



Karuah East Quarry - Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Minutes – 29 March 2021

Venue: KEQ weighbridge office on Lot 13 DP 1024564

Time: CCC Meeting: Start 3.55pm
End 5.00pm

Minutes

Attendees: Michael Ulph (Chairperson), Wade Cameron (Community Representative), Goetz Schraer (Community Representative), Joel Fleming (Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd) and Mat Radnidge (ADW Johnson).

Apologies: Tony Ebben (Community Representative) and Mat Bell (Mid Coast Council) (late apology).

Agenda

1) Welcome

- Michael Ulph paid respect to the traditional Aboriginal land owners of Karuah, past, present and future.

2) Apologies

- Tony Ebben (Community Representative).
- Mat Bell (Mid Coast Council) (late apology).

3) Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

- 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.
- Mat Radnidge confirmed that KEQ Pty Ltd is paying ADW Johnson (his employer) a fee for Mat to be a member of the CCC.
- Joel Fleming is an employee of Hunter Quarries / Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd.

4) Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- Draft CCC Meeting Minutes dated 14 September 2020; and
- Draft Site Inspection Record dated 14 September 2020.

Moved: Wade Cameron

Seconded: Joel Fleming

5) Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph when a decision on MOD 8 (acoustics) is made by the NSW DPIE. Michael will then advise the CCC members.

Comment:

This action was completed on 2 February 2021. MOD 8 is approved.

No questions / comments were raised by the CCC.

- Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph as any progress on MOD 9 (proposed extended hours) and MOD 10 (proposed additional disturbance area for stockpiling) is made. Michael to then advise CCC members. In particular:

- When the details of MOD 9 are known; and
- When applications are lodged with the NSW DPIE.

Comment:

Refer to Item 8 of the minutes.

6) Correspondence.

- a) 20 October 2020 – Michael Ulph supplied the draft minutes of the 14th September 2020 CCC meeting and site inspection to all CCC members and invited comment.

28 October 2020 – Wade Cameron responded confirming that the minutes were accurate.

- b) 2 February 2021 – Michael Ulph supplied a copy of the MOD 8 (Acoustics) approval documentation. This included the Notice of Modification and Consolidated Consent.

- c) 19 February 2021 – Michael Ulph emailed all CCC members to advise that given recent wet weather, the next CCC meeting is to be postponed. A revised date of 29 March 2021 was agreed to by CCC members.

Comment:

Each of the above was noted by CCC members.

7) Company Report and Overview of Activities.

The Company Report and Overview of Activities is attached to these minutes.

The Company Report & Overview of Activities includes the following:

- Progress of the Project
- Monitoring and Environmental Performance
- Community Complaints and Response to Complaints
- Information Provided to the Community and any Feedback

Joel Fleming advised the following:

- No air quality issues have been recorded (ie. compliant monitoring).
- No noise issues were recorded (ie. compliant monitoring).
- Karuah East Quarry did not receive any complaints. It was noted that a complaint relative to noise and hours of operation was received in November 2020; however this related to the separate Karuah Quarry operation.
- During the recent flooding event (March 2021) and also the flooding event in October 2020, KEQ implemented the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) because all three (3) site dams experienced uncontrolled discharge.
 - Mat Radnidge – Explained that the PIRMP is in place to be implemented in response to an environmental incident.
 - Joel Fleming – Confirmed that this involved notification of relevant authorities (eg. NSW Environment Protection Authority and the NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure) and a message is supplied to nearby neighbours confirming that the plan has been implemented (the same list of residents who are advised prior to a blast occurring). There is also a notification on the company website that the PIRMP has been implemented.
- Confirmed that the company website is in the process of being updated (www.hunterquarries.com.au).
- In relation to the *Tetratheca juncea* (TJ) translocation area, the following was noted:
 - The 5 year implementation, management & monitoring period has concluded.
 - The TJ translocation and ongoing monitoring / management was undertaken in accordance with TJ management plan and was regularly observed by an ecologist.
 - The TJ translocation effort was not as successful as hoped. This was potentially caused by competing grasses which thrived because of the irrigation system. A copy of the monitoring report will be made available on the KEQ website.
 - Indicated that a 'slow burn' completed by the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council could be an option to consider to aim to improve the TJ translocation area.

Questions / discussions resulting from the above were as follows:

- Michael Ulph – Is the 'slow burn' of the TJ translocation area a realistic option?
Joel Fleming - This is not being actively pursued by KEQPL. This action would also generate potential compliance issues with the Biodiversity Offset Area Management Plan (BOAMP) that applies over the site.

- Michael Ulph – At the next CCC meeting (scheduled for September, 2021) the CCC will inspect the TJ translocation area.

This was noted by all CCC members.

No further questions were raised by CCC members.

8) Update on status of Modification Applications discussed at September 2020 CCC meeting.

MOD 8 (Acoustics)

Status: Approved.

MOD 9 (Proposed Extended Hours)

Status: Modification application has not been lodged. An Acoustic Impact Assessment is currently being completed. Once the application is lodged, KEQPL will confirm with Michael Ulph, who will then confirm with the CCC.

Mat Radnidge advised:

- The details of proposed MOD 9 were introduced to CCC members, including:
 - Proposed extension to the hours of operation for product loading and dispatch to:
 - 5.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Friday (currently 7am to 6pm); and
 - 5.00am to 6.00pm Saturday (currently 7am to 1pm).
 - Proposed extension of the hours of quarrying operations (excluding overburden removal activity and drilling/blasting activity) to:
 - 7.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Friday (currently 7am to 6pm); and
 - 7.00am to 6.00pm Saturday (currently 7am to 1pm).
- The key points of project justification for proposed MOD 9 were outlined to the CCC members. In particular:
 - KEQPL needs greater long term flexibility in operational hours to operate efficiently and respond to market demand for product. At present, the currently consented operating hours are restrictive and this is leading to operational inefficiencies. MOD 9 will allow KEQPL to maintain a constant supply of product to its current and emerging customer base;
 - 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 a 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;
 - 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;
 - 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 for the long term efficiency of the quarry that flexible hours be established as part of MOD 9;

- 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 occur unchanged from 7.00am; and
 - No increase in total extraction is proposed. This will remain unchanged at 1.5 million tonnes per annum.
- A Noise Impact Assessment and Traffic impact advice will accompany the modification application and the application will be subject to rigorous assessment by the NSW DPIE, NSW EPA and any other relevant authorities. The need for these inputs has been confirmed with the NSW DPIE.
 - Following lodgement of MOD 9, similar to previous MOD 8, once public exhibition dates are confirmed CCC members will be notified.

Questions / discussions resulting from the above were as follows:

- Wade Cameron - The justification for the proposal has been previously well explained and is understood.

This comment was noted by CCC members.

- Wade Cameron - Will the application be publicly notified?

Similar to MOD 8, the application will be publicly notified and opportunity for public comment directly to the NSW DPIE will be available. KEQPL will advise the CCC once the public exhibition period is confirmed.

- Wade Cameron – Will MOD 9 extend the hours of quarry traffic?

Mat Radnidge – Total approved traffic numbers will not change because the extraction rate of the quarry is not proposed to change. MOD 9 will result in traffic being on the road during the proposed extended hours; however this is anticipated to have a positive benefit because on average it will balance the traffic movements over a greater period of time. The traffic impact advice to be submitted with MOD 9 will address this matter.

- Goetz Schraer - The first load of material can be heard in the morning in the rural area east of KEQ (eg Halloran Road).

Joel Fleming - This is likely the first load of raw material as it is loaded into the hopper of the primary crusher.

Mat Radnidge - Noted that the operations of the primary crusher will not be modified by MOD 9 in relation to daily commencement time (i.e. commencement time 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.

- Goetz Schraer – The operations of the KEQ are typically only audible in the rural area east of the KEQ when the wind is blowing from the west. Loading and dispatch activity in the southern portion of the KEQ is not audible.

This comment was noted.

- Goetz Schraer – Noted that (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 7.00pm as noise travels very well at night and could therefore be unacceptable to the local community.

MOD 10 (Additional Disturbance Area for Stockpiling)

Status: Application has not been lodged. Ecology reporting, landform design, surface water management and Aboriginal Archaeology reporting are well advanced.

Other inputs are currently underway including acoustic Impact Assessment, Air Quality Impact Assessment, Visual Impact Assessment, Groundwater, Soil & Land Resource Assessment & Rehabilitation.

The need for each of these inputs has been confirmed with the NSW DPIE.

- Mat Radnidge advised the CCC of the following:
 - This proposed MOD application has been flagged at previous CCC meetings.
 - The proposal involves an additional disturbance area of approximately 7.2ha, primarily in the southern section of the site (on either side of the existing southern stockpile area).
 - KEQ Pty Ltd are also considering installing a new administration office and workshop in the proposed MOD 10 area. MOD 10 will also provide sufficient area to formalise a heavy vehicle parking area.
- Mat Radnidge confirmed the following key points of justification for proposed MOD 10:
 - KEQ's customer base is evolving and now includes Transport for NSW (formerly RMS), Port of Newcastle and local Councils.
 - To comply with tendering requirements of such clients, KEQ needs to demonstrate proof of stockpiling capacity that has been subject to quality assurance testing. This often requires three (3) x 4,000m³ stockpiles. Given that KEQ produce 15 different products, stockpiling area is insufficient. This is a problem that will lead to lost tenders.
- Mat Radnidge noted:
 - As identified at previous meetings, the proposal will cut into the edge of the biodiversity offset area on Lot 13 DP 1024564.

- KEQ Pty Ltd have met with both State and Federal ecology assessment regulators and they have advised that projects such as this have been done in the past and can be done again provided that:
 - The offset to be impacted is replaced with like for like vegetation;
 - The impacts of the proposal are then offset.
- At this stage KEQ Pty are considering fulfilling offsetting requirements by using the northern and southern portions of nearby Lot 201 DP 1042537 and the northern section of Lot 21 DP 1024341 plus payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Divisions' (BCD) Conservation Fund or securing offsets credits from the Biodiversity Credits Register (an open market database).
- Mat Radnidge noted that KEQ Pty Ltd will provide a further update to the CCC when the application is submitted to the NSW DPIE.

The above update was noted by CCC members. It was noted that this MOD has been discussed at previous meetings.

No questions were raised by CCC members.

9) General Business

- Joel Fleming – Confirmed that Greg Dressler has resigned from his position as Quarry Manager at Karuah East Quarry and is no longer employed by KEQPL. Greg will no longer be part of the CCC. It is possible that new quarry manager, Michael Todd, will join the CCC. This will be confirmed at the next CCC meeting (September 2021).
- Joel Fleming – Rehabilitation of the adjoining Karuah Quarry is underway (including side casting overburden material onto the high wall to allow successful future hydro mulching of the eastern high-wall to reduce visual impact from the northbound Pacific Highway). The Karuah Quarry consent operates until 2027.

Goetz Schraer – Is the Karuah Quarry still operational?

Joel Fleming – Yes, quarrying activity is occurring but at a much smaller intensity in comparison with Karuah East. Quarrying activity at Karuah Quarry is less than 100,000 tonnes per annum and occurs largely on a campaign basis (ie. a specific product for a specific project).

Goetz Schraer – Can the high wall separating the Karuah Quarry and Karuah East Quarry come down? Is there any agreement in place?

Joel Fleming / Mat Radnidge – There are 2 x separate consents currently in place, one for Karuah Quarry and one for Karuah East Quarry. Neither of the consents allow for the high wall to be removed. To remove the high wall would require would require a separate approval.

Joel Fleming – Invited any further CCC member comment relevant to the adjoining Karuah Quarry.

No comments / questions.

- Michael Ulph – Will the new website cover both quarry operations (ie. Karuah East Quarry and Karuah Quarry)?

Joel Fleming – Yes. The new format of the website will be more user-friendly and it will be easier to keep things up to date and readily available. Implementation of the new website is anticipated shortly – Joel will advise the CCC once it is launched.

- Michael Ulph – Do we need an additional community member on the CCC?

Wade Cameron – Is there a protocol that confirms CCC membership requirements, in particular required numbers of community members?

Mat Radnidge – Yes there is a guideline for the establishment and operation of a community consultative committee (it is a NSW DPIE issued Guideline). Mat will review the document and KEQPL will report back to the CCC.

10) Next CCC meeting and site inspection to be scheduled.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 6 September 2021. Details as follows:

- 3pm – Site Inspection (meet at Karuah East Quarry Office, Blue Rock Close, Karuah); and
- 4pm – CCC Meeting at Karuah East Quarry office.

Michael Ulph to issue calendar invites to CCC members.

Meeting closed – 5.00pm.

Summary of Actions Arising from Meeting

1. Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph when MOD 9 (proposed extended hours) has been lodged with the NSW DPIE. Michael will then advise the CCC members. Mat Radnidge to also advise Michael Ulph when public exhibition dates for MOD 9 are confirmed and Michael will advise CCC members.
2. Joel Fleming to advise the CCC (via Michael Ulph) when the new website has been implemented.
3. Mat Radnidge to advise Michael Ulph when MOD 10 (proposed additional disturbance area for stockpiling) is lodged with NSW DPIE.
4. Mat Radnidge / KEQPL to review CCC Guidelines for Community Membership and advise Michael Ulph. Michael to advise CCC members.
5. Michael Ulph to issue calendar invites for 6th September 2021 CCC meeting.

Enclosed:

- Site Inspection Minutes 29 March 2021; and
- Company Report & Overview March 2021 (refer to Item 7 above).