



# Karuah East Quarry

## Community Newsletter 2

February 2012

### Introduction

In November 2011 Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd submitted an Application for Project Approval under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP & A Act) with a supporting Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI). This Application seeks approval to establish a quarry located approximately 3km north of Karuah on the Pacific Highway. Karuah East has been investigating this proposed development for a number of years.

The extent of land proposed to be quarried is approximately 15 hectares. Karuah East proposes to extract up to 1.5 million tonnes of andesite material per year which is suited to a wide range of uses including production of aggregate and road base.

The proposed infrastructure at the quarry will include office buildings, workshops, parking areas, crushing plant, wash plant and product storage areas. Access to the site will occur via private and public roads from the Branch Lane exit of the Pacific Highway.

It is anticipated that the quarry will generate 28 full-time positions and various contractor employment. The proposed operation hours of the quarry would be generally 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 7 am to 1 pm Saturday.

### KEY FINDINGS

#### Noise, Blasting and Vibration

A Noise and Blasting Impact Assessment was undertaken by SLR Global. Environmental Solutions (SLR). Modelling has demonstrated that noise and vibration levels associated with operations, traffic and blasts satisfy Australian & NSW standards. The report made the conclusion that the proposed Karuah East quarry is acceptable in terms of noise, blasting and vibration.

#### Flora and Fauna

An Ecological Assessment was undertaken by RPS. Field surveys identified one Endangered Ecological Community; two threatened flora species; and five threatened fauna species. The assessment considered the impact of the proposal on these species and confirmed that the proposal was acceptable provided that a number of mitigation measures are implemented including the creation of a 196ha conservation offset which Karuah East Pty Ltd have committed to.

#### Spoil Material Management

A Quarry Closure and Rehabilitation Plan was prepared by GSS Environmental. The report confirms that spoil (topsoil etc) material will be stockpiled on site during commencement of the operation and used within rehabilitation of the disturbed areas. The Closure and Rehabilitation Plan will ensure creation of acceptable land use suitability and a stable landform once quarrying ceases and the preservation of downstream water quality.

#### Traffic

A Traffic Impact Assessment was prepared by TPK & Associates. The Traffic Impact Assessment determined that the proposal will generate a need to upgrade & extend Blue Rock Lane, realign the Andesite Road & Blue Rock Lane intersection and adjust the existing road markings at the Branch Lane & Andesite Road intersection. Karuah East Quarry Pty Ltd have committed to undertake these works.

#### Air Quality

An Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment was undertaken by SLR. Estimations of emissions from all quarry activities was performed by the assessment and the reporting confirms that the proposal is predicted to comply with nationally established criteria levels. The Greenhouse Gas Assessment performed for the project calculated both direct and indirect emissions in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and found that the proposal is acceptable.

#### Soils and Geotechnical

A Soil Survey and Land Resource Assessment was undertaken by GSS Environmental. The report confirms the adequacy of the geology and soils to enable effective site rehabilitation. Geotechnical conditions were addressed in the Groundwater Assessment and the Resource Assessment prepared by Coffey Geotechnics. It was found that the geotechnical conditions of the site were suitable for quarrying activity and that there is a significant deposit of hard rock 'andesite' material on the site.

#### Visual

A Visual Impact Assessment was prepared by GSS Environmental. The visual assessment found that the combined influence of landform and existing vegetation will screen the majority of views from residences in the surrounding area and that the proposed quarry is acceptable from a visual perspective.

#### Surface and Groundwater

A Surface Water Assessment was undertaken by GSS Environmental and a Groundwater Assessment was undertaken by Coffey Geotechnics. The Surface Water Assessment confirms that water quality management facilities will be incorporated to ensure the quality of any surface water runoff. The Groundwater Assessment confirms that the groundwater level at the quarry site is greater than 10m below the quarry floor and the proposal is highly unlikely to have any impact on groundwater quality.

#### Cumulative Considerations

Key cumulative considerations associated with the proposed development in respect of the operations of the existing Karuah Quarry include traffic; noise & blasting; dust emissions; water management (surface & groundwater); land clearing; visual impact and rehabilitation. Specialist reports for each of these matters was prepared as part of the Environmental Assessment and it was demonstrated that the proposal has a highly unlikely risk of contributing to adverse cumulative impacts.

