



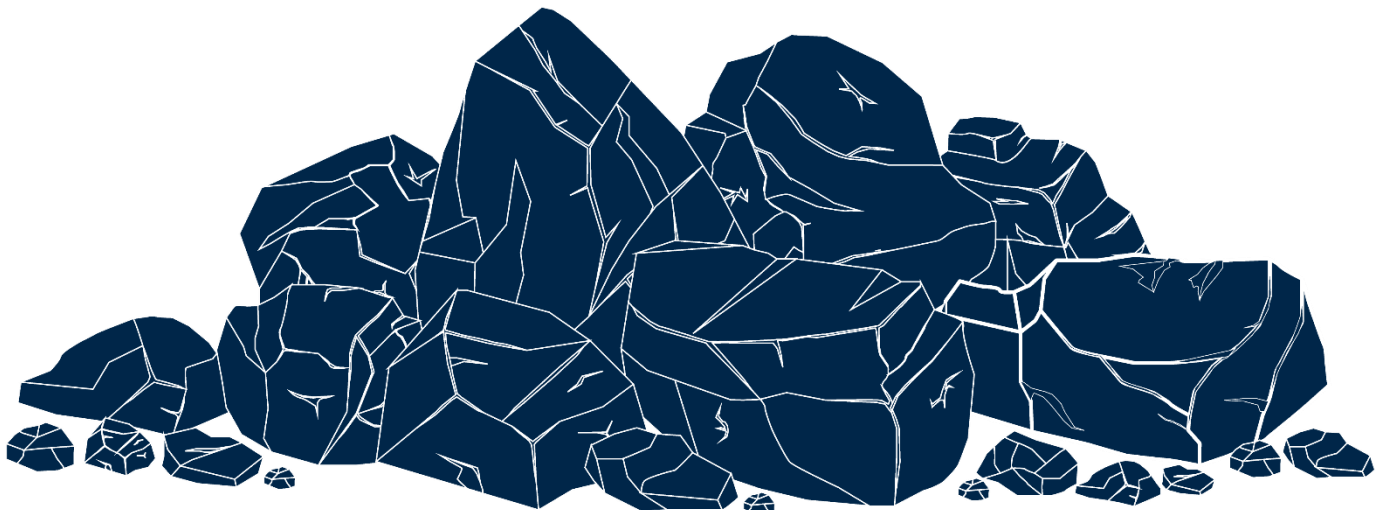
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Karuah Hard Rock Quarry

Community Consultation Report

H1 2026



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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
KEQ	Karuah East Quarry (MP09_0175)
KEQPL	Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited
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 2026 to 30 June 2026
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 H1-2026 Reporting Period from 01 January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

1.3 Establishment of the Joint Karuah Quarry Complex Community Consultative Committee

In 2025 it was proposed to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department), MCC and the members of 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.

The proposal was unanimously supported by all stakeholders, with an additional round of expressions of interest being issued to residents within the North Karuah area in October 2025, however, no responses were received. The Joint Karuah Quarry Complex CCC was subsequently established in March 2026 and in accordance with the Quarry's Environmental Management Strategy & Monitoring Program (EMS&MP), replaces this Community Consultation Report (CCR) as the primary method of community consultation for the Quarry. Accordingly, this is the final Community Consultation Report for the Quarry.

Details for the Joint Karuah Quarry Complex CCC including the list of committee members, meeting minutes and presentation materials are available from the Hunter Quarries website:

<https://hunterquarries.com.au/reporting/>

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**.

Table 1 *Deposited Dust Monitoring Results.*

Month	Start Date	End Date	DDG1	DDG2	DDG3	DDG4
January 2026	02/01/2026	30/01/2026	1.1	1.2	0.9	0.5
February 2026	30/01/2026	27/02/2026	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.4
March 2026	27/02/2026	31/03/2026	1.2	7.7*	0.8	4.6*
April 2026	31/03/2026	1/05/2026	1.9	9.2*	0.8	3.7
May 2026	1/05/2026	1/06/2026	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
June 2026	1/06/2026	1/07/2026	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.6
Reporting Period Average			1.1	3.5	0.8	1.8
Annual Average Criteria			4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

**Note – Depositional dust gauge (DDG) exceedances were recorded at DDG2 during the March and April 2026 monitoring periods and at DDG4 during the March 2026 monitoring period. These exceedances were reported to the Department, the NSW EPA and surrounding landholders in accordance with the relevant conditions of the Consent and EPL.*

However, the exceedances are considered unlikely to be directly attributable to quarry operations given strong easterly winds during March 2026 placing DDG4 upwind of the site, whilst the results at DDG2 were not repeated at the neighbouring two monitoring locations indicating a localised dust source.

3.0 Blast Monitoring

HQPL conducts blasts in accordance with the Consent and the EPL to minimise nuisance to the environment and 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)
20/02/2026	11:59 am	110.4	1.83
13/03/2026	11:03 am	108.4	0.57
15/04/2026	11:03 am	115.0	0.69
01/06/2026	01:02 pm	112.1	2.10

*Note: *Nil Trigger events occur when both recorded overpressure is <112 dBL and recorded ground vibration is <0.5 mm/s.*

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 June 2026, 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 – June 2026*

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	19/06/2026 8:05	0.4	261	A	Yes	48	IA	Nil
NM1	19/06/2026 8:23	0.3	55	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 during June 2026 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.

However, it should be noted that the unattended noise monitoring logger deployed at NM2 (Mill Hill Close, Karuah) appeared to have been subjected to external interference, being found in a different location with cables being removed and/or disturbed. This was subsequently reported to NSW Planning and the NSW EPA in accordance with relevant conditions of the Consent and EPL.

Table 4 *Unattended Noise Monitoring Results – June 2026*

Location	Period	Measured noise levels, dB	
		RBL	L _{Aeq,period}
NM1 4 June - 15 June 2026	Day	48	56
	Evening	44	61
	Night	37	51
NM2 4 June - 15 June 2026	Day	N/A ²	N/A ²
	Evening	N/A ²	N/A ²
	Night	N/A ²	N/A ²

Notes: 1. Levels in this table are not necessarily the result of activity at site.
2. No valid monitoring results were obtained from the unattended noise monitor located at NM2 due to unauthorised interference with the monitoring equipment.

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 25 March 2026 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)
25/03/2026	21.8	8.4	586	28	17	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05

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 was one discharge event, across three days, from our LDP located at Sediment Dam 2. Water sampling confirmed compliance with the discharge criteria of pH between 6.5 and 8.5 and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) below 50 mg/L, as summarised in **Table 6**.

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)
22/06/2026	15.4	7.3	561	75	13	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
23/06/2026	15.5	7.5	555	65	30	Not Visible	0.4	<0.05
24/06/2026	16.6	7.4	560	60	29	Not Visible	0.2	<0.05

6.0 Production

Monthly monitoring of sales across the Reporting Period is summarised in **Table 7**. In total there were approximately 158,157 tonnes of product sold, with an associated 4,812 truck movements.

Table 7 *Monthly Production Data.*

Month	Truck Movements	Quarry Product (tonnes)
January 2026	489	15,646
February 2026	863	27,693
March 2026	661	22,370
April 2026	980	31,015
May 2026	657	22,122
June 2026	1,162	39,311
Progressive Annual Total	4,812	158,157

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, four reportable non-compliances occurred at the Quarry, including:

- 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.

- An exceedance of performance criteria at two Depositional Dust Gauges during March 2026.
- An exceedance of performance criteria at one Depositional Dust Gauge during April 2026.
- A failure to monitor event occurred in June 2026, associated with unattended noise monitoring at one noise monitoring point located on Mill Hill Close, Karuah which was observed to have been subjected to unauthorised external interference.

This event was reported to NSW Planning and the NSW EPA in accordance with the relevant conditions of the Consent and EPL.

7.3 Community Complaints

During the Reporting Period, one community complaint was reported to the Quarry.

- A resident on Mill Hill Close, Karuah notified the quarry on 04 February 2026 of increased noise coming from the processing plant in late 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 plant (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.

The complainant was subsequently provided with a copy of the noise assessment report for the claim investigation.

7.4 Management Plans

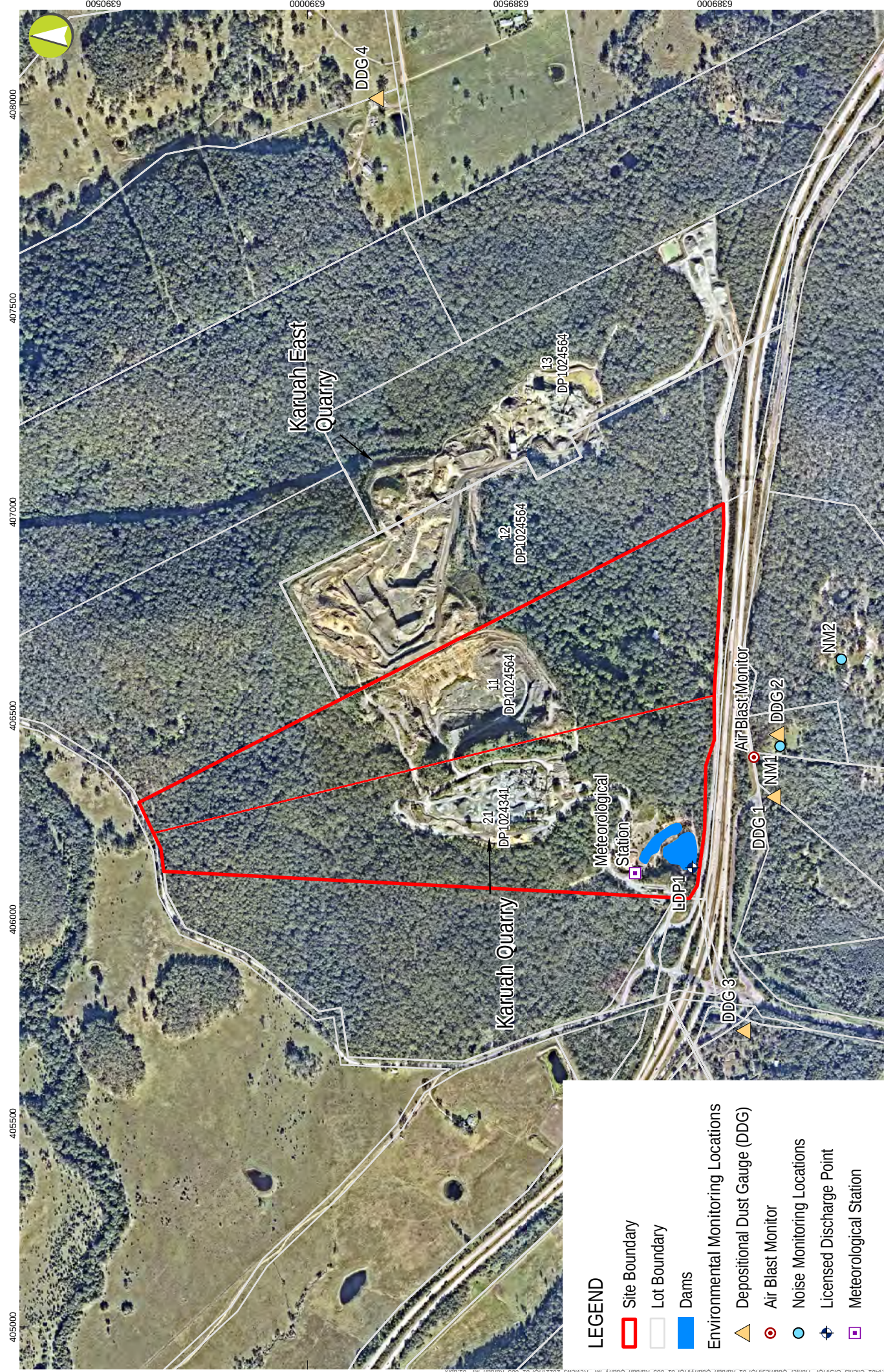
During the Reporting Period, the following updates to Management Plans were undertaken:

- PIRMP (Version 7, dated June 2026) was comprehensively reviewed and updated on 19 June 2026.

7.5 Audits

No audits were completed during the Reporting Period.

Appendix 1 – Environmental Monitoring Locations



LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Lot Boundary
- Dams
- Environmental Monitoring Locations
- Depositional Dust Gauge (DDG)
- Air Blast Monitor
- Noise Monitoring Locations
- Licensed Discharge Point
- Meteorological Station

