

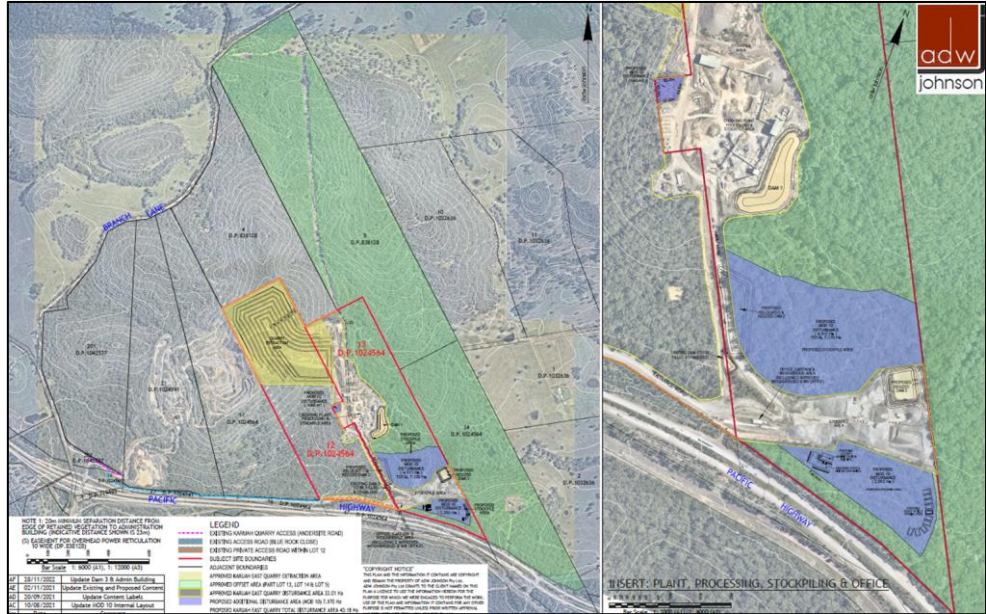
# Minutes

25 March 2024

<b>Project name</b>	Karuah East Quarry - Community Consultative Committee	<b>From</b>	Michael Ulph
<b>Subject</b>	Meeting Minutes – March	<b>Tel</b>	0458 049 847
<b>Date / Time</b>	25 March / 4.05pm	<b>Project no.</b>	2218437
<b>Attendees</b>	Michael Ulph (Chairperson) Scott Ellerton (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd) Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson) John Lyall (Port Stephens Shellfish Program) Janine Reid (North Arm Cove Residents Association) Bob Trotter (Community Representative) Mathew Bell – Mid Coast Council	<b>Apologies</b>	Uwe Seil (Community Representative) Goetz Schraer (Community Representative) Tessa Hestelow (Community Representative) Wade Cameron (Community Representative)
<b>Others not present</b>	Karuah LALC Representative		
<b>Objective</b>	Record discussion and actions from this meeting.		

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Michael Ulph paid respect to the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the Karuah region, and Elders past, present and future.</li> <li>– Mathew Bell (Mathew B) introduced himself to the committee as Mid Coast Council's Senior Ecologist.</li> <li>– All other members of the committee provided introductions to Mathew Bell.</li> </ul>
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Michael Ulph confirmed that KEQ Pty Limited (KEQPL) is paying GHD (his employer) a fee for Michael to act as the Independent Chairperson for the CCC.</li> <li>– Mat Radnidge (Mat R) confirmed that KEQPL is paying ADW Johnson (his employer) a fee for Mat to be a member of the CCC.</li> <li>– Scott Ellerton is an employee of KEQPL.</li> </ul>
Safety Moment	Not discussed.
Acceptance of Previous Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Draft CCC Meeting Minutes dated 18 September 2023.</li> </ul> <p>Moved: Janine Reid Seconded: John Lyall</p>
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft minutes dated 18 September 2023 were supplied to CCC members by Michael Ulph for review/comment. No comments were received.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Notes
Company Report & Overview of Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott and Mat R described the project in summary, including current approvals, licences, management plans and project history (including previous modifications).</li> <li>• Mat R confirmed that all approvals and management plans are available on the Hunter Quarries website.</li> <li>• In relation to the current approved site plan (extract provided below) Michael Ulph confirmed that the yellow shading is the approved extraction area.</li> </ul>



**Approved Site Plan (MOD 10)**

- Michael asked CCC members if they had visited the primary crusher (pictured below) since the noise attenuation works had been completed? Michael recalled that the DPHI (formerly DPE) had commented whilst on site that the noise attenuation installed was industry best practice.
- Mat R noted that the noise attenuation measures were implemented as part of the previously approved MOD 8 application (approved on 22 December 2020). Implementation was a result of a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) being completed at that time that established noise limits in line with the *Noise Policy for Industry* and recommended targeted noise attenuation measures. Relevant to the primary crusher, it was noted that it was enclosed with pre cast concrete walls and ‘hushclad’ roofing, with the opening for heavy vehicle access oriented to the west (which is away from the nearest dwelling receivers). Mat R noted that since the noise attenuation measures were installed, compliance with noise criteria in the approval documentation has been readily achieved.
- Mat R also noted that ‘hushclad’ material had been used on the western and northern elevations of the secondary crusher (picture below).



**Primary Crusher Enclosure**



**Secondary (Cone) Crusher Enclosure**



- Scott noted monitoring is undertaken at the locations shown in the below image. Scott noted the different types of monitoring undertaken for dust and noise.





**KEQ Environmental Monitoring Locations**

- Scott discussed monitoring results (provided in the below commentary).
- Air quality.
  - Results of the High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) for Total Suspended Particles (TSP) and dust deposition gauges (DDG) were well within criteria.
  - One DDG recording was not available in November 2023 (at DDG 2) because of grass seeds entering the gauge (and not attributable to quarrying activity).
  - John asked if dust storms influence air quality monitoring. Scott confirmed yes, a regional dust storm would affect results. Mat R noted that bushfires can also significantly impact air quality recordings / results.
- Water Management.
  - Scott will update the monthly rainfall chart for the next CCC meeting.
  - Dam 1 is the primary water storage for KEQ and provides water for dust suppression. Designed to have 12ML of water storage.
  - There were no discharges from Dam 1 during H2 2023.

Agenda Item	Notes
	 <p data-bbox="890 723 967 752" style="text-align: center;"><b>Dam 1</b></p> <ul data-bbox="475 790 1410 931" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity of Dam 2 is 0.5ML and is designed to manage runoff from the existing weighbridge area.</li> <li>• Dam 2 had 8 days of controlled discharge during the monitoring period. Compliance with water quality parameters was achieved.</li> </ul>
	 <p data-bbox="890 1644 967 1673" style="text-align: center;"><b>Dam 2</b></p> <ul data-bbox="475 1711 1433 1852" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dam 3 has a capacity of 2ML and manages runoff from the existing stockpile area.</li> <li>• Dam 3 had 15 days of controlled discharge during the monitoring period and compliance with water quality parameters was achieved.</li> </ul>





**Dam 3**

- Noise Monitoring.
  - Quarterly noise monitoring was completed at the approved noise monitoring locations in the surrounding community on 10/11 August 2023 (Q3) and 24/30 November 2023 (Q4). Noise monitoring confirmed that KEQ’s operations were within the approved noise limits at all locations.
  - Michael clarified that ‘attended’ noise monitoring means a qualified person physically uses the monitor.



**Attended Noise Monitoring Locations**

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blast monitoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There have been 8 blasts in H2 2023. All blasts were within compliance limits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Production. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Production during July 2023 – December 2023 was 435,208 tonnes.</li> <li>○ The M1 Pacific Motorway (Heatherbrae bypass) is contributing to increased production and sales.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Complaints. 2 complaints were received during the reporting period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ August 2023 – Complaint re: blasting activity on 14 August 2023 from a resident on Halloran Road. Investigation confirmed a blast had occurred at the time of the complaint and that overpressure and ground vibration were within compliance limits.</li> <li>○ November 2023 – Complaint received regarding a traffic incident northbound on the Pacific Motorway between Tarean Road, Karuah and Myall Way, Tea Gardens. The incident resulted in stone chip damage to the complainants vehicle paintwork and windscreen. The ameliorative response measures were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KEQPL reimbursed vehicle repair costs; and</li> <li>- KEQPL truck drivers were subject to toolbox talks to ensure body tarps are appropriately cleaned and secured and caution is to be used when driving over rough surfaces.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Michael noted that whilst onsite (during the earlier site inspection), that he had observed a truck tipping its tray back to ensure material was levelled prior to the body tarp being deployed. Scott noted that this is good practice.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Mod 10 Update	<p><b>Recap:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPHI (former DPE) approved MOD 10 on 18 May 2023.</li> <li>• Approx 7.17ha for additional stockpiling next to the existing stockpile area (refer to the blue area on the approved site plan figure provided above).</li> <li>• Facilitate improved surface water management.</li> <li>• Include area for administration building and heavy vehicle parking.</li> <li>• No change to annual extraction limits, hours of operation, processing or vehicle frequency.</li> </ul> <p><b>Update:</b> Mat R confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commonwealth EPBC Act approval is progressing under the bi-lateral agreement between State and Federal government.</li> <li>• KEQPL are continuing to secure secondary approvals including EPL variation and Management Plan updates.</li> <li>• KEQPL are well advanced with securing biodiversity offsets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathew B noted that Councils preference is for establishment of local offsets (as opposed to payment into the State Government Offset Fund as it means that the payment could be directed to establishing offsets outside of the local area). Mathew B noted that he often works with land owners in the LGA seeking to establish Biodiversity Stewardship Sites (BSA) on their land for establishing offsets.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mat R asked if Mathew B has a database of sites, Mathew B advised no but he may be able to assist with brokering.</li> <li>• Janine asked if replacement offsets for MOD10 will be 'like for like'? Mat R advised yes, KEQPL are considering 'like for like' offsets.</li> <li>• Mat R advised that as detailed engineering design has progressed, further opportunity has been identified for a more efficient earthworks outcome as well as improved surface water management. This will require a new Modification, to be known as MOD11 and is detailed below.</li> </ul>
Proposed MOD 11	<p>Scott and Mat R noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering design for approved MOD10 is well advanced.</li> <li>• Opportunity has been identified to improve earthworks outcomes by reducing gradients from 4-8% to 2-4%. This will result in a flatter and safer stockpile area. The flatter gradient will also generally result in vehicles working more efficiently (i.e. engine will work less hard).</li> <li>• Further surface water management improvements are possible including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Separation of 'clean' and 'dirty' water storage. At present all three dams are 'mixed use' (ie. storage plus sediment);</li> <li>○ Establishment of a 'treatment train' (forebays) that will allow for better targeted water quality treatment. This will have a positive effect in the event of uncontrolled discharge during wet weather events; and</li> <li>○ Improved water security for operations and dust suppression.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Design refinement to be completed;</li> <li>○ Pre-modification application lodgement consultation to be completed with NSW DPHI; and</li> <li>○ Lodge a Section 4.55(1A) modification application (to be known as MOD 11) with DPHI.</li> <li>○ KEQPL to confirm with CCC once lodged.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael asked if MOD11 will result in improved water security? Mat R confirmed yes.</li> <li>• Janine commented that during times of drought it can be difficult for locals to buy water for their domestic tanks because water suppliers favour commercial clients. Improved water security at KEQ is a positive outcome that will benefit the local area.</li> <li>• Janine asked how the improved water treatment will occur. Scott noted design is still progressing, but dam 2 and 3 will be upgraded and dam 1 to the north will include clean water storage. Scott noted that the quality of water used on site during processing is important, as HQPL wants to provide clean rock to customers.</li> <li>• Mathew B asked if there will be cut or fill or balanced earthworks. Mat R noted that this information was not available yet, but when the application is lodged the information can be supplied to the CCC.</li> <li>• John noted that his concern is to ensure no impact on the Karuah River and its tributaries. Scott noted that MOD11 will improve water quality management, including the quality of water discharged to the Karuah River during rain events.</li> </ul>



Agenda Item	Notes
Proposed Karuah Red Quarry Update	<p>Scott and Mat R advised that Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd (HQPL) have made the decision not to lodge the Karuah Red Quarry application. The key reasons for this decision are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is no longer rational to operate Karuah Red as a standalone quarry when existing infrastructure is available at Karuah Quarry.</li> <li>The Karuah Quarry consent ceases (for extractive activity) in June 2027. Consideration of post closure land use is a greater priority for HQPL at this time.</li> </ul> <p>Where to from here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HQPL may revisit the Karuah Red Quarry proposal in the longer term. At that time, this would necessitate new SEARs to be obtained, a new development proposal to be formulated / designed, a new application to be prepared and assessment by approval agencies.</li> <li>In the short to mid-term, HQPL are in the very early stages of developing a post closure adaptive reuse of the Karuah Quarry to support other nearby operations of HQPL.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="432 902 1425 1883" data-label="Figure"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Site Plan Showing Location of Former Proposed Karuah Red Quarry</b></p>

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>Karuah Resource Operations Project (KROP)</p>	<p>Scott and Mat R noted that HQPL seeks to adaptively reuse the Karuah Quarry to establish the Karuah Resource Operations Project (KROP). This will be limited to the land owned by HQPL, which is Lot 21 DP 1024341. Lot 11 DP 1024564 is owned by a separate party and will not form part of the KROP proposal.</p> <p>KROP will improve HQPL's ability to contribute to important projects such as the Newcastle Inner-City Bypass and the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace.</p> <p>Preliminary details of the KROP proposal are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and continue the use of existing infrastructure on the Karuah Quarry site.</li> <li>• Import product from other HQPL sites for processing and stockpiling. Other HQPL sites include Karuah East, Tea Gardens and Gosforth quarries.</li> <li>• Resource Recovery. Concrete, bricks, tiles, masonry and asphalt to be received, processed and blended with virgin rock material. HQPL needs to establish this use to meet increasingly mandated sustainability goals from government agencies (eg. TfNSW, Councils and Hunter Water).</li> <li>• Throughputs to be confirmed, but there will be no increase from the currently approved Karuah Quarry rates.</li> <li>• The proposal will capitalise on existing disturbance areas and minimal vegetation removal is necessary.</li> </ul> <p>The approval pathway is to be determined, but it will likely be a State Significant Development (SSD) that will be assessed by the NSW DPHI.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project details and design to be refined.</li> <li>• Approval pathway to be confirmed.</li> <li>• Obtain SEARs.</li> <li>• Identify and appoint a team of specialist technical experts.</li> <li>• Commence consultation (community and agency).</li> <li>• Prepare an EIS and lodge a Development Application.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathew B asked if KROP will receive material from Karuah East Quarry. Scott confirmed yes.</li> <li>• Michael noted that having the ability to blend product would be a good outcome for HQPL. Scott confirmed yes and that as an example the rock from Gosforth Quarry has excellent friction properties for asphalt-uses.</li> <li>• Michael agreed that Resource Recovery is being promoted by Government Agencies.</li> <li>• Janine asked if traffic to the site will increase due to import of material? Mat R noted that preliminary details of the proposal are for the existing approved processing rate for Karuah Quarry to be used and that all vehicle movements associated with delivery and transport will be considered as part of a new Traffic Impact Assessment.</li> <li>• Janine noted that Karuah Quarry is very visible from the highway. Mat R noted that the most visible feature is the eastern highwall of the Karuah Quarry, which is located on Lot 11 DP 1024564 (lands not owned by HQPL).</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Janine noted that Karuah Quarry used to be a 'bad advertisement' for the quarry industry given dust was visible from the highway. Janine also noted that she never observes dust from Karuah East Quarry. Mat R noted that KROP would be subject to a new application inclusive of an Air Quality Impact Assessment and that, if approved, it would be subject to a modern consent (as is the case with KEQ).</li> <li>Mat R noted that any specialist expert assessments will be required to consider cumulative impacts.</li> <li>Mathew B asked if crushing and blending activity is proposed. Scott confirmed yes.</li> <li>Bob asked is asphalt will be imported to the site for processing. Scott confirmed yes. Mathew B noted asphalt contains chemicals that will need to be appropriately managed. Scott confirmed this would be considered in the application, project design and ongoing management.</li> <li>Michael asked if KROP will trigger an EPBC referral? Mat R advised unlikely given minimal clearing will be needed. Mathew B noted he is not aware of any other Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) in the area.</li> <li>Janine noted that she supports the KROP proposal.</li> <li>Janine noted that if done properly, there is no reason the former Karuah Red project couldn't be developed in the future to complement the KROP proposal.</li> </ul>
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John indicated that he was aware of acid sulphate soils being observed at Pipe Clay Creek / Oyster Cove. Scott indicated that due to the location of KEQ on a "ridge" away from floodplain environments, Karuah East Quarry would not be causing this.</li> <li>Michael noted that he had never observed acid sulphate soils at hard rock quarries. Mathew B also noted that regular pH monitoring undertaken at KEQ would identify any issue. Mathew B noted that acid sulphate soils are problematic on floodplains and Mid Coast Council has issues elsewhere in the LGA with this, such as the Manning River.</li> <li>John noted that he agrees that the acid sulphate soils at Pipe Clay Creek / Oyster Cove are not related to HQPL.</li> <li>Michael noted that there are updated CCC Guidelines (issued by the NSW DPE) for operation of the CCC. Michael noted that the new guidelines are much more streamlined for appointing new members.</li> <li>Michael worked through the terms of reference of the new guidelines with the CCC. The terms of reference need to be reviewed annually by the CCC.</li> <li>Michael thanked Scott for providing an update of the preliminary details of the KROP proposal. Michael noted that the CCC is for the Karuah East Quarry and HQPL are not obliged to share details of other projects. Scott noted that HQPL seek to be transparent with the local community.</li> <li>Janine asked if all other HQPL projects will be flagged with the KEQ CCC? Mat R noted that where it is appropriate to consider cumulative impacts in the context of Karuah East Quarry, then it is likely appropriate to consult with the CCC.</li> </ul>
Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.	Next meeting scheduled for September 2024. Michael to confirm details and issue calendar invites.

Agenda Item	Notes
Meeting close	The meeting was closed at 5.28pm