



Karuah Hard Rock Quarry
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Karuah Hard Rock Quarry

Environmental Monitoring Report

February 2026



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1.0 Introduction

This report has been completed to meet the requirements of Section 66(6) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority’s (EPA) Requirements for Publishing Pollution Monitoring Data (EPA, 2013). This report summarises the required monitoring data under Environmental Protection Licence 11569 (the EPL) and Development Consent for the Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (the Quarry) as summarised by **Table 1** and **Table 2** respectively.

Table 1 Summary of Environment Protection Licence, EPL 11569

EPL Number:	EPL 11569
Licensee’s Name:	Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd
Licensee’s Address:	Karuah Hard Rock Quarry PO Box 3284, Thornton NSW 2322 Corner of Andesite Road and The Branch Lane, Karuah NSW 2324.
Link to Full Licence on the EPA website:	EPL 11569

Table 2 Summary of Project Approval, DA 265-10-2004

Project Approval:	DA 265-10-2004
Applicant:	Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd
Consent Authority:	Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources
Link to Full Project Approval on the NSW Planning website:	Development Consent DA 265-10-2004

A summary of the environmental monitoring data for the February 2026 Reporting Period (the Reporting Period) is covered in this report. Tables throughout this report provide key monitoring information from the EPL and the Consent, including:

- location of monitoring;
- pollutant;
- unit of measurement; and
- monitoring frequency required.

Monitoring locations are illustrated by the site plan provided by **Appendix 1**.

2.0 Air Quality Monitoring

Dust emissions generated by the Quarry operation must not cause additional exceedances of ambient air quality criterion outlined in Schedule 3, Condition 13 of the Consent and summarised by **Table 3**, **Table 4** and **Table 5**.

Deposited dust monitoring is undertaken at the locations listed in **Table 6**, in accordance with the Approved Methods of Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW (EPA, 2022).

Table 3 Long-term Assessment Criteria for Deposited Dust (DA 265-10-2004).

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Maximum Increase in Deposited Dust Level ¹	Maximum Total Deposited Dust Level ¹
Deposited Dust	Annual	2 g/m ² /month	4 g/m ² /month

¹ Deposited dust is assessed as insoluble solids as defined by AS 3580.10.1-2003.

Table 4 Long-term Assessment Criteria for Particulate Matter (DA 265-10-2004).

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Criterion
Total Suspended Particulates	Annual	90 µg/m ³
Particulate Matter < 10 µm (PM10)	Annual	30 µg/m ³

Table 5 Short-term Assessment Criteria for Particulate Matter (DA 265-10-2004).

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Criterion
Particulate Matter < 10 µm (PM10)	24-hour	50 µg/m ³

Table 6 Air Quality Monitoring Locations (EPL 11569).

Site Monitoring Point ID	EPL Monitoring Point ID	Location	Address
DDG 1	6	South-West of Karuah Hard Rock Quarry	54 Mill Hill Close, Karuah NSW 2324
DDG 2	7	South-West of Karuah Hard Rock Quarry	64 Mill Hill Close, Karuah NSW 2324
DDG 3	8	South-West of Karuah Hard Rock Quarry	Lot 251 DP1092111, Karuah NSW 2324
DDG 4	9	East of Karuah Hard Rock Quarry	21 Halloran Road, North Arm Cove NSW 2324

Deposited dust results for the 12-months prior-to and including February 2026 are summarised by **Table 7**.

Table 7 *Deposited dust monitoring results.*

Reporting Period	Start Date	End Date	Days	DDG 1 (EPL ID 2) EPL ID 6	DDG 2 (EPL ID 3) EPL ID 7	DDG 3 (EPL ID 4) EPL ID 8	DDG 4 (EPL ID 5) EPL ID 9
Mar-25	03/03/2025	03/04/2025	31	(0.7)	(1.0)	(1.4)	
	04/03/2025	03/04/2025	30				(1.1)
Apr-25	03/04/2025	05/05/2025	32	1.2	3.2	0.4	(1.0)
May-25	05/05/2025	03/06/2025	29	2.0	3.9	0.2	(0.3)
Jun-25	03/06/2025	01/07/2025	28	2.9	1.0	0.6	0.4
Jul-25	01/07/2025	01/08/2025	31	10.1*	0.5	0.4	0.2
Aug-25	01/08/2025	01/09/2025	31	0.9	2.3	0.5	0.8
Sep-25	01/09/2025	01/10/2025	30	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7
Oct-25	1/10/2025	31/10/2025	30	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.2
Nov-25	31/10/2025	02/12/2025	32	1.0	2.5	2.1	1.1
Dec-25	02/12/2025	02/01/2026	31	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.5
Jan-26	02/01/2026	30/01/2026	28	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.5
Feb-26	30/01/2026	27/02/2026	28	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.4
Progressive Annual Average				2.1	1.8	1.0	0.9

Monitoring results for the Reporting Period at the four DDG monitoring sites are within the long-term annual deposited dust limit of 4 g/m²/month.

**Note: Recorded anomalous exceedance which was subsequently reported to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (NSW Planning), the NSW EPA and surrounding landholders in accordance with the relevant conditions of the Consent and EPL.*

3.0 Blast Monitoring

Blast monitoring is undertaken for all blasts at the Quarry at the nearest residential location to ensure that air blast overpressure and ground vibration remain within the compliance limits, as summarised by **Table 8**; with the monitoring results summarised by **Table 9**.

There was one blast undertaken during the Reporting Period, which was observed to be within compliance limits.

Table 8 Blasting Airblast Overpressure and Ground Vibration Criteria (DA 265-10-2004 & EPL 11569).

Location	Airblast Overpressure (dB(L))	Ground Vibration (mm/s)	Allowable Exceedance
Private Residence B	120	10	0%
	115	5	5% over 12-month reporting period.

Table 9 Blasting Monitoring Results.

Date	Time	Location	Airblast Overpressure (dB(L))	Ground Vibration (mm/s)
20/02/2026	11:59	South Highwall	110.4	1.83

*Not triggered = n/t
 Ground Vibration < 0.5 mm/s
 Overpressure < 108 dB(L)

4.0 Noise Monitoring

Noise monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the EPL and NSW Planning approved Environmental Management Strategy & Monitoring Program (EMS&MP), which requires attended and unattended noise monitoring to be conducted on a 6-monthly basis.

There was no noise monitoring undertaken during the Reporting Period.

5.0 Surface Water Monitoring

Water monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the EPL and NSW Planning approved Site Water Management Plan, with daily monitoring of surface water being discharged from the Quarry via the licenced discharge point in accordance with Condition L2 and M2 of the EPL.

No discharge events occurred during the Reporting Period, as summarised by **Table 10**.

Table 10 *Discharge Water Monitoring Results.*

Date	Oil and Grease	pH	Total Suspended Solids, TSS (mg/L)	Nitrogen (total) (mg/L)	Phosphorus (total) (mg/L)	Discharge Type
LDP1 – Sediment Dam 2						
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sediment Basin 4						
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

7.0 Production Data

Monthly monitoring of sales and truck movements are summarised by **Table 11**.

Table 11 Quarry Production Data.

Month	Truck Movements	Quarry Product Sales (t)
Jan-26	489	15,646
Feb-26	863	27,693
Progressive Annual Total	1,352	43,339

8.0 Reporting

8.1 Reportable Environmental Incidents

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

8.2 Reportable Non-Compliances

During the Reporting Period, one air-quality related non-compliance occurred at the Quarry, as outlined below:

- An exceedance of short-term (daily) particulate monitoring criteria occurred on 06 February 2026 due to smoke generated from the Pacific Highway, Nerong bushfire to the north-east. This was potentially exacerbated by residual fire activity associated with the Oyster Cove Road, Oyster Cove bushfire to the south.

Refer to the Karuah East Quarry Environmental Monitoring Report for February 2026 available on the Hunter Quarries’ website (<https://hunterquarries.com.au/reporting/>) for further details.

8.3 Community Complaints

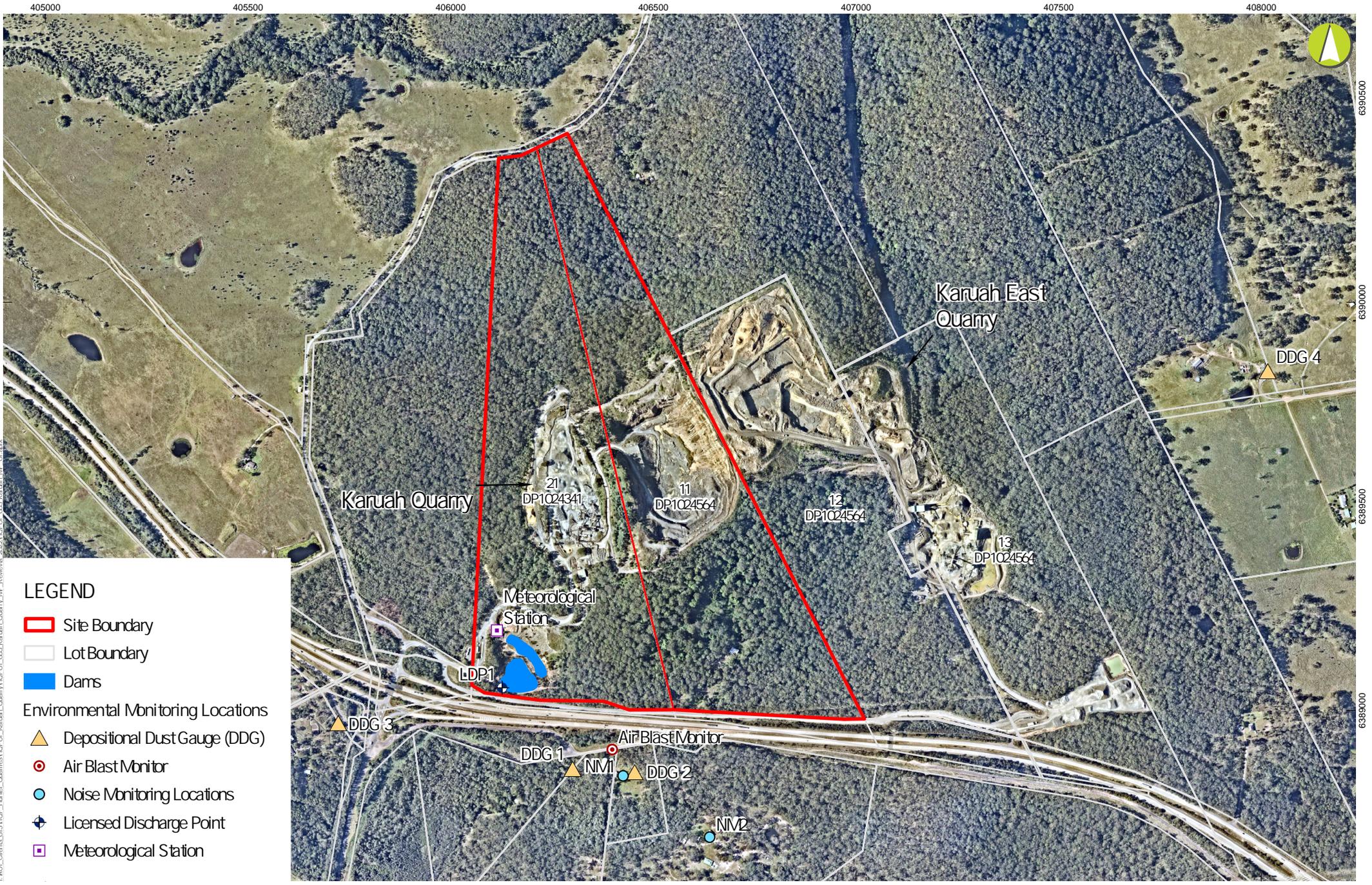
During the Reporting Period, one noise-related complaint was received by the Quarry, as outlined below:

- A resident on Mill Hill Close, Karuah notified the quarry on 04 February 2026 of increased noise coming from the processing plant over the last two weeks of January 2026.

In response, HQPL engaged EMM to undertake an extraordinary noise monitoring round, which was completed on 10 February 2026 and concluded:

- Noise being generated from the processing plant was generally consistent with output noise that was historically generated from the plan (i.e. minimal change).
- Noise monitoring results at sensitive receivers surrounding the quarry site (including the complainant’s property) were compliant with the noise limits provided by the Development Consent.
- During the last two weeks of January 2026 increased north-easterly winds were observed at the quarry, which are consistent with the apparent increase in perceived noise.

Appendix 1 – EPL 11569 Monitoring Locations



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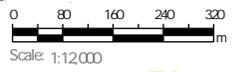


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LEGEND

- 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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APPENDIX 1 - Environmental Monitoring Locations