



Karuah Hard Rock Quarry
ABN: 15 093 914 937
Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd
Andersite Road, Karuah NSW 2324

W: www.hunterquarries.com.au
E: admin@hunterquarries.com.au
T: 02 4050 0304
P: PO Box 3284, Thornton NSW 2322

Karuah Hard Rock Quarry

Community Consultation Report

H1 2025



Contents

Contents	2
Definitions	3
1.0 Introduction.....	4
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Community Consultation Report	4
2.0 Air Quality Monitoring.....	5
3.0 Blast Monitoring	5
4.0 Noise Monitoring	6
4.1 Attended Noise Monitoring	6
4.2 Unattended Noise Monitoring	6
5.0 Water Monitoring	7
5.1 Surface Water	7
5.2 Discharge Compliance	8
6.0 Production	9
7.0 Reporting.....	9
7.1 Environmental Incidents	9
7.2 Non-Compliances	10
7.3 Community Complaints.....	10
7.4 Management Plans	10
7.5 Audits	10
Appendix 1 – Environmental Monitoring Locations	11

Definitions

Definition	Meaning
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CCR	Community Consultation Report
the Consent	Development Consent, DA 265-10-2004
the Department	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EMS&MP	Environmental Management Strategy & Monitoring Program
EPA	NSW Environmental Protection Authority
EPL	Environmental Protection Licence, EPL 11569
DDG	Depositional Dust Gauge
GLC	Great Lakes Council (former)
HQPL	Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd
IEA	Independent Environmental Audit
LDP	Licensed Discharge Point
MCC	MidCoast Council
PIRMP	Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
the Quarry	Karuah Hard Rock Quarry
RAR	Response to Audit Recommendations
RCP	Rehabilitation and Closure Plan
the Reporting Period	1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025
SWMP	Site Water Management Plan
TSS	Total Suspended Solids

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The former Great Lakes Council (GLC) granted conditional Development Consent (DA 302/1997) for a hard rock quarry, crushing plant and intersection upgrade of the Pacific Highway at Karuah on the 03 December 1997. Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd (HQPL) purchased the site from Mountain Industries in 2002 and has since operated a hard rock quarry at the site, known as the Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (the Quarry). The material extracted at the Quarry is andesite, which produces high-quality concrete, asphalt and civil products, including armour & gabion rock, drainage aggregates, roadbases and other fill materials.

The current Development Consent (DA 265-10-2004) (the Consent) was granted by the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources on the 3 June 2005, with the approved development including:

- Implementing the remainder of the approved Stage 1 quarry operation;
- Extending the quarry operations into the Stage 2 area;
- Upgrading and using existing infrastructure on site;
- Rehabilitating the site by re-contouring and revegetating exposed surfaces; and
- Producing up to 500,000 tonnes of product a year over the next 22 years.

1.2 Community Consultation Report

In accordance with Schedule 4, Condition 8 of the Consent, HQPL sought expressions of interest from the community to serve as members of a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) in 2007 and again in 2011. On both occasions, the minimum of two expressions of interest were not received, therefore a CCC was not able to be established.

This Community Consultation Report (CCR) has therefore been prepared in accordance with the Communication Strategy developed to satisfy Schedule 4, Condition 10 of the Consent and outlined in the Quarry's Environmental Management Strategy & Monitoring Program (EMS&MP).

The CCR summarises HQPL's environmental management plans, monitoring results, audit reports and any environmental incidents or complaints that have occurred during the Reporting Period. Once prepared, the CCR is made available to MidCoast Council (MCC), nearby residents and to the public at HQPL's website.

This CCR covers the H1-2025 Reporting Period from 01 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.

2.0 Air Quality Monitoring

HQPL ensure that all practical mitigation measures are used to prevent and minimise emissions generated by the Quarry, to ensure air quality does not exceed the criteria in Schedule 3, Condition 13 of the Consent at any residence on any privately-owned land.

Air quality monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the approved EMS&MP; with the results of the deposited dust monitoring completed for the Reporting Period summarised in **Table 1**.

Monitoring results indicate that for the monitoring period from 01 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, the depositional dust levels recorded at the four Depositional Dust Gauge (DDG) monitoring locations were below the project criterion of 4 g/m²/month over an annual averaging period.

Table 1 *Deposited Dust Monitoring Results.*

Month	Start Date	End Date	DDG1	DDG2	DDG3	DDG4
January 2025	30/12/2024	31/01/2025	3.8	1.7	1.9	1.3
February 2025	31/01/2025	03/03/2025	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.2
March 2025	03/03/2025	03/04/2025	0.7	1.0	1.4	
	04/03/2025	03/04/2025				1.1
April 2025	03/04/2025	05/05/2025	1.2	3.2	0.4	1.0
May 2025	05/05/2025	03/06/2025	2.0	3.9	0.2	0.3
June 2025	03/06/2025	01/07/2025	2.9	1	0.6	0.4
Reporting Period Average			2.0	2.0	1.0	0.9
Annual Average Criteria			4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

3.0 Blast Monitoring

HQPL conducts blasts in accordance with the Consent and the EPL to minimise nuisance to environment and the surrounding community. Blast monitoring results for the Reporting Period are summarised in **Table 2**.

During the Reporting Period, all blasts were below the lower project criterion limits of 115 dBL and 5 mm/s for air blast overpressure and ground vibration, respectively, as outlined by the Consent and EPL.

Table 2 *Blasting Monitoring Results*

Date	Time	Airblast Overpressure (dB(L))	Ground Vibration (mm/s)
07/02/2025	11:34	111.4	1.10
21/03/2025	13:06	113.8	1.46
16/06/2025	11:02	106.7	1.32

*Not triggered = n/t

Ground Vibration < 0.5 mm/s

Overpressure < 108 dB(L)

4.0 Noise Monitoring

HQPL uses all practical mitigation measures to ensure that the operational noise generated by the Quarry does not exceed the criteria stipulated in the Consent and the EPL. Noise monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the Quarry's EMS&MP.

4.1 Attended Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was undertaken during May 2025, and the results are summarised in **Table 3**. The results detail all noise sources, including quarry operations, road traffic and/or animals (such as cattle, insects or birds). The attended noise monitoring results are assessed as compliant with the criteria of the Consent and the EPL.

Table 3 *Attended Noise Monitoring Results – May 2025*

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind		Stability Class	Standard limits apply? ¹	Limits, dB	Site levels, dB	Exceedances, dB ¹
		Speed m/s	Direction ³			L _{Aeq,15minute}	L _{Aeq,15minute} ²	L _{Aeq,15minute}
NM1	14/05/2025 16:58	1.0	338	A	Yes	48	IA	Nil
NM2	14/05/2025 17:35	0.7	79	A	Yes	48	IA	Nil

Notes: 1. Noise emission limits are applicable if weather conditions were within parameters specified in Section 2.5. NA in exceedance column indicates that limits were not applicable due to weather conditions.
2. Site-only L_{Aeq,15minute} includes modifying factor penalties if applicable.
3. Degrees magnetic north, “-” indicates calm conditions.

4.2 Unattended Noise Monitoring

Unattended noise monitoring was undertaken during May 2025 at monitoring locations NM1 and NM2, the results are displayed in **Table 4**. The unattended noise monitoring results are assessed as compliant with the criteria of the Consent and the EPL.

Table 4 *Unattended Noise Monitoring Results – May 2025*

Location	Period	Measured noise levels, dB	
		RBL	L _{Aeq,period}
NM1 14-28 May 2025	Day	47	54
	Evening	46	54
	Night	37	51
NM2 ² 14-28 May 2025	Day	57	65
	Evening	51	64
	Night	38	62

Notes: 1. Levels in this table are not necessarily the result of activity at site.
2. Due to equipment failure (attributed to heavy rain/flooding during the monitoring), the data captured by the unattended noise monitor at location NM2 did not meet the minimum requirements of at least four full days of monitoring data, as per the Karuah Quarry EMP.

5.0 Water Monitoring

Water monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the Quarry's Site Water Management Plan (SWMP). This includes six-monthly surveillance and daily discharge monitoring of surface water during discharge events from the licenced discharge point (LDP).

5.1 Surface Water

During the Reporting Period, surface water monitoring was undertaken on 14 February 2025 with monitoring results summarised in **Table 5**.

Table 5 **Surface Water Monitoring Results – Sediment Dam 2.**

Date	Temp (°C)	pH	EC (µS/cm)	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Oil & Grease (mg/L)	Total N (mg/L)	Total P (mg/L)
14/02/2025	25.1	7.4	453	190	110	Not Visible	2.1	0.09

5.2 Discharge Compliance

Water quality monitoring is undertaken daily during discharge to demonstrate compliance with parameters specified in the EPL. During the Reporting Period, there were 30 days of discharges from our LDP located at Sediment Dam 2, as summarised in **Table 6**.

During the Reporting Period, there were three incidents of uncontrolled discharges exceeding EPL Total Suspended Solids (TSS) limits. These incidents were due to major storm events and occurred over 11 days of the Reporting Period, as summarised in **Section 7.1**.

Other than incidents caused by major storm events, each day of discharge complied with the EPL limits for pH, TSS and Oil & Grease.

Table 6 *Discharge Monitoring Results – Sediment Dam 2.*

Date	Temp (°C)	pH	EC (µS/cm)	Turbidity (NTU)	TSS (mg/L)	Oil & Grease (mg/L)	Total N (mg/L)	Total P (mg/L)
19/01/2025	21.9	7.1	352	350	140	Not Visible	0.6	0.10
20/01/2025	21.7	7.3	354	370	170	Not Visible	0.5	0.10
26/01/2025	21.7	7.2	358	85	27	Not Visible	0.8	<0.05
27/01/2025	21.8	7.3	369	70	36	Not Visible	0.8	<0.05
28/01/2025	21.5	7.4	369	75	44	Not Visible	0.8	<0.05
29/01/2025	22.0	7.4	366	65	33	Not Visible	0.8	<0.05
10/03/2025	22.2	7.4	880	50	38	Not Visible	1	<0.05
11/03/2025	24.1	7.3	818	39	28	Not Visible	1.1	<0.05
12/03/2025	24.2	7.4	897	34	24	Not Visible	1.1	<0.05
13/03/2025	24.8	7.2	756	65	35	Not Visible	1.3	<0.05
29/03/2025	24.3	7.4	483	200	50	Not Visible	1.4	0.08
09/04/2025	21.2	7.2	611	40	16	Not Visible	1.8	<0.05
10/04/2025	20.2	7.2	596	50	22	Not Visible	2.1	<0.05
11/04/2025	21.6	7.4	597	55	24	Not Visible	1.6	<0.05
12/04/2025	21.5	7.6	595	55	36	Not Visible	1.4	<0.05
13/04/2025	19.0	7.7	584	45	18	Not Visible	1.3	<0.05
17/04/2025	19.5	7.5	566	65	38	Not Visible	2.2	<0.05
27/04/2025	20.2	7.2	566	60	30	Not Visible	1.8	<0.05
28/04/2025	21.5	7.2	563	65	26	Not Visible	1.7	<0.05
29/04/2025	19.4	7.3	468	65	36	Not Visible	1.5	<0.05
30/04/2025	20.5	7.4	423	60	36	Not Visible	1.1	<0.05
01/05/2025	18.9	7.2	402	340	160	Not Visible	0.9	0.09
02/05/2025	19.9	7.1	377	470	250	Not Visible	1	0.1
03/05/2025	17.7	7.1	346	390	170	Not Visible	3	0.1
19/05/2025	19.6	7.1	311	330	160	Not Visible	0.7	0.1
20/05/2025	19.9	7.1	253	960	480	Not Visible	0.7	0.2
21/05/2025	20.5	7.0	229	630	350	Not Visible	0.4	0.1
22/05/2025	20.0	7.0	206	440	200	Not Visible	0.3	0.1
23/05/2025	18.3	6.8	79.4	170	63	Not Visible	0.4	0.06
24/05/2025	18.7	6.8	143	260	88	Not Visible	0.7	0.1

6.0 Production

Monthly monitoring of sales across the Reporting Period is summarised in **Table 7**. In total there were approximately 132,692 tonnes of product sold, with an associated 3,922 truck movements.

Table 7 **Monthly Production Data.**

Month	Truck Movements	Quarry Product (tonnes)
January 2025	352	12,215
February 2025	794	26,011
March 2025	745	23,981
April 2025	329	10,524
May 2025	576	20,295
June 2025	1,126	39,666
Progressive Annual Total	3,922	132,692

7.0 Reporting

7.1 Environmental Incidents

During the Reporting Period, three reportable environmental incidents occurred at the Quarry, including:

- Uncontrolled discharge of sediment-laden water to Yalimbah Creek from Sunday 19 January to Monday 20 January 2025 following the receipt of 174.8 mm of rainfall over four days. This rainfall event exceeded the 95th percentile 5x day rainfall depth of 90.6 mm; which the site's sediment dams are designed to withstand in accordance with Landcom's Blue Book (*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction – Volume 2E, Mines and quarries*).

During the event the site's Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) was enacted through reporting to relevant authorities, the KEQPL executive and the local community. Formal incident reports were subsequently submitted to NSW Planning and the NSW EPA.

- Uncontrolled discharge of sediment-laden water to Yalimbah and Bulga Creeks from Sunday 27 April to Sunday 04 May 2025 following the receipt of 318.4 mm of rainfall over six days. This rainfall event exceeded the 95th percentile 5x day rainfall depth of 90.6 mm, which the site's sediment dams are designed to withstand in accordance with Landcom's Blue Book (*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction – Volume 2E, Mines and quarries*).

During the event the site's PIRMP was enacted through reporting to relevant authorities, the HQPL executive and the local community. Formal incident reports were subsequently submitted to NSW Planning and the NSW EPA.

- Uncontrolled discharge of sediment-laden water to Yalimbah and Bulga Creeks from Monday 19 May to Sunday 25 May 2025 following the receipt of 451.5mm of rainfall over five days. This rainfall event exceeded the 95th percentile 5x day rainfall depth of 90.6 mm, which the site's sediment dams are designed to withstand in accordance with Landcom's Blue Book (*Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction – Volume 2E, Mines and quarries*).

During the event the site's PIRMP was enacted through reporting to relevant authorities, the HQPL executive and the local community. Formal incident reports were subsequently submitted to NSW Planning and the NSW EPA.

7.2 Non-Compliances

During the Reporting Period, no reportable non-compliances occurred at the Quarry.

7.3 Community Complaints

During the Reporting Period, no community complaints were reported to the Quarry.

7.4 Management Plans

During the Reporting Period, the following updates to Management Plans were undertaken:

- Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (RCP) (version 5A, dated March 2025) was submitted to the Department on 30 March 2025 and approved on 19 May 2025.
- EMS&MP (version 7A, dated May 2025) was comprehensively reviewed following the findings of the 2024 Independent Environmental Audit. The revised EMS&MP was submitted to the Department on 29 April 2025 and approved on 19 May 2025.
- PIRMP (version 6, dated June 2025) was comprehensively reviewed and updated on 17 June 2025.

7.5 Audits

In 2024, HQPL engaged Talis Consultants to complete the 2024 IEA of the site. Lead Auditor, Leanne Cross, and Auditor, Alfred Davis, were subsequently approved by NSW Planning as suitably qualified, experienced and independent persons in accordance with the Development Consent and Independent Audit Guideline (May, 2020) on 04 November 2024.

A site inspection was conducted on 10 December 2024, with the submission of the final Audit Report and HQPL's Response to Audit Recommendations (RAR) to NSW Planning on 04 March 2025 (within 3 months of commencement). A copy of these audit reports have been publicly published on the Hunter Quarries' website at .

The audit assessed a total of 15 conditions as non-compliant out of a total of 64 conditions, representing a non-compliance rate of approximately 23%. The key audit findings include:

- Various administrative non-compliances associated with the submission of documents within statutory timeframes;
- Uncertainty regarding the methodology used to determine s94 Council Contributions;
- Uncertainty regarding the approval status of consolidated sub-plans into the approved EMS&MP;
- On-going implementation status of surface water monitoring infrastructure; and
- Uncertainty regarding the implementation of waste minimisation measures.

A summary of progress against the required corrective actions for all assessed non-compliances and recommendations for improvement opportunities will be provided in the 2025 Annual Review.

	Page
	10 of 12

Appendix 1 – Environmental Monitoring Locations

