

Minutes (DRAFT)

3 November 2025

Project name	Karuah East Quarry – Community Consultative Committee	From	Michael Ulph
Subject	Extraordinary Meeting CCC Meeting Minutes	Tel	0458 049 847
Date / Time	3 November 2025 3pm to 4pm – Site Inspection 4.20pm to 5.15pm – CCC Meeting (Karuah RSL Club)	Project no.	2218437
Attendees	Michael Ulph (Chairperson) Scott Ellerton (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd) Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson) John Lyall (Port Stephens Shellfish Program) Tessa Hestelow (Community Representative) Mathew Bell (Mid Coast Council) Janine Reid (North Arm Cove Residents Association) Bob Trotter (Community Representative)	Apologies	Darryn Bosch (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd) Uwe Seil (Community Representative) Wade Cameron (Community Representative)
Others not present	Karuah LALC Representative	Observers	Mia Wilson (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd)
Objective	Introduce the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project, record discussion and actions from this meeting.		

Summary of Site Inspection

Item	Notes
Site Inspection	- A site inspection was undertaken by Michael Ulph (Michael U), Janine Reid (Janine R), John Lyall (John L), Mat Radnidge (Mat R), Scott Ellerton (Scott E) and Mia Wilson (Mia W). - Scott E and Mia W transported the CCC members to the Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (KHRQ) extraction area (Photo 1) and the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ) extraction area observation platform (Photo 2 and 3). - CCC members were able to gain a perspective of the dividing highwall proposed to be removed by the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project.

Item	Notes
Site Photographs	 Photo 1 – View of the Highwall from within the KHRQ Extraction Area (looking east)  Photo 2 – View of the KEQ Extraction Area from the Observation Platform Located on top of the Dividing Highwall (looking east)  Photo 3 – Looking West to the M1 Pacific Highway from the Observation Platform Located on top of the Dividing Highwall

CCC Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome	- Michael U acknowledged the Worimi people as the traditional owners in the region, and paid respect to Elders past, present and future.
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	- Michael U confirmed that Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited (KEQPL) is paying GHD (his employer) a fee for Michael to act as the Independent Chairperson. - Mat R confirmed that KEQPL is paying ADW Johnson (his employer) a fee for Mat to be a member of the CCC. - Scott E and Mia W are both employees of KEQPL.
Acceptance of Previous Minutes	- Michael U noted that this meeting is an Extraordinary Meeting and the minutes from the last 'regular' CCC meeting (22 September 2025) will be ratified separately.
Correspondence	- Email invitations were issued on 10 October 2025 to all committee members to today's meeting by Michael U.
Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project	Scott E presented the enclosed introduction and summary of the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project. Summary of discussions are provided below. <u>SLIDE 3:</u> - Scott E confirmed that HQPL had recently acquired Lot 11 DP1024564 which now completes the ownership of the 'Karuah Quarry Complex'. <u>SLIDE 4:</u> - Scott E noted that the 'Karuah Quarry Complex' includes the Karuah Quarry, the Karuah East Quarry, biodiversity offset areas, the location of the proposed Karuah South Quarry and the location of the former proposed Karuah Red Quarry. - Tessa Hestelow (Tessa H) asked if Hunter Quarries are proceeding with the proposed Karuah South Quarry? Scott E advised that no business decision has been made and that at this time there are outstanding matters to be resolved in relation to that project. - Mathew Bell (Mathew B) – Asked what is the status of the proposed Resource Recovery project at KHRQ that was previously introduced to the CCC? SE noted that the project is on hold noting the changing priorities of Hunter Quarries following acquisition of Lot 11. Future uses will be investigated at a later time. - Mat R provided a background to the KHRQ and the KEQ, noting: - o The KHRQ was approved in 2005. Its extraction area lies over Lot 11 DP1024564, which was owned by Wedgerock Pty Ltd. HQPL's operation on Lot 11 was the subject of a Licence Agreement between Hunter Quarries and Wedgerock Pty Ltd. - o Prior to the preparation of the KEQ application, Hunter Quarries' preference was to extend the KHRQ operation to the east into Lots 12 and 13 to extract andesite resource. This outcome was preferred by Hunter Quarries as it would have avoided the need for duplicate infrastructure and the extension of Blue Rock Close. However, a variation to the Licence Agreement was unable to be reached between both parties however and offers from Hunter Quarries to purchase Lot 11 were unsuccessful. - o As a result, approval was sought and obtained (in 2015) for the KEQ, which was approved as a standalone operation, independent from the KHRQ.

Agenda Item	Notes
	○ This outcome resulted in the creation of a remnant dividing highwall, with a known high quality andesite resource, between the two quarry extraction areas. - Michael U noted the dividing highwall is 'like a pyramid' between both quarry pits and that across the top the highwall is approximately 40m wide. - Mat R noted that given Lot 11 has been purchased by HQPL, it now opens the opportunity for Hunter Quarries to make application to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW Planning) to extract the remnant highwall. - Scott E noted that the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project will allow operations to be managed holistically and more efficiently than current arrangements. <u>SLIDE 5:</u> - Scott E outlined the aims of the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project, including: ○ Improvement of visual amenity; ○ Extracting previously sterilised andersite resource and pit consolidation to optimise the extraction areas; ○ Improved rehabilitation / closure outcomes including a free draining landform; ○ Upgrade of the water management system at KEQ; ○ Application of contemporary environmental management framework to the KHRQ consent which is approximately 20 years old; ○ Continued economic and employment opportunities within the MidCoast and Port Stephens areas; and ○ Ensuing continued supply of quarry material to the market. Scott E noted that HQPL supply material to key infrastructure projects including the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace, Hexham Straight Widening, the Newcastle Inner City Bypass and the Singleton Bypass as well as other Government customers and the general construction industry. <u>SLIDE 6:</u> - Scott E detailed the highwall removal and minor pit shell adjustments necessary. - Scott E noted: ○ all proposed works are within currently cleared / disturbed areas. ○ the project will allow for the extraction of approximately 28.5Mt of in-situ material (including material already approved to be extracted). ○ no change to the extraction depths (RL65 at KHRQ and RL45 at KEQ). ○ The project will be highly efficient, noting an established processing plant exists at both quarries. <u>SLIDES 7 and 8:</u> - Visual montages were provided showing the visual amenity changes when the highwall was viewed from the Pacific Highway and Halloran Road. - It was agreed that the proposal will result in visual amenity improvements.

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	<u>SLIDES 9 – 11:</u> - Mat R explained that project ‘Scoping’ consultation has recently occurred with NSW Planning and the approvals process will involve the preparation and assessment of 2x concurrent s4.55(2) Modification Applications (i.e. a Modification to the KHRQ approval and a modification to the KEQ approval). - Mat R noted that to allow for the highwall to be practically removed, the modification to the KHRQ will seek to extend the KHRQ extraction area to the east and the KEQ modification will seek to extend the KEQ extraction area to the west so that the entire highwall structure is covered by both approvals (hatched blue and hatched yellow in the figures on slides 10 and 11). - Mat R noted that the proposal will not increase annual throughputs at either the KHRQ or the KEQ. - Janine R asked if the operational life of the KHRQ will need to be extended? Mat R noted that yes, the modification application for the KHRQ will seek to extend its operational life until December 2034 to match the KEQ’s consented life. SE noted that this will allow for a holistic, efficiently managed operation and rehabilitation process. - John L asked if 2034 is a long enough timeframe to extract the highwall and undertake the Karuah Pit Consolidation project? Scott E confirmed yes. - Janine R asked if the KEQ or KHRQ modification applications will apply to go deeper? Scott E confirmed no, the currently approved depths will remain the same to facilitate the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project. - Janine R noted that if HQPL ever plan to go deeper, the application process may need to start in approximately 4 years. - Janine asked if HQPL will operate longer than 2034? Scott E confirmed that the KHRQ modification will seek to extend operations until December 2034 consistent with KEQ. Any future extension of time would be considered when relevant and would be separate to a different application. - Janine R asked why is an approval only to 2034 being sought? Scott E noted that the KHRQ approval was granted in 2005 and the KEQ consent was granted in 2014. Typically, environmental approvals for resource projects within NSW do not go beyond 30 years because they become dated. 2034 is suitable to facilitate the proposal. - Mathew B noted that there is a discrepancy in the 28.5 Mt of in-situ material to be removed when considering operations until 2034. - o Scott E confirmed that is correct as this figure includes all in-situ material consisting of andesite used for asphalt, concrete and drainage aggregates and lower grade materials used for civil products, such as roadbases and fills. Final extraction and sales are driven by fluctuating market demand which will change over time, and therefore a higher total resource is required to provide sales flexibility. - o Scott E noted that any remaining unextracted andesite would remain in-situ and lower grade products would be simply reshaped for use in rehabilitation. - Michael U noted that the KEQ extraction area will also extend to the east (yellow hatch on slide 11). Scott E noted that the revised pit shell will include this area.

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	<u>SLIDES 12 – 14:</u> - Scott E explained that it is proposed to extend the KEQ footprint to the east into a small and narrow area adjoining the KEQ that formerly contained a powerline corridor. - The powerline corridor previously contained overhead powerlines which provided electricity to the dwelling on Lot 5 DP838128 to the north. Lot 5 is owned by Hunter Quarries, and the powerline infrastructure was historically removed. - The area is heavily disturbed and comprised of exotic grass species. - An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage study has been undertaken and it concludes that there are no impacts to Aboriginal sites. - An Ecology study has been undertaken and it concludes that there are no impacts on biodiversity values. <u>SLIDE 15:</u> - Scott E outlined that the project will result in a combined net reduction in approved blasting at the complex from 3 per week to 2 per week. - Scott E noted that hours of blasting activity is proposed to occur from between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. <u>SLIDE 16:</u> - Relevant to noise and air quality, Scott E noted that at present the KEQ and KHRQ have separate monitoring regimes. The project will involve contemporary noise and air quality studies being undertaken and a consolidated monitoring regime. - Relevant to air quality, this will result in more 'real time' results being obtained to inform operations. The current use of dust gauges for monitoring can at times result in wait times of up to 6 weeks for data. - Mathew B asked if the Noise Assessment will consider the various stages of the highwall extraction and its effectiveness as a noise barrier? Mat R and Scott E confirmed yes, the Noise Assessment will consider staging, design and shielding. - Michael U asked what has changed with the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project since the last CCC meeting in September? - o Mat R advised that it wasn't until 01 October 2025 that Hunter Quarries received confirmation from NSW Planning on the approval pathway, required environmental assessments and consultation requirements. - o Briefing the CCC on the project prior to receiving this input from NSW Planning would have been premature until confirmation had been received. <u>SLIDE 17:</u> - Scott E explained that pending the outcomes of specialist reports such as Noise Impact Assessment and Air Quality Impact Assessment, the proposal will seek to extend the hours of operation at the KHRQ to be consistent with the approved hours of operation at the KEQ. This will allow for holistic and improved operational efficiencies.

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	<u>SLIDES 18 and 19:</u> - Scott E explained that an improved closure and final landform can be achieved at both KHRQ and KEQ. - The current concept final landform plan for KHRQ shows the void as flooded. The proposal will result in a free draining landscape (with the KHRQ void to drain to KEQ to the east) and the establishment of woodland vegetation. - The KEQ void will free drain to dam 1 via a shaped water channel. Woodland vegetation will be established. <u>SLIDE 20:</u> - Scott E outlined the key steps and estimated timeline associated with the 2x modification applications to facilitate the Karuah Pit Consolidation project. Scott E noted that Hunter Quarries were hopeful that they may be in a position to commence removal of the highwall in late 2026. - Scott E noted that consultation will be undertaken with a range of Government agencies including NSW Planning, NSW EPA, TfNSW, Heritage NSW, CPHR (ecology agency) and Water Groups with NSW DCCEEW. - Scott E noted that both modification applications will be publicly exhibited by NSW Planning. Mat R noted that Hunter Quarries will advise the CCC when the public exhibition period commences. <u>SLIDE 21:</u> Q&A and general discussion as follows: - John L and Bob Trotter (Bob T) noted support for the project. - Tessa H asked how the highwall will be practically removed? SE noted that Hunter Quarries are currently working with geotechnical consultants, however the highwall will be removed incrementally from the top down. - Tessa H asked how the differences in extraction area floor between KEQ (RL45) and KHRQ (RL65) will be managed. Scott E noted that given the 20m height difference, the final landform will likely be 'ramped' from KHRQ to KEQ and include a 'drop-structure' for water drainage. - Tessa H asked how long it will take to remove the highwall? Scott E noted that extraction rates are driven by market demand. Discussion was held regarding the estimated project timeframes provided on slide 20. - John L asked if KHRQ and KEQ has enough material to last until approval is granted for the Karuah Pit Consolidation project? Scott E noted yes, there is adequate supply. - Mathew B noted that, in response to the project briefing Hunter Quarries provided to MidCoast Council, the matter has been referred to all relevant departments within Council. Council's position is that the project is a very positive outcome for the management of quarry operations and the supply of resource to market. Council is interested in the project but has no specific concerns or comments based upon the preliminary briefing. - Tessa H noted that blasting will be of interest. Mat R noted that a Blast Impact Assessment is being prepared and will accompany the modification applications. Scott E noted that given the narrowness of the highwall, blasting will likely be smaller in size than other blasts typically undertaken within both quarries. - Janine R noted that given the width and size of the highwall, that blasting would likely be a fast and efficient process. - Janine noted her general support for the project.

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	- John L noted that, as an FYI only, a committee has been formed to review and monitor the health of the local waterways. The committee includes a wide range of Government Agencies. Sensors have been installed throughout Port Stephens and its tributaries.
Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.	- Michael U noted that the next regular CCC meeting will be scheduled for March 2026 and calendar invites would be issued separately. - The CCC resolved to make future meetings commence at 4.15pm to allow adequate travel time following the site inspection.
Meeting close	- The meeting was closed at 5.15pm.
Actions	- The CCC to be notified when the modification applications are publicly exhibited.
Enclosed	- Hunter Quarries presentation for proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project.