



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

H2 2025



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Definitions

Definition	Meaning
BfMP	Bushfire Management Plan
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
CCR	Community Consultation Report
the Consent	Development Consent, DA 265-10-2004
the Department	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
DDG	Depositional Dust Gauge
EMS&MP	Environmental Management Strategy & Monitoring Program
EPA	NSW Environmental Protection Authority
EPL	Environmental Protection Licence, EPL 11569
F&FMP	Flora & Fauna Management Plan
GLC	Great Lakes Council (former)
HQPL	Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd
KEQ	Karuah East Quarry
KEQPL	Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited
IEA	Independent Environmental Audit
LDP	Licensed Discharge Point
MCC	MidCoast Council
NSW DCCEEW	NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
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	01 July 2025 to 31 December 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 amour & 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 H2-2025 Reporting Period from 01 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

1.3 Proposed Joint Karuah Quarry Complex CCC

During the Reporting Period, it was proposed to the Department, MCC and the existing Karuah East Quarry (KEQ) CCC to form a joint CCC for the Karuah Quarry Complex for both the Quarry and the adjacent KEQ site operated by affiliated company, Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited (KEQPL).

The implementation of the Joint Karuah Quarry Complex CCC will enable improved and wholistic community consultation by providing a central forum for community members, local stakeholder groups and MCC to consider and discuss all relevant quarry operations in the North Karuah area, including any potential for cumulative impacts.

This proposal was unanimously supported by all stakeholders with an additional round of expression of interests being issued to residents within the North Karuah area being released in October 2025, however, no responses were received. The proposal will be progressed and formally established early 2026, and once operational it is anticipated that the Joint Karuah Quarry Complex CCC will replace this CCR as the primary method of community consultation for the Quarry.

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 July 2025 to 02 January 2026, 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
July 2025	01/07/2025	01/08/2025	10.1	0.5	0.4	0.2
August 2025	01/08/2025	01/09/2025	0.9	2.3	0.5	0.8
September 2025	01/09/2025	01/10/2025	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7
October 2025	01/10/2025	31/10/2025	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.2
November 2025	31/10/2025	02/12/2025	1.0	2.5	2.1	1.1
December 2025	02/12/2025	02/01/2026	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.5
Reporting Period Average			2.8	1.7	1.2	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 dB(L) 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)
17/07/2025	13:30	114.1	2.18
02/09/2025	12:54	106.5	2.57
29/09/2025	12:30	109.4	1.45
04/12/2025	12:00	105.0	0.55

*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 provided 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 on 04 December 2025, with the results 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.

The full monitoring report is available in the December 2025 Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR) published on the Hunter Quarries’ website (<https://hunterquarries.com.au/reporting/>).

Table 3 *Attended Noise Monitoring Results – December 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}
NM2	4/12/2025 9:57	1.9	211	A	Yes	48	IA	Nil
NM1	4/12/2025 10:14	1.4	229	A	Yes	48	IA	Nil

Notes: 1. Noise emission limits are applicable if weather conditions were within parameters specified in Section 2.5. N/A 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 from 04 December to 10 December 2025 at monitoring locations NM1 and NM2, with the results summarised in **Table 4**. The unattended noise monitoring results are assessed as compliant with the criteria of the Consent and the EPL.

The full monitoring report is available in the December 2025 Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR) published on the Hunter Quarries’ website (<https://hunterquarries.com.au/reporting/>).

Table 4 *Unattended Noise Monitoring Results – December 2025*

Location	Period	Measured noise levels, dB	
		RBL	L _{Aeq,period}
NM1 4-10 December 2025	Day	45	53
	Evening	44	54
	Night	38	52
NM2 ² 4-10 December 2025	Day	56	64
	Evening	47	64
	Night	41	62

Notes: 1. Levels in this table are not necessarily the result of activity at site.

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 04 September 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)
04/09/2025	17.5	7.4	303	270	180	Not Visible	0.3	0.08

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 four major discharge events across 19 days from our LDP located at Sediment Dam 2, as summarised in **Table 6**.

These controlled discharges were generally compliant with the site’s pH and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) limits provided by the EPL, however, minor exceedances of the TSS limit was observed over six days associated with weekend discharges where real-time laboratory results are not available. The minor nature of these exceedances is not considered to have resulted in any material environmental harm and will be reported as part of the Annual Review.

HQPL subsequently lodged a variation application to the EPA to vary the site’s EPL to facilitate the use of field turbidity measurements to minimise the risk of exceedances of this nature.

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)
02/07/2025	17.0	7.9	5350	100	40	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
03/07/2025	16.3	7.5	420	75	32	Not Visible	0.3	<0.05
04/07/2025	15.8	7.4	421	75	24	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
05/07/2025	16.0	7.4	421	75	28	Not Visible	0.3	<0.05
06/07/2025	15.6	7.5	428	70	26	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
07/07/2025	12.7	7.1	421	65	30	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
08/07/2025	13.7	7.2	410	70	29	Not Visible	0.3	<0.05
09/07/2025	21.7	7.2	407	95	49	Not Visible	0.3	<0.05
01/08/2025	16.7	7.1	243	100	28	Not Visible	0.3	0.1
02/08/2025	17.7	7.1	1090	70	48	Not Visible	0.6	<0.05
03/08/2025	18.4	7.2	1650	80	65	Not Visible	0.6	<0.05
04/08/2025	19.1	7.2	2000	90	77	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
08/08/2025	18.7	7.0	2460	65	52	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
09/08/2025	16.7	7.3	6210	50	52	Not Visible	0.7	<0.05
10/08/2025	17.0	7.3	5060	70	52	Not Visible	0.6	<0.05
11/08/2025	17.0	7.4	4770	60	52	Not Visible	0.5	<0.05
12/08/2025	16.2	7.5	4480	45	42	Not Visible	0.5	<0.05
21/08/2025	16.2	6.8	1120	55	29	Not Visible	0.3	<0.05
22/08/2025	16.1	6.5	1300	45	15	Not Visible	0.3	<0.05

6.0 Production

Monthly monitoring of sales across the Reporting Period is summarised in **Table 7**. In total there were approximately 130,000 tonnes of product sold, with an associated 3,880 truck movements.

Table 7 Monthly Production Data.

Month	Truck Movements	Quarry Product (tonnes)
July 2025	569	19,637
August 2025	316	11,005
September 2025	843	27,642
October 2025	808	26,552
November 2025	774	24,824
December 2025	570	18,940
Reporting Period Total	3,880	128,600

7.0 Reporting

7.1 Environmental Incidents

During the Reporting Period, no reportable environmental incidents occurred at the Quarry.

7.2 Non-Compliances

During the Reporting Period, three reportable non-compliances occurred at the Quarry, all related to air quality, as outlined below:

- An anomalous exceedance of depositional dust during the July 2025 Monitoring Period which was reported to the Department and EPA.
- An exceedance of short-term (daily) particulate monitoring criteria occurred on 14 November 2025 as a result of three bushfires in the vicinity of the Karuah Quarry Complex, including the Tenterfield Road, North Arm Cove; the Pacific Highway, Karuah; and the Warraba Road, The Branch bushfires.
- An exceedance of short-term (daily) particulate monitoring criteria occurred on 08 December 2025 as a result of northerly winds pushing bushfire smoke across the Lower Hunter Region from the Pacific Highway, Bulahdelah bushfire that continued burning between Crawford River and Nerong.

7.3 Community Complaints

During the Reporting Period, one community complaint was reported to the Quarry, in relation to transport, as outlined below:

- A complaint was received by phone on 18 November 2025 regarding recent interactions with trucks exiting Andersite Road and turning left into The Branch Lane to access the A1 Pacific Highway interchange. The complainant requested anonymity and not to be contacted with any investigation outcomes.

At the time of writing, HQL are currently reviewing signage options to reduce vehicle speed through the intersection.

7.4 Management Plans

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

- EMS&MP (version 7B, dated October 2025) was updated to facilitate the implementation of a Joint Karuah Quarry Complex CCC both KHRQ and KEQ sites. The revised EMS&MP was submitted to the Department on 02 October 2025 and approved on 03 October 2025.
- Bushfire Management Plan (BfMP) (version 5A, dated July 2025 and version 5B, dated September 2025) was comprehensively reviewed and updated for HQPL's current organisation structure, operational changes, current fire trails, new document template and property acquisitions including Lot 4 DP838128 and Lot 11 DP1024564.
- Flora & Fauna Management Plan (F&FMP) (version 7A, dated July 2025) was comprehensively reviewed in accordance with the site's 5-year review period. The revised F&FMP was submitted to the Department for approval on 31 July 2025 and at the time of writing HQPL are currently incorporating commentary from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW).

7.5 Audits

No audits were completed during the Reporting Period.

Appendix 1 – Environmental Monitoring Locations



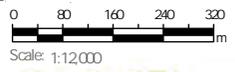
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LEGEND

- ▭ Site Boundary
- Lot Boundary
- ▭ Dams
- Environmental Monitoring Locations**
- ▲ Depositional Dust Gauge (DDG)
- ⊙ Air Blast Monitor
- Noise Monitoring Locations
- ⊕ Licensed Discharge Point
- ▣ Meteorological Station



GDA2020 MGA Zone 56
8/03/2024

Karuah Hard Rock Quarry

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