7.2ha.
- Mat Radnidge & Greg Dressler confirmed the following key points of justification for the proposed MOD:
 - KEQ's customer base has evolved since initial quarry design. Customers now include Transport for NSW (formerly RMS), Port of Newcastle and local Councils.
 - To comply with tendering requirements, KEQ needs to demonstrate proof of stockpiling capacity that has been subject to quality assurance testing. This

often requires three (3) x 4,000m³ stockpiles. Given that KEQ produce 15 different products, stockpiling area is insufficient. This is a problem that will lead to lost tenders.

- As an example, KEQ's available stockpiling area is approximately 27,000m², whereas other local quarries have stockpile areas in excess of 100,000m².

○ Mat Radnidge noted:

- As identified at previous meetings, the proposal will cut into the edge of the biodiversity offset area on Lot 13 DP 1024564.
- KEQ Pty Ltd have met with both State and Federal ecology assessment regulators and they have advised that projects such as this have been done in the past and can be done again provided that:
 - The offset to be impacted is replaced with like for like vegetation;
 - The impacts of the proposal are then offset.
- At this stage KEQ Pty are considering fulfilling offsetting requirements by using the northern and southern portions of nearby Lot 201 DP 1042537 and the northern section of Lot 21 DP 1024341 plus payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Divisions' (BCD) Conservation Fund or securing offsets credits from the Biodiversity Credits Register (an open market database).

○ Mat Radnidge noted that:

- Ecology fieldwork is complete;
- The stormwater management strategy is largely complete;
- The following studies will shortly be progressed:
 - Aboriginal Archaeology;
 - Noise;
 - Air Quality;
 - Groundwater;
 - Visual Impact;
 - Soil & Land Resource; and
 - Rehabilitation.
- KEQ Pty Ltd will provide a further update to the CCC when the application is submitted to the DPIE.

○ Wade Cameron – Totally understands and accepts the rationale of the additional disturbance area.

○ Wade Cameron – Why can't other land be secured by KEQ PL to offset the proposal instead of utilising land already owned by Hunter Quarries?

Mat Radnidge – The land being considered by KEQ Pty Ltd to be used for offsetting (part Lot 21 and part Lot 201) is currently within a zone that allows for a range of development. Formally offsetting these lands protects them from future development.

No further questions were raised by CCC members.

6) Correspondence.

- a) 4 April 2020 – Michael Ulph supplied the draft minutes of the 9th March 2020 CCC meeting and site inspection to all CCC members and invited comment.

Noted by CCC members.

7) Company Report and Overview of Activities.

The Company Report and Overview of Activities (see attached) was presented by Joel Fleming and included the following:

- Progress of the Project
- Monitoring and Environmental Performance
- Community Complaints and Response to Complaints
- Information Provided to the Community and any Feedback

Joel advised that the format of the report was new and invited any feedback from the CCC following review of the document.

Michael Ulph – Indicated that inserting photos would be helpful.

No further feedback was supplied.

Questions / discussions resulting from the above were as follows:

- Michael Ulph – Will there be more cut into the ridgeline?

Greg Dressler – Yes, the current quarry pit will move approximately 50-60m north towards the rear boundary. After that, the quarry pit will do down to a suitable depth. At present, clay weathered material is being encountered which is unsuitable.

Joel Fleming – Visually, you cannot see the KEQ disturbance area when driving north along the Pacific Highway, unlike the old Karuah Quarry pit which is visible.

- Joel Fleming & Greg Dressler – Side casting is underway. Side casting involves the transport of overburden from KEQ to the benches of the adjoining Karuah Quarry to the west. The benches will then be hydro mulched, likely from January 2020. The ridgeline that separates the KEQ and Karuah Quarry will be planted with tube stock. This will soften the visual impact of the Karuah Quarry when travelling north along the Pacific Highway. The works are in line with the approved rehabilitation plans.

The owner of Lot 11 DP 1024564 has also requested water storage within the Karuah Quarry void.

No further questions were raised by CCC members.

8) Update on status of Modification Applications discussed at March 2020 CCC meeting.

Addressed in Item 5 above.

Greg Dressler – Advised the CCC that KEQ Pty Ltd are considering a new modification application that will involve extending the hours of operation of the quarry. This will likely relate to the sales component of the KEQ (ie. the loading of trucks with material to transport to market). Greg advised that this is necessary because KEQ is located approximately 1 hour from key projects in the Newcastle and Hunter Valley area. Given that the quarry cannot open until 7am (Mon – Sat), there is a delay in supply of product to building sites, which are typically operating from 7am. The proposal will address this delay in supply of product.

Greg Dressler – The details of the proposal are very preliminary in nature and an acoustic assessment will be undertaken to inform the reasonable extent of what is applied for.

Mat Radnidge – Advised that state wide, as a Covid-19 economic stimulus measure, the NSW Government are supporting infrastructure and construction projects and this has included greater flexibility in construction hours. The proposal will support this initiative.

Wade Cameron – Will this application include public consultation?

Mat Radnidge – Yes. The process for this MOD application will likely be:

- KEQ PL will commission an acoustic specialist to review the proposal and confirm if the project is feasible or not (in terms of expanding approved hours of operation).
- Once the full details of the application are known, this will be reported back to the CCC.
- The application will be lodged and assessed by the NSW DPIE and EPA. As part of this process, there is a mandatory public exhibition phase.

No further questions / comments were raised by the CCC.

9) General Business

- Joel Fleming – Invited any CCC member comment relevant to the adjoining Karuah Quarry.

No comments / questions.

- Wade Cameron – Asked if the CCC were aware of the status of the proposed (separate) Karuah South Quarry?

Greg Dressler – Indicated that he understands the application remains under assessment.

- Joel Fleming – The first independent audit for KEQ is underway.

Wade Cameron – What is the independent audit?

Mat Radnidge – It is a consent requirement that an independent party is commissioned to undertake a detailed review of all conditions of consent for the KEQ.

Michael Ulph – Confirmed that as part of the independent audit, the auditor contacts regulatory agencies. Michael advised that whilst the CCC is not a regulatory agency, he received contact from the auditor to discuss the operation of the CCC and key issues that have arisen. Michael advised that noise was the most common matter discussed and KEQ had implemented a range of noise mitigation measures to address the matter.

Greg Dressler – This is a very thorough process and the independent auditor's appointment needs to be approved by the NSW DPIE.

Joel Fleming – Once complete, an action plan is developed to address any outstanding items. The audit will be made publicly available on the KEQ website.

- Wade Cameron – Have there been any non-compliances in monitoring?

Joel Fleming – Noted that the regional bushfires during the 2019/20 summer season caused a spike in air quality monitoring results; however these were not recorded as non-compliances as the consent excludes monitoring results recorded during extraordinary events such as bushfires.

- Joel Fleming – There is one item for attention, which relates to undertaking noise monitoring at 2 x receivers south of the Pacific Highway. Noise from the quarry is inaudible at the 2 x monitoring locations south of the Pacific Highway and this has been confirmed by two separate acoustic experts. For this reason the NSW DPIE have agreed that monitoring is not necessary at these locations, however the Environment Protection License contains a requirement for monitoring at these 2 x southern receivers. KEQ Pty Ltd are currently resolving this matter with the NSW EPA.

- Wade Cameron – How are dam capacities?

Greg Dressler – Since February 2020, very good. Prior to this, due to the drought, levels were low.

- Wade Cameron – Why are pH levels so high?

Greg Dressler – KEQ PL are still learning about the site as the quarry develops.

Joel Fleming – Dam 3 receives runoff from stockpiles, which may be an influencing factor of dam water pH as the stockpiled material (crushed andesite) has an alkaline pH. Dam 1 and 2 frequently have neutral pH results.

- Joel Fleming – The 2nd fauna crossing was installed recently. A 12 monthly monitoring program will commence shortly.

Wade Cameron – With cameras?

Joel Fleming – Yes. Additionally, 195 nest boxes were recently installed.

Wade Cameron – That is an excellent outcome.

- Michael Ulph – Were there different sized nest boxes installed?

Joel Fleming – Yes, there were approximately 6 different sizes of nest box used to cater for different fauna including bats, possums and glossy black cockatoos. Two year monitoring will occur at nest boxes.

- Wade Cameron – How is the *Tetratheca juncea* (TJ) translocation site going?

Michael Ulph – Arrangements will be made for the CCC to view the (TJ) translocation area in 12 months to coincide with the flowering period.

Wade Cameron – He is interested in this matter because the survival rate is typically 20% after five years.

Joel Fleming – The 5th and final year of TJ monitoring is underway. At this time the translocation area is having a success rate of between 20% - 30% from memory.

10) Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 1st March 2021. Details as follows:

- 3pm – Site Inspection (meet at Karuah East Quarry Office, Blue Rock Close, Karuah); and
- 4pm – CCC Meeting at Karuah East Quarry office.

Michael Ulph confirmed he would issue calendar invites to CCC members.

Meeting closed – 4.45pm.

Summary of Actions Arising from Meeting

- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph when a decision on MOD 8 (acoustics) is made by the NSW DPIE. Michael will then advise the CCC members.
- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph as any progress on the MOD for proposed additional disturbance area for stockpiling is made. In particular when an application is lodged with NSW DPIE.
- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph as any progress on the MOD to extend sales activity is made, in particular details of the proposal once KEQ PL is informed by an acoustic assessment.
- Michael Ulph to issue calendar invites for 1st March 2021 CCC meeting.

Enclosed:

- Site Inspection Minutes 14 September 2020; and
- Company Report & Overview September 2020 (refer to Item 7 above).