

Mt Coot-tha Quarry

Background

The Mt Coot-tha Quarry has served the residents of Brisbane for over 100 years. In the mid-1890s, Mt Coot-tha Quarry was established by Toowong Shire Council, as one of Brisbane's first major quarries, providing stone (including aggregates) to build some of our city's earliest infrastructure.

The quarry has been operated by Brisbane City Council since Council's formation in 1926.

The materials quarried at Mt Coot-tha are metamorphic rock, formed eons ago when fused by molten heat. This process has created strong hornfels deposits which require blasting to fracture. The strength of this material adds to its value in the manufacture of durable, long lasting asphalt products – well-suited for Council's 5800-kilometre road network.

The quarry's use

The quarry is an important strategic asset for Brisbane city, supplying localised, cost-effective, high-quality asphalt aggregate to build the roads and infrastructure our growing city needs. It is for this reason, Mt Coot-tha Quarry has been designated a Key Resource Area and is protected by the State Government as a significant state resource.

Currently over 96% of roads in Brisbane are built with asphalt aggregates from Mt Coot-tha Quarry. The quarry itself sits on approximately 26 hectares and produces approximately 400,000 tonnes of asphalt aggregate each year.

Regulation and oversight

Mt Coot-tha Quarry has a long history of environmental compliance which is monitored by independent auditors.

Blasting activities are very tightly controlled with approximately two blasts per month conducted. Each blast is monitored at a number of locations by a third-party blast monitoring expert for compliance.

Council monitors to Australian Standards and Procedures and this has been confirmed by the Department of Environment and Science.

Residents are notified by email approximately 48 hours prior to a blast. Should any new parties wish to be added to our distribution list they can contact the Quarry Weighbridge on 3403 2567 or via email FS-AandANotices@brisbane.qld.gov.au

All quarries in Queensland are required to comply with the State Government's Mining and Quarrying Health and Safety Act. All safety and health matters are administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. Mines Inspectors regularly visit and audit quarry operations at Mt Coot-tha.



The quarry's future

There are three stages for Mt Coot-tha Quarry:

Extraction phase: The quarry is currently in this phase and Council has no plans to close the quarry in the near future with estimated reserves likely to see the quarry remain operational for a number of years to come.

Rehabilitation phase: When reserves are exhausted, the quarry transitions to its rehabilitation phase. At this time we commence working together with residents to explore the many exciting possibilities the site may offer. Council has significant experience at rehabilitating legacy quarry sites and currently we are preparing the former Pine Mountain Quarry for its potential future uses.

Transition to ultimate end use: Finally, we complete the transformation of the site into a world class greenspace for future generations to enjoy.

Did you know...

- Mt Coot-tha was first mined for stone and gold.
- During the great depression, gold prospecting at Mt Coot-tha was pursued by the Government as part of their unemployment relief plans.
- Mt Coot-tha mines were requisitioned for munition storage during World War II.
- The Eagle Farm Aerodrome was built using road materials from Mt Coot-tha.
- Council commenced the rehabilitation of Mt Coot-tha Quarry with the receipt of 2.7 million tonnes of tunnel spoils from the construction of the Legacy Way Tunnel. The conveying of the materials from the tunnel boring machines into Mt Coot-tha Quarry prevented over 105,000 truckloads of tunnel spoil materials being transported on our road network.
- Mt Coot-tha Quarry supplies many megalitres of water annually for use by the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.
- Using materials produced at this central location reduces the carbon footprint of road projects as materials are easily and efficiently transported around the city, rather than being trucked over long distances from quarries located on the city's fringe.
- Due to its location and the demand for its high-quality products, Mt Coot-tha Quarry delivers financial value to all of Brisbane, providing several million dollars worth of cost savings every year.

Council is sensitive to the impacts that Mt Coot-tha Quarry has on the local amenity and our dedicated quarry team are committed to operating the quarry in a responsible manner. Should a resident ever have a concern over the day-to-day operation of Mt Coot-tha Quarry they can contact Council's Contact Centre on 3403 8888.