

# Minutes

9 June 2021

<b>Project name</b>	Karuah East Quarry - Community Consultative Committee	<b>From</b>	Michael Ulph
<b>Subject</b>	Meeting Minutes - Extraordinary Meeting	<b>Tel</b>	0458 049 847
<b>Date / Time</b>	9 June 2021	<b>Project no.</b>	2218437
<b>Attendees</b>	Michael Ulph (Chairperson), Wade Cameron (Community Representative), Goetz Schraer (Community Representative), Tony Ebben (Community Representative), Michael Todd (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd), Joel Fleming (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd), Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson).  Tessa Hestelow (Guest community member)	<b>Apologies</b>	Mathew Bell – Midcoast Council
<b>Objective</b>	Record discussion and actions from this meeting.		

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Michael Ulph paid respect to the traditional Aboriginal custodians of the Karuah region, past, present and future.</li> <li>– Attendees were invited to introduce themselves due to there being a couple of new faces.</li> </ul>
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Michael Ulph confirmed that KEQ Pty Ltd is paying GHD (his employer) a fee for Michael to act as the independent chairperson for the CCC.</li> <li>– Mat Radnidge confirmed that KEQ Pty Ltd is paying ADW Johnson (his employer) a fee for Mat to be a member of the CCC.</li> <li>– Michael Todd and Joel Fleming are employees of Hunter Quarries / Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd.</li> </ul>
Acceptance of Previous Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft CCC Meeting Minutes dated 29 March 2021; and</li> <li>• Draft Site Inspection Record dated 29 March 2021.</li> </ul> <p>With adjustments to include:</p> <p>Goetz noted (1) he does not anticipate objection from the broader neighbourhood to the extended loading and dispatch times due to the position of stockpiles, and (2) the neighbourhood will likely not want the quarry to operate after 7pm as noise travels very well at night and could therefore be unacceptable to the local community.</p> <p>It is noted that in a subsequent email dated 8/5/21, Goetz confirmed that this comment was no longer valid as some neighbours at the southern end of Halloran Road have raised issues with the loading of trucks.</p> <p>Mat requested that, for clarity, the final dot point on page 5 of the draft minutes be amended to read [additions in italics] – ‘Noted that the operations of the primary crusher will not be modified by MOD 9 <i>in relation to daily</i></p>

Agenda Item	Notes
	<p><i>commencement time</i> (ie. Commencement will remain at 7.00am). MOD 9 proposes to extend the hours of operation of the primary crusher from 6.00pm to 10.00pm (Mon-Fri) and from 1.00pm to 6.00pm on Saturday.</p> <p>Moved: Joel Fleming</p> <p>Seconded: Goetz Schraer</p>
Business Arising from Previous Minutes	Held over to the next meeting, as this is an extraordinary meeting to discuss MOD 9.
Correspondence	Held over to the next meeting, as this is an extraordinary meeting to discuss MOD 9, apart from correspondence from Goetz and Mat regarding MOD 9 and emails to set up this meeting.
Discussion of MOD 9	<p>Mat provided the following summary of the currently consented hours of operation and the details of proposed MOD 9:</p> <p>Currently the operating hours are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday</li> <li>• 7am to 1pm Saturday</li> </ul> <p>MOD 9 proposes to change these hours to:</p> <p>For loading and dispatch activity only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5am to 10pm Monday to Friday</li> <li>• 5am to 6pm Saturday</li> </ul> <p>Quarrying operations, excluding drilling &amp; blasting and overburden removal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7am to 10pm Monday to Friday</li> <li>• 7am – 6pm Saturday.</li> </ul> <p>No change to annual extraction rates, throughput or total traffic numbers.</p> <p>Mat outlined the key points of project justification for proposed MOD 9 to the CCC members. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KEQPL needs greater long-term flexibility in operational hours to improve efficiency and respond to market demand for product. At present, the currently consented operating hours do not offer enough flexibility. MOD 9 will allow KEQPL to maintain a constant supply of product to its current and emerging customer base in Newcastle and the Hunter;</li> <li>• An earlier opening time of 5.00am (Monday to Saturday) for product loading and dispatch will allow KEQPL to make product available to construction / building sites at the time of daily commencement (which is typically 7.00am). The current opening time of 7.00am at KEQPL creates an inefficient lag in the supply of product to building sites noting that Karuah is approximately one (1) hour away from markets in Newcastle and the broader Hunter Valley;</li> <li>• Similarly, a later finishing time of 10.00pm (Monday to Friday) will allow KEQPL to supply product to building / infrastructure projects that are active during the evening and night;</li> </ul> <p>Wade mentioned that while the infrastructure projects that this quarry was seeking to supply were being built over a fixed, shorter timeframe, the quarry</p>

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	<p>would be operating for decades to supply to a range of projects in different locations.</p> <p>Goetz stated that 1 hour earlier and 1 hour later might be acceptable to the community, whereas this MOD was for 2 hours earlier and 4 hours later during the week, and 5 hours later on Saturdays.</p> <p>Goetz suggested that the purpose of MOD 9 was to allow two (2) shifts to be established at the KEQ.</p> <p>Also that the quarry was on the market for sale and two (2) shifts will increase the attractiveness of the quarry to a potential buyer. KEQ staff were unaware of this, and after discussion it was agreed that it was a rumour.</p> <p>Goetz suggested that efficiency was better use of hours and not longer hours. He said that one hour earlier or later was probably acceptable. He asked if the workforce would work up to 6pm every day. Michael Todd said some days they did.</p> <p>Mat continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commensurate with the request to extend product loading and dispatch times, extended operations are essential to ensure product is available for dispatch. Extended operational times are also necessary for KEQPL to satisfy times of intense product demand. Quarry operations will only be extended beyond 6.00pm on an as needed basis; however it is important that flexible hours be established;</li> <li>• It was confirmed that it was only loading and dispatch proposed to occur from 5.00am and that the balance of the operations would continue to commence (unchanged) from 7.00am; and</li> <li>• No increase in total extraction is proposed. This will remain unchanged at 1.5 million tonnes per annum.</li> <li>• Mat reiterated that the plant (crushing) would not be operating at the earlier proposed hours (5am-7am), this would be limited to loading and dispatch activity only.</li> </ul> <p>Goetz explained that he saw MOD 9 as 'bracket creep', where initial approval was given for shorter hours, now longer hours are proposed. Goetz suggested that at a later date, 24/7 operation may be proposed by KEQPL.</p> <p>Mat indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOD 9 does not seek 24/7 hour operation and accordingly it is not relevant to discuss.</li> <li>• MOD 9 has been specifically tailored to address areas where KEQPL management have identified that flexibility is needed. In consideration of its neighbours, KEQPL has not adopted a 'blanket approach' (eg. the 5am opening is only necessary for product loading and dispatch).</li> <li>• Mat reminded the CCC that KEQPL have made a genuine effort to mitigate noise from quarry operations (particularly via MOD 8).</li> <li>• Goetz agreed that KEQPL has made significant effort to attenuate noise and this is appreciated by the local community. Goetz advised that he did explain to community members that the quarry goes to some lengths to manage noise.</li> </ul> <p>Wade asked what was the latest time that a road truck has been loaded.</p>

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	<p>Michael Todd advised 4pm or a little later.</p> <p>Wade asked what was the latest time the crusher was operated. Michael Todd advised that up to 6pm was the latest time.</p> <p>Discussion was held around noise observed at residences, and various trucks and movements, and the levels of noise generated by various activities.</p> <p>Michael Ulph asked which trucks were owned by Hunter Quarries and which were owned by others. The purchasers generally used their own trucks, while trucks used onsite were owned by KEQ.</p> <p>Michael Ulph asked which activities were proposed for the longer hours. Michael Todd responded that it was for the load-out of product to be taken from site.</p> <p>Michael Ulph asked if there was noise data about the two activities and the loading of different types of products.</p> <p>Joel advised that data was available for the individual machines. Also that the primary business of the quarry was in selling aggregates. The larger materials were less commonly required.</p> <p>Tessa asked if the 'emergency' supply of rock was what the special permit was for. Mat replied that this was within the consent during an emergency situation.</p> <p>Goetz responded that 'we all understood that it was an emergency situation, and nobody minded.'</p> <p>Joel advised that it wasn't something they usually planned for.</p> <p>Mat explained where the MOD 9 application was up to with the Department of Planning, Industry &amp; Environment (DPIE):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOD 9 was lodged on 26 April 2021.</li> <li>• It has been preliminarily examined by the DPIE and by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. The EPA has reviewed the acoustic assessment and on 25 May 2021 a Request for Information (RFI) was issued.</li> <li>• The RFI mainly relates to verification of background noise (which then feeds into establishment of noise target levels, modelling and noise predictions).</li> <li>• To respond to the RFI, it is likely that further background noise data will be collected. A revised acoustic report will be prepared and lodged with the NSW DPIE and EPA. A robust assessment of the revised information will then be completed by the agencies.</li> <li>• The MOD 9 application is not being formally exhibited however the assessment officer at the NSW DPIE (Mr James McDonough) is pleased</li> </ul>

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<p>Further feedback from community members.</p>	<p>to receive any submissions. Goetz noted that he and some other residents had lodged a submission with James.</p> <p>Wade asked what the issue was with background noise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mat explained that the EPA has sought verification of background data used in the MOD 9 acoustic report. Additional data collection is necessary because a different acoustic consultant (Thearle Acoustics) collected the noise data to the consultant that prepared the MOD 9 acoustic report (EMM). EMM are required to collect further background data and verify their model, acoustic targets and predicted results for MOD 9. Thearle Acoustics produced the noise report that accompanied the MOD 8 application.</li> </ul> <p>Michael Ulph explained the relevance of background noise in considering the noise generated by a different source.</p> <p>Wade described that when the background noise from the Pacific Highway was reduced by the bypass, he could then hear the noise from the Karuah Quarry crusher.</p> <p>Wade indicated that if he was a resident in the Halloran Road area he would not want to hear a quarry operating until 10pm on a Saturday night. Mat advised that MOD 9 does not propose this (Saturday operations are proposed to cease at 6.00pm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tessa asked what the extension of time was.</li> <li>• Mat replied it was from 1pm to 6pm.</li> <li>• Goetz repeated it was also 6pm to 10pm (on weekdays), which was substantial.</li> <li>• Mat asked to please put [concerns] in writing to the Department.</li> <li>• Goetz replied “we did already”, and asked if submissions had closed.</li> <li>• Mat replied that the Department was receiving submissions while the Mod was being considered.</li> <li>• Michael Ulph asked Goetz and Tessa to discuss feedback from the local community.</li> <li>• Goetz advised that the local Halloran Road community was extremely worried about the extra noise that could come during the proposed extended hours.</li> <li>• Tessa advised that her family home was closest to the quarry and that with small children they were concerned about noise impacts and sleep disturbance. It was noticeable at 7am and she expected it to be noticeable at 10pm.</li> <li>• She advised that she understands that flexibility is likely needed by KEQPL but had concern about the quarry having the ability to operate to 10pm every single weekday evening.</li> <li>• Tessa asked if the quarry would consider putting in a maximum of say 30 days in a year when they might work those longer hours.</li> <li>• Goetz suggested that another compromise would be to only load smaller gravel and no larger rock.</li> <li>• Mat said the feedback was very constructive.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tessa asked if KEQ had any idea of how often the extended hours would be used.</li> <li>• Michael Todd indicated that it would depend on market demand.</li> <li>• Goetz suggested that once permission was given, the quarry could do as it wished, and so it should be organised up front (in writing), such as not having the more noisy work occurring after 6pm.</li> <li>• Joel mentioned that this Modification had already been lodged, and that James (the Department) was already taking submissions, but that they wanted to hold the meeting to hear the concerns of the community. There may be a compromise before the Mod was approved, or it may be denied.</li> <li>• Mat reiterated that the owners wanted to hear from the community. That there was no legislated requirement for this meeting, but they wanted to sit down and discuss it.</li> <li>• Tessa asked if a 'special permit' was granted to KEQ for extended hours for the supply of product to respond to the Wamberal emergency. Mat indicated that the KEQ consent allows extended hours in response to an emergency when directly instructed by a public authority. In the Wamberal emergency, KEQPL were instructed by Central Coast Council. KEQPL also notified the DPIE that this emergency supply work would be undertaken prior to commencement. KEQPL also notified nearby neighbours. Michael Todd noted that this was a noisy exercise because very large rock was needed. Typically, the quarry sells much smaller product.</li> <li>• Tessa noted that loading large rocks first thing in the morning could be a problem (and was a problem during the Wamberal emergency where extended hours of operation occurred). Michael Todd indicated that loading large rocks first thing in the morning is a very rare occurrence and the product is normally smaller aggregates. Goetz suggested a compromise for the morning extended hours could be that only smaller aggregates are loaded, and not larger more noisy products. Mat &amp; Joel indicated that this is feedback that can be supplied to KEQPL management.</li> <li>• Goetz indicated that the community are willing to compromise.</li> <li>• Goetz stated that once permission was gained, there should be a written agreement that KEQPL cannot apply to extend the hours of operation any further in the future.</li> <li>• Joel advised that KEQPL was happy to hear the community feedback. Mat confirmed that the CCC members can put any submissions or comments in writing to the NSW DPIE.</li> <li>• Wade asked if the acoustics from trucks could be measured? Possibly at people's houses.</li> <li>• Mat explained that as part of the MOD 9 noise report, the noise consultant (EMM) undertakes recordings of actual equipment and site activity to verify modelling.</li> <li>• Wade mentioned that he knew the sound very well.</li> <li>• Joel and Michael mentioned that for the purchase and hire of equipment, KEQPL consider the noise levels and where possible seek to purchase use the quieter machines.</li> <li>• Tony advised that he lived near a significant noise source (major road) in Marrickville and became used to that noise. Tony indicated that in</li> </ul>

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	<p>Karuah he was more concerned about impacts from the expansion of Williamtown airport, and new flights as opposed to KEQ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wade mentioned that unexpected and irregular sounds are the worst, such as the crusher at Karuah Quarry at night some years ago.</li> <li>• Before Tessa had to leave, Joel explained that as environmental manager he was keen to be advised as soon as possible of any issues from residents (such as noise and dust) so that he could investigate and respond. Joel encourages community feedback.</li> <li>• Joel indicated to Tessa that contact will always be made with her prior to KEQPL staff accessing her property to gain access to the dust gauge.</li> <li>• Tessa was supplied with a copy of the air quality monitoring report and a copy of a plan showing the acoustic and air quality monitoring locations.</li> <li>• Tessa questioned the location of the dust gauge on her property. Joel indicated that KEQPL are amenable to relocating the gauge but not adjacent to Halloran Road because it is unsealed. The following action was committed to:</li> <li>• <b>Action</b> – Joel will mark up (on an aerial image) potential locations to relocate the gauge and supply to Tess for consideration. Joel indicated that there are some requirements (etc. the grass needs to be maintained around the monitor).</li> <li>• Tessa identified where the dust monitor was on her property.</li> <li>• Joel explained the guidelines around the placement of dust monitors, and issues with using them.</li> <li>• Joel and Tessa discussed placement and agreed that they would work together to find a mutually agreeable place to put it.</li> <li>• Tessa had to leave. Michael Ulph asked if he could send a copy of the minutes to Tessa, which was agreed.</li> <li>• Wade identified that project ‘creep’ was of concern and hoped that KEQPL was not moving towards a proposal for 24/7 operation (which he would object to). He lives in the bush and enjoys the peaceful surrounds. He noted that the operations of KEQ are too far away to bother him directly.</li> <li>• Goetz mentioned that six people attended the community meeting, and that they appreciate the efforts to date. The community is ready to compromise.</li> </ul>
General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joel outlined recent results of noise, blast and dust monitoring. All compliant, with the only air quality exceedance recorded during the 2019 regional bushfire disaster. Discussion of dust management measures at the quarry was undertaken (including the use of a polo citrus system onto the raw feed).</li> <li>• Joel mentioned that there are toolbox talks to discuss these impacts and look to minimise them.</li> <li>• Joel advised that acoustic monitoring occurs quarterly and includes wind direction and strength, and that a meteorological station onsite (at Karuah Quarry) provided constant measurements. He discussed various criteria for monitoring, such as wind speed.</li> <li>• The noise event on 18 May 2021 was discussed.</li> <li>• Michael mentioned that they had loaded some rock at 400-700mm. Three trucks on turnaround.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joel indicated that following Goetz’s email citing concerns, he immediately drove to the western end of Halloran Road with another KEQPL staff member and waited for approximately 20 minutes but did not hear any loud noise from the quarry (the dominant noise was birds, and some intermittent quarry noise).</li> <li>• Goetz mentioned that the noise occurred at around 8.30 – 9am</li> <li>• Michael indicated that he had investigated this matter and nothing out of the ordinary occurred at KEQ that morning. Goetz advised that the noise stopped shortly after he sent the email.</li> <li>• Michael Todd mentioned that sometimes when machinery was delivered for the roadworks, the ramps can make a loud noise when they hit the ground.</li> <li>• Wade was supplied with a copy of the Tetratheca juncea monitoring plan. Joel commented on the plan and the propagation area.</li> <li>• Michael Ulph reminded the committee that in the September 2021 meeting there would be a visit to observe the Tetratheca juncea offset area.</li> <li>• Michael Todd asked if CCC members had noticed wild dogs around. Discussion of their management was had including previous baiting activity. The quarry has not been undertaking any baiting lately. KEQ’s last involvement was in December 2020.</li> <li>• Tony Ebben resigned from the CCC. Michael Ulph thanked Tony for his service and recommended that a new community member be appointed and will make enquiries with the NSW DPIE regarding the process. Mat indicated that the guidelines contain provisions for replacing members.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Michael to provide copies of the CCC guidelines at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Joel asked if we should be checking with Mathew Bell to see if there were more suitable times for him.</li> <li>• Wade reiterated that Mat’s opinion was valuable.</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Michael to discuss meeting times/dates with Matthew Bell to see if there is a more suitable time to meet.</li> </ul>
Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.	<p>Next meeting scheduled for Monday 6 September 2021. Details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3pm – Site Inspection (meet at Karuah East Quarry Office, Blue Rock Close, Karuah); and</li> <li>• 4pm – CCC Meeting at Karuah East Quarry office.</li> </ul> <p>Michael Ulph to issue calendar invites to CCC members.</p>
Meeting close	The meeting was closed at 4.25pm