

Minutes

17 March 2026

Project name	Karuah Quarry Complex Community Consultative Committee, comprised of Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (DA 265-10-2004) Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175)	From	Michael Ulph
Subject	CCC Meeting Minutes	Tel	0458 049 847
Date / Time	17 March 2026 / 4.15pm	Project no.	2218437
Attendees	Michael Ulph (Chairperson) Scott Ellerton (Hunter Quarries) Darryn Bosch (Hunter Quarries) Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson) John Lyall (Port Stephens Shellfish Program) Janine Reid (North Arm Cove Residents Association) Wade Cameron (Community Representative) Uwe Seil (Community Representative) Mathew Bell (MidCoast Council)	Apologies	Tessa Hestelow (Community Representative)
Others not present	Bob Trotter (Community Representative) Karuah LALC Representative	Observers	Shane Emmanuel
Objective	Record discussion and actions from this meeting.		

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Ulph (Michael U) acknowledged the Worimi people as the traditional owners in the region, and paid respect to Elders past, present and future. - Shane Emmanuel was welcomed to the CCC as an observer, interested in becoming a community representative.
Declaration of pecuniary interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael U confirmed that Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited trading as Hunter Quarries (Hunter Quarries) is paying GHD (his employer) a fee for Michael to act as the Independent Chairperson. - Mat Radnidge (Mat R) confirmed that Hunter Quarries is paying ADW Johnson (his employer) a fee for Mat to be a member of the CCC. - Scott Ellerton (Scott E) and Darryn Bosch (Darryn B) are employees of Hunter Quarries.
Business arising from the previous minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft minutes of the regular CCC meeting dated 22 September 2025 were supplied to the CCC on 10 October 2025. No comments were received and the minutes have been finalised. - Draft minutes of the extraordinary CCC meeting dated 03 November 2025 were supplied to the CCC on 10 November 2025. No comments were received and the minutes have been finalised.

Agenda Item	Notes
Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Email invitations and an agenda for today's meeting were supplied by Michael U. - Michael U supplied a CCC Chairpersons Factsheet and associated letter from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (NSW Planning). - Michael U has emailed the Karuah LALC advising of the intent to pass their CCC membership to another member should they not make contact, after many years of non-attendance. - Michael U has discussed membership by email with Shane Emanuel, who is in attendance today.
Actions from previous meeting (22 September 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E supplied rainfall records to John L (completed). - Scott E added John L to the stakeholder notification distribution list to receive SMS messages. John L noted that he has been receiving the messages but he has not heard or felt a blast (completed). - Scott E has reviewed the noise monitoring location in consultation with Tessa H and arrangements have been made to manage dogs during monitoring periods. This arrangement has been completed for Q4 2025 and Q1 2026 monitoring (completed). - Scott E arranged a review of the Q3 2025 monitoring for Tess H's property. The noise consultant (EMM) compiled a memo of results which was distributed to Tessa H. The results were compliant with operational noise criteria (completed). - A review of 2025 rainfall events was undertaken against the design storm used to determine sediment dam capacity. See commentary below for slides 35-36 (open, completed during meeting). - Michael U and Scott E completed additional advertising to residents to the west of the Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (KHRQ) site on Taren Road, Mill Hill Close and The Branch Lane (completed). <i>Note – subsequent discussions has now enabled Shane Emmanuel to additionally join the CCC.</i> - Michael U and Scott E arranged establishment of the Karuah Quarry Complex CCC for both the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ) and the Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (KHRQ) (completed). - Michael U called an extraordinary CCC meeting for the 'highwall' project. Meeting was held on 03 November 2025 (completed).
Company Report & Overview of Activities	<p>Scott E presented the company report and overview of activities.</p> <p><u>SLIDES 5 & 6:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E described the KEQ and KHRQ projects in summary, including a summary of approved operations. - Mat R detailed the history of the Karuah Quarry Complex including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current KHRQ (which involved extension from Lot 21 into Lot 11) was approved in 2005. Prior to that operations occurred on Lot 21 under a local MidCoast Council (formerly Great Lakes) consent. Prior to that the former 'Karuah Red' quarry operated at the southern section of Lot 21 prior to the commencement of the NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979). ▪ At the time approval for the KEQ was granted (June 2014), Hunter Quarries were not the owners of Lot 11 and an agreement was unable to be reached with the former landowner of Lot 11 to extend quarrying

Agenda Item	Notes
	<p>operations from Lot 11 into Lot 12 and 13. As a result the KEQ was approved, resulting in the side by side operation of two quarries with a remnant dividing highwall in between the quarries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2025, Hunter Quarries acquired Lot 11 and are now progressing with the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project which involves removal of the remnant dividing highwall. This project is recapped in later slides and was the purpose of the extraordinary meeting on 3 November 2025. ▪ A Conservation Offset Area (COA) has been established for KHRQ on the southern portion of Lot 12. ▪ Approved Biodiversity Offset Areas (BOAs) for KEQ consist of the Eastern BOA on Lot 13 (part), Lot 14 and Lot 5 and the Western BOA on Lot 21 (part). ▪ As the owner of Lot 11, Hunter Quarries are now in control of the proposed Karuah South Quarry (KSQ) application. SE noted that Hunter Quarries are considering its options in relation to that project and how it 'fits' with the existing two quarry operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wade C asked if the community are aware that ownership of Lot 11 has changed hands? Mat R noted that this was noted at the 22 September 2025 meeting and discussed in the 3 November 2026 extraordinary CCC meeting. - Shane E noted that he was aware of the gate that provided entry to Lot 11 from Blue Rock Close. Scott E noted that the access driveway leads to existing sheds, being used for storage. - Michael U – Noted that the Complex Plan shows surplus lands (e.g. Lot 4 to the north). Are there any plans for these lands? Scott E noted that any surplus lands are treated as buffer lands at this time. Mat R noted that the current priority is to lodge applications for the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project (highwall removal). <p><u>SLIDES 7-9:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E noted that at KHRQ there have been no changes to operations. At KEQ there has been part implementation of extended hours of operation approved by MOD 9 (sales loading from 5.30am) to support the Singleton Bypass. - Scott E recapped the approvals for KHRQ and KEQ, including the previous Modification Approvals issued for KEQ. <p><u>SLIDE 10:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E recapped the Commonwealth EPBC (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act) approvals for the KEQ. - Michael U asked why EPBC approval was necessary? Mat R noted Commonwealth EPBC approval for KEQ was necessary because of federally listed ecological species. - Mat R noted that the initial EPBC approval was received in 2015 after NSW Planning had approved the KEQ. This original EPBC approval referred to the same offset lands as the NSW Project Approval. Noting that MOD 10 (approved May 2023) adjusted the shape of the original approved offset area, it was necessary to obtain a further EPBC approval, which was issued in July 2025 for new clearing impacts.

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mat B asked if the Bilateral Approval pathway was used for the 2025 EPBC approval? Mat R confirmed yes. <p><u>SLIDE 11:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E recapped that the KEQ BOA consists of an Eastern BOA and a Western BOA. The KEQ Biodiversity Offset Strategy was recently approved by NSW Planning. - In relation to the Western BOA, Uwe S asked if the area would need to have a fence constructed? The vegetation disturbance caused by the construction of a fence may outweigh the environmental benefit of securing the offset. - Scott E noted that fencing to be installed will be in accordance with what the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) requires as part of establishment of the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA). - Mat B noted that there is no stock to keep out of the area. Mat B also agreed that it makes sense not to remove vegetation to build a fence if the fence is unnecessary. <p><u>SLIDES 12-17:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E recapped the Environment Protection Licences (EPL) that apply to both KHRQ and KEQ - Scott E recapped all of Management Plans that apply to both sites. - Wade C asked if there was a management plan for feral animals? He recalls pig trapping was discussed a number of years ago? Mat R noted that there are controls for Feral Animal monitoring and control within the established Biodiversity Offset Area Management Plan (BOAMP). Mat R recalled that pig trapping was conducted in the offset area previously. <p>Meeting Postscript: Pig trapping was successfully completed in 2019 on Lot 14 (within the Eastern BOA) by the Great Lakes Wild Dog Control Group – refer to the CCC meeting minutes dated 4 March 2019 and 2 September 2019.</p> <p><u>SLIDES 18-20:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E detailed the rainfall records between 2024 – 2026. Record rainfall was recorded in April, May and August 2025, with near record rainfall in January 2025. - Scott E noted that annual 2025 rainfall (2,440.4mm) was significantly above average annual rainfall (1,315.2mm) and 2024 annual rainfall (1,504mm). <p><u>SLIDE 21:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E confirmed that the meteorological station is located near the weighbridge of the KHRQ. <p><u>SLIDES 22-24:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E noted that air quality monitoring of particulate matter was within approval criteria. There were spikes in November 2025, December 2025 and February 2026 due to bushfire smoke caused by fires at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Branch and North Arm Cove (Nov-25); o Bulahdelah (Dec-25); and o Oyster Cove and Nerong (Feb-26). - Scott E noted that depositional dust monitoring was generally within approved criteria except for one event at DDG 1 in July 2025. This was an anomalous event as DDG1 was located upwind of quarry operations. All

Agenda Item	Notes
	<p>other sites were compliant. This result was reported to the NSW EPA, NSW Planning and landholders.</p> <p><u>SLIDE 25:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E noted that all quarterly noise monitoring completed demonstrated compliance with criteria at all receivers. <p><u>SLIDES 26-28:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E noted that 4x blasts were undertaken at KHRQ and 8x blasts were undertaken at KEQ within the period. All blasts were compliant with air blast overpressure and ground vibration criteria. - A video of a blast at KEQ undertaken on 09/03/2026 was shown. - Darryn B explained that a blasting contractor is commissioned to undertake drilling and blasting activities. A drone is used to capture the blast footage. <p><u>SLIDE 29:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E detailed monthly sales records at both KHRQ and KEQ since July 2025. It was noted that during August 2025 there was a reduction in sales due to wet weather which results in construction/building sites slowing down (therefore less demand for quarry products). <p><u>SLIDES 30-33:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E provided an overview at surface water management at both quarries: <p>KHRQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dam 2 is a conversion of the former 'Karuah Red Quarry' and manages runoff from operational areas of the quarry. The dam serves as the primary water storage for KHRQ and provides water for operational purposes such as dust suppression. - One (1) uncontrolled discharge event occurred at KHRQ in 2025. <p>KEQ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dam 1 provides sedimentation functions for operational areas of the quarry and is a source of water for dust suppression. - Dam 2 provides sedimentation functions for the weighbridge area. - Dam 3 provides sedimentation functions for the stockpile area. - Two (2) uncontrolled discharge events occurred at KEQ (in July & August 2025). <p><u>SLIDES 34-35:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E detailed a review that was completed of 2025 rainfall events in comparison to the design storm used to determine sediment dam capacity. - Scott E noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 'Blue Book' requires a design storm event of the 95th percentile rainfall events for sensitive receiving environments. - Dam capacities at KEQ were developed upon weather from BOM's Tahlee site (1887 to 2013), which provides for 90.6mm over five days. - A comparison of Hunter Quarries weather station was also completed (2016-current). - Six (6) events of very high rainfall occurred in 2025. - Considering the rainfall events in comparison to the Tahlee weather station, five (5) of the events were in the 99th percentile and one (1) was in the 97th percentile.

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering the rainfall events in comparison to the Hunter Quarries' weather station, one (1) was in the 100th percentile, three (3) were in the 99th percentile and two (2) were in the 98th percentile. - Scott E confirmed that the KEQ dam sizes are compliant with 'Blue Book' requirements. - Mat B – Asked what designing to the 97th percentile would look like? Scott E confirmed it would mean larger dams. - General discussion around significant rainfall events over the past few years. - Wade C – With the additional land acquired by Hunter Quarries, will there be any consideration to increase dam sizes? Scott E noted yes. As part of the approved MOD 10 project larger dams were approved (however MOD 10 has not been established yet). Scott also noted that dam sizing will be reviewed as part of the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project. - Janine R – Can the Tahlee results be updated beyond 2013? Scott E indicated that it was not possible because the Tahlee weather station has closed by the Bureau of Meteorology. Accordingly, the Hunter Quarries' meteorological station is used. <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Janine R requested a copy of the rainfall records. Scott E to supply. <p><u>SLIDES 36-38:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E outlined environmental monitoring exceedances and non-conformances. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uncontrolled discharge of sediment laden water (1-3 July 2025 and 3-5 August 2025) associated with rainfall events that exceeded the sediment dam design capacities. ▪ An anomalous exceedance of air quality criteria at DDG1 in July 2025. ▪ Failure to monitor particulate matter (associated with a power outage) on 8 November 2025. A replacement run was completed on 12-13 November 2025. ▪ Particulate matter exceedances due to bushfires (14 Nov 2025, 08 December 2025 and 06 February 2026). ▪ Relevant to each non-conformance, as required, stakeholders were notified including landholders, NSW Planning and NSW EPA. - Scott E noted that one (1) complaint was received on 18 November 2025 regarding heavy vehicle movements through the intersection of The Branch Lane and Andersite Road. In response, drivers and employees were subject to toolbox talks regarding safe driving practices. <p><u>SLIDES 39-40:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E outlined the numerous community sponsorships that are provided. - Scott E encouraged CCC members to reach out with any community sponsorship requests and Hunter Quarries would consider. - Shane E indicated that the men's shed appreciated the donation of a fridge. <p><u>SLIDES 41-45:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E and Mat R provided a recap on the proposed Karuah Pit Consolidation Project that was the subject of the Extraordinary CCC meeting held on 03 November 2025. - The project can be delivered by concurrent modifications to both the KEQ and KHRQ consents.

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wade C and Uwe S asked if noise will be considered once the highwall component of the project is removed. Mat R confirmed yes, a noise impact assessment (NIA) will accompany the application. The NIA will consider three (3) phases of the development which will generally include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of the top benches of the dividing highwall to the current KEQ pit floor level to create a single extraction area within Lot 12. 2. Extraction within the KEQ extraction area to down to RL 65m to match the adjoining KHRQ pit floor. This will form a single level over the entire consolidated extraction area. 3. Extract final benches at KEQ (Lot 12 and 13) to RL 45m (the approved final floor level). KHRQ will remain at RL 65m (the approved final floor level). - CCC members observed the visual impact improvements that the proposal will generate, particularly from the Pacific Highway. - Mat R advised that following lodgement, NSW Planning will publicly exhibit the Modification Applications, which will contain all specialist consultant reporting (e.g. the Noise Impact Assessment). - Mat B asked if there were any efficiencies for lot boundaries to be adjusted. - Scott E advised that this would be considered, especially in relation to offset areas, with no firm decision at this point. - Wade C asked if lot boundaries would affect approvals. - Mat R advised that they would not, and that landowner consent was the main consideration when lodging an application. - Uwe S asked if there would be any concerns about windrows when the highwall was removed. - Mat R advised that the main potential for impact would be when the very top of the highwall comes down, and air quality and noise specialists have been asked to consider bringing the highwall down in stages. Scott E advised that the assessments have considered the shielding effects. - Mat R also mentioned that during the final rehab stage they should be able to establish a free-draining landscape as opposed to two artificial lakes, which is a better and more natural looking outcome. - Scott E outlined the expected timeframe for approvals for the consolidation project (as per slide 45). <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mat R / Scott E will notify Michael U (to notify the CCC) when public exhibition details are known.
General Business	<p><u>SLIDE 46:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael U worked through the CCC Terms of Reference which are relevant for both projects. All CCC members agreed with no changes necessary apart from the membership changes. - Michael U confirmed that when draft CCC meeting minutes are issued, there is a 2-week period for any comments to be made by CCC members. After that, the minutes are finalised. - Michael U has emailed the Karuah LALC advising of the intent to pass their CCC membership to another member should they not make contact, after many years of non-attendance. The LALC has had several CEO changes and been invited for the last ten years, has accepted invitations in the past but not attended. The LALC will be afforded observer status if they show interest in attending from time to time.

Agenda Item	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uwe asked when the removal of the highwall was likely to commence. - Mat R advised that it was subject to approval by the Department, but hopefully this time, next year. - Uwe asked if there was demand for the material. - Mat R and Scott E advised that demand was high with it expected to continue. - John L asked that if the quarry life was 2034 or would new applications be started now. - Scott advised that this was a long-term planning piece. Consents are only valid for 30 years. - Mat R advised that preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) takes a couple of years, with more than a year for approvals and preparation. - Michael U asked if it was more likely that a modification would be used. - Mat R advised that no, it wouldn't for a project of that scale.
Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael U advised that the next regular CCC meeting is to be scheduled for September 2026. Michael to confirm details and issue calendar invites.
Meeting close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting was closed at 5.27pm
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scott E to supply rainfall records to Janine R. - CCC to be notified when the Modification Applications for the Karuah Pit Consolidation Project are publicly exhibited by NSW Planning.