



Department of  
**Environment and  
Heritage Protection**

Ref CR72122

31/10/2016

Standards Information Service  
Standards Australia  
Level 10, The Exchange Centre  
20 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam

The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department) has been investigating complaints about blasting at a quarry in Mt Coot-tha, an inner suburb of Brisbane in Queensland Australia. Complainants allege that blasting has impacted residential dwellings which have been constructed in recent years in relatively close proximity to the quarry.

Australian Standard 2187.2 "*Explosives- Storage and Use, Part 2: Use of Explosives*" has been referred to by consulting professionals, the community and the department at various times during the complaint investigation. Most recently, the community has raised concern that AS2187.2 does not provide guidance in relation to impacts from blasting over an extended period of time, nor in upper levels of 2 and 3 storey residential dwellings.

Whilst the department notes that Table J4.5(a) mentions sensitive sites and includes guidance for blasting that exceeds 12 months or more than 20 blasts, members of the community are concerned that vibrations from quarry blasting that exceeds 10 years and hundreds of blasts may have implications for structural integrity of homes and amplification of vibration and overpressure, even when ground vibration is within the 5 - 10mm/s spectrum as measured by a professional consulting firm.

The department understands that members of the Mt Coo-tha community are preparing a submission to Standards Australia. Whilst the department is not seeking to endorse the community submission, the department does note that clear guidance regarding long term blasting and impacts within upper levels of 2 and 3 storey residential premises is worthy of consideration by Standards Australia within AS2187.2.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact me on telephone 5316 8403.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Karle', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Matt Karle  
Compliance Delivery Manager, South Queensland Compliance – Brisbane Moreton Bay  
Environmental Services and Regulation  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection