

From: Phil Best <PhilBest313@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017 11:16 AM
To: 'lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au'; 'Terry Bird'
Cc: 'WynnumManly Ward Office'; 'Mark Williams'; 'KARLE Matt'; 'CONNOR Andrew'; 'Paddington Ward'; Mt Coot-tha Residents Group (mtcoottharesidents@gmail.com); John Higgins (jhiggin2@bigpond.net.au); Helen Sutherland (hjsuther@bigpond.net.au); 'Schafer, Emma'; 'O'Malley, Brendan'; Donnison, Kate (kdonnison@nine.com.au)
Subject: RE: Mt Coot-tha Quarry Blasts - Quarry does NOT adhere to its license conditions
Attachments: MattKarleQuarryBlastingLicenseConditionsFebruary2017.png; LM00406-2017.pdf; ChrisLangeLetterFeb2010-BlastingEffectsFromMtCoot-thaQuarry.png; SoundReportFrom3rdAugustQuarryBlast.png; AustTuneliing-DrillAndBlastTable.png; InstantelMinimateDocsPhotoAndQuarryEmail3SSGD.docx; ABC-DrKarlVibrationCanKillHardDrives.jpg

Importance: High

Categories: Red Category

Tracking: **Recipient** **Read**

'lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au'

'Terry Bird'

'WynnumManly Ward Office'

'Mark Williams'

'KARLE Matt'

'CONNOR Andrew'

'Paddington Ward'

Mt Coot-tha Residents Group
(mtcoottharesidents@gmail.com)

John Higgins (jhiggin2@bigpond.net.au)

Helen Sutherland (hjsuther@bigpond.net.au)

'Schafer, Emma'

'O'Malley, Brendan'

Donnison, Kate (kdonnison@nine.com.au)

'mpanayi@industrylawyers.com.au'

WynnumManly Ward Office

Read: 27/02/2017 11:25 AM

Donnison, Kate

Read: 27/02/2017 11:49 AM

Helen Sutherland

Read: 27/02/2017 3:37 PM

Mark Williams

Read: 28/02/2017 11:39 AM

Dear Lord Mayor,

I refer to the recent letter that you sent to Peter Cumming in which you clearly (and incorrectly) state that the Mt Coot-tha Quarry (MCQ) STRICTLY operates within the conditions of its environmental authority.

We submit that your letter is NOT correct and that the following resident's points ARE correct.

I have attached the current MCQ vibration and operational noise conditions as provided by Matt Karle as well as some sound measurements inside our home and other relevant information.

We (myself and the residents) believe the following points to be absolutely and completely true:

1. The current perpetual blasting license was initially created some decades ago when blasting was done using low-power chemicals. Because it was a perpetual license and there were no apparent problems at the time, it was reinstated by EHP.
 - a. There were no apparent problems when it was reinstated, because almost no relevant blast vibration monitoring was done.
 - b. It was not until 2009/2010 that a monitoring site was first established on Mt Coot-tha road (MCR) to detect the vibrations that applied to the closest homes (approx. 400 metres from the blast zone).
 - c. Once this was created it was quickly determined that the vibrations posed a damage to the resident's homes.
 - d. Since then Andrew Fraser, Steven Miles, EHP Ministers and the EHP department have all tried unsuccessfully to get you and the MCQ to reduce their blasting levels to the ERA-16 state maximums.
 - These rules are aligned with those in Australia, NZ and most civilised countries in the world today.
 - Hence, they are the rules whereby any new quarry anywhere in Australia has had to comply with for several years.
 - e. MCQ took a very old perpetual blasting license from the days of gunpowder and cordite.
 - They reinvented its operations using high-powered blasting process.
 - 1986 = 250,000 tonnes; 1997 = 400,000 tonnes; 2002 = 750,000 tonnes.
 - MCQ is clearly not the same quarry that it used to be when the license was initially created.
 - f. MCQ also reset the blast count back to zero in an attempt to disguise the fact that the total count was indeed several thousand.
 - Our estimate, after liaising with historic groups plus local and past residents, is that the true number will be 7,000 blasts by 2032.
 - g. We sincerely doubt that there exists anywhere in the world a quarry where 7,000 mostly unmeasured strong blasts have been done in a densely-populated area (by our standards), which was totally and closely approved at a considerable cost to the residents, by the same government body who is doing the actual blasting, and who when they exceed 10mm/sec boldly states that they blast as strong as they want on every 10th blast.
2. Since the MCQ life was extended till 2015, many residents purchased land and built their homes, only to find that the quarry did not close as previously announced.
 - a. The original date was 2002, then it was changed to 2015 to allow the ICB construction and then quietly and secretly changed to 2032.
 - b. Now you state (without any kind of public announcement) that MCQ has no closure date at all.
3. MCQ does not and has never fully adhered to its blasting license conditions.
 - a. In the period before the MCR monitoring point was created there was effectively no relevant monitoring done at all.
 - Quarry blasting was able to run rampant and unchecked.
 - The houses close to the quarry became damaged and no consideration at all was ever paid to the 100-year-old building which at the time was that closest to MCQ.
 - This iconic historic building, has never once received any MCQ consideration,
 - Even though it is well-known and is clearly shown in the council map system.
 - The ATS defines the maximum for historic buildings at only 2mm/second.
 - b. The situation where the quarry manager dictates directly and personally to the Heilig monitoring technician that he must stick a soil spike in beside the pre-existing concrete block is absolutely despicable.
 - This is clearly a condition of the technician's continued MCQ work, which he is thus forced to obey.
 - This action was a decision by Robert Bell and not by John Heilig and can only be considered as tampering with the supposedly external and professional blast monitoring process.
 - It is well and firmly and scientifically established that aeration causes sound attenuation, that's why sound insulation contains mostly air particles.
 - Soil Spike monitoring is well known as a method that is only ever used for casual field measurements. It is not specified by InstanTEL, who clearly state the concrete block method.

- c. The blasting license text clearly states that vibration limits must not be exceeded at any noise sensitive place.
 - MCQ has been asked many times to monitor inside the homes, but this has been flatly refused and they won't even set foot on private property.
 - It is therefore logical to conclude that MCQ management would have absolutely no idea at all, what effect their strong blasting is having on the homes.
 - d. In order to satisfy these license conditions MCQ should monitor the blast vibrations in any noise sensitive place to determine if they are legal.
 - It is well known that houses vibrate amplified, according to ground borne shock waves.
 - This is magnified with height, which is now the basis of world-wide seismic construction theory.
 - e. The tests we have done with a Nata Certified noise decibel metre on the 3rd August 2016 indicate that there is significant vibration amplification in our house.
 - The decibel Metre was hired from a professional supplier who set it up and emailed the results to us.
 - The results showed that our house continued to vibrate for up to 60 seconds after the blast.
 - This is long after the initial shock wave had passed.
 - Tests done on our land show that the ground shock wave lasts less than one second and the overpressure lasts 3 seconds.
 - This 3 second dispersion is typical of 500m distant sound waves (you have probably heard of the lightning and thunder delay rule).
4. MCQ does NOT adhere to its noise pollution conditions.
- a. The MCQ operational license specifies only two types of noise: 1. Overpressure Noise and 2. General Noise.
 - b. The overpressure is the atmospheric shock wave that is caused by the blast explosion.
 - Because the explosion is surface-mounted, it is open to the atmosphere and hence causes a sonic-boom which travels through the atmosphere.
 - This ground initiated sonic boom is called overpressure and is very clearly defined.
 - It travels through the air and lasts for less than 3 seconds.
 - c. All other noise (noise that is not an overpressure noise) can only fall into the general noise category which is clearly stated by Matt Karle at EHP as being 5dB(A) above background levels.
 - d. The situation that is happening in many of the homes is that the blast vibrations are transmitted through the rock seam to the homes.
 - This causes the homes to vibrate as forced by the shock waves.
 - This house vibration causes sound that exceeds the 5dB maximum by more than an incredible 50dB.
 - This noise is clearly NOT the overpressure shock wave as it exists in a different time zone and lasts for a much longer period.
 - e. I have attached diagrams and traces that clearly show the effects on our home on the 3rd August 2016.
 - You can see that the noise inside the homes lasts considerably longer than the blast vibration and the overpressure shock wave.
 - This clearly demonstrates that the noise inside the homes is NOT the overpressure sound wave and hence falls into the only other category which is the General 5dB Noise Condition.
 - According to our legal advisors the MCQ is clearly responsible for all blast vibrations and subsequent vibration noise inside the affected homes.

Summary:

- 1. We, the Mt Coot-tha residents have proved beyond all reasonable doubt (on 2 counts) that MCQ is repeatedly and continually in gross violation of its license conditions.
 - a. According to our legal advisors, there is a clear case for class action by the residents against the BCC.
 - b. Many of the residents are pensioners. Their only possession of any value is their homes, for which they have very limited capability and funds to repair.
 - c. We have tried to meet with you and everything we have said is continually ignored.

- As the last Kenmore Council Listens meeting we were not allowed to address the meeting, plus everything we said afterwards was ignored.
 - d. All we want is to be able to get on with our lives like ordinary people.
 - But when you and the MCQ continually threaten the very fabric of our homes and our security, we have nowhere to turn - so you force us to object.
 - John Higgins and the residents have spent somewhere more than 1000 hours fighting the quarry damage which has been forced on the local residents.
 - I have taken over some of his duties and have now spent much more than 220 hours fighting the quarry damage.
2. It is not surprising that property values here are down by between 50% and 30% depending on the MCQ proximity.
- a. The MCQ blasting license allows it to blast as strong as it likes on every 10th blast (I am sure a magistrate would hate that).
 - b. The MCQ management continually ignores resident's requests for meetings as well as for additional critical information such as the next estimated blast strength.
 - c. MCQ repeatedly and secretly extended the planned closure date and now you have extended it further (with no official announcement).
 - d. We now believe that property values in the entire 80-home area may be reduced by approximately \$30 - \$40 million.
 - e. The BCC is both the MCQ operator and the same body that charged considerable money to approve the land Change of Use plus the Buildings Constructed on the land.
 - f. The BCC Chris Lange also provided a written letter to us saying that their MCQ blast vibrations would not cause any harm. (see attached) This is clearly a blatant lie.

Fundamentally:

- It is surely time that you seriously listened to the complaints from the MCQ affected residents and realise that there is truth in what we/they are saying.
- The way that we live our lives, build our homes and store our data has changed dramatically.
- Hard drives and other electronic equipment have tolerances in Nanometres and can be damaged by loud noises such as blasting.
- I want this to be totally clear with you:
 - If you force the residents into launching an Equity-Recovery based Class Action, is it will be because of the attitude by you and the MCQ against us (the harmless residents) and the fact that we are repeatedly told that MCQ life is being extended, plus MCQ can and will blast as strong as it wants on every 10th blast.

Thank you for reading this email.

- The time taken away from my critical work to research, create, finalise and then finally write this email was 6 hours.
- We are all forced into spending vast amounts of our valuable time doing this, to protect our homes and equity, by you and the MCQ management.

Yours Very Sincerely, Philip Best and the Mt Coot-tha residents.

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From: WynnumManly Ward Office [mailto:WynnumManly.Ward@bcc.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 10:12 AM
To: 'philbest313@gmail.com' <philbest313@gmail.com>
Subject: Mt Coot-tha Quarry Blasts

Dear Phil

I refer to your concerns regarding Mt-Cootha Quarry blasts.

I have received a response to my submission which I made on your behalf outlining your concerns from Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk (see attached) regarding this matter.

Phil, if you wish to discuss this response further with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Peter Cumming
Councillor for Wynnum Manly
Leader of the Opposition

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