



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

10 November, 2017

Mr Andrew Connor
Executive Director
Industry, Development and South QLD Compliance
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Via Email: ESComplianceBrisbaneMoreton@ehp.qld.gov.au

Re: Mt Coot-tha Quarry Blasting Activities EPPR00447313

Dear Mr Connor

I refer to the meeting between the Department and Council on 29 August 2017 during which the Department asked Council to once again consider voluntarily reducing blast and vibration limits at its Mt Coot-tha Quarry. For contextual purposes we also refer you to Council's correspondence to the Department dated 30 August 2016.

Council understands that the Department would like reassurance that the structural integrity of buildings adjacent to the quarry will remain intact despite blasting activities. Council understands that one resident has expressed concern that there is no upper limit to Council's allowable blasting vibration which exceeds 10mm/sec. Council accepts and relies upon research that superficial cosmetic damage (such as cracks in plasterboard etc.) may occur to light framed residential structures at levels greater than 75mm/sec. peak particle velocity (PPV).

As discussed, Council is compliant with its environmental authority EPPR00447313. Accordingly, there is no obligation upon Council to agree to amend its approval. By way of background we note the following:

- Mt Coot-tha Quarry is recognised by the Queensland Government as a Key Resource Area known as KRA42 and the boundary and separation areas are identified by the State in its mapping dated October 2013.
- Quarry operations have existed at this site in some form for well over 100 years.
- The quarry pit and mine planning over recent decades has been developed around current approved licence conditions.
- In order for the quarry to be practicable, there are particular operational constraints.
- Nationally and internationally renowned third party experts are retained by Council to design, monitor and provide oversight of the quarrying operations.
- Should the blasting limits be reduced, operations will be changed such that there will be increased environmental impacts, including more blasting over longer periods and much more mechanical rock hammer breaking.

- International Standards like the Australian Standard, the British Standard or the German Standard all indicate levels of vibration that are protective of infrastructure integrity. Appendix J of the Australian Standard AS2187.2-2006, and in particular Table J4.4.2.1 specifies a guide value to prevent cosmetic damage to “unreinforced or light framed structure, residential or light commercial type buildings” as a minimum of 15mm/s for low frequency (4Hz) increasing to 50mm/s for higher frequency component vibration (>40Hz).

Notwithstanding the above, in the interests of assisting the Department in addressing the concerns of one local resident (noting for the sake of clarity, that Council does not accept the basis of those complaints), Council will agree, on an informal basis, that the upper level of permissible vibration not exceed the damage threshold values specified in the Australian Standard (ie. Table J.4.4.2.1), previously mentioned. Council is happy to provide the relevant blasting vibration data to you.

We trust this pledge by Council to not exceed the blast vibration levels detailed in Table J4.4.2.1 (Attached for reference) will reassure any resident who is concerned about upper limits to blast vibration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Regards

sch4p4(6) Personal Information

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