

Dear Ministers Hinchliffe and Lynham,

As (the third) Chairperson and Engineer of the Mt Coot-tha Local Residents (MCLR), and on behalf of the c2277 innocent people residing in the totally undefined KRA-42 Separation Zones, we wish to advise a brief summary of our operational history, plus our more recent economic and financial research into the function and operation of the Brisbane City Council (BCC) operated Mt Coot-tha Quarry (MCQ).

Also please find attached our webform email to the Premier regarding the MCQ and copies of our recent "Whistle-Blower" emails to Lord Mayor Schrinner, which includes the MCQ Scorecard.

Our on-line resources: Our websites www.MtCoot-tha.org and aliases www.SaveMtCoot-tha.org and www.BanTheBlasting.org as well as our Facebook page www.facebook.com/savemountcoottha . All these being created and maintained at MCLR expense.

You may be aware that over the past 20 years that the residents have been forced against their will to battle the BCC Operated MCQ.

All the MCLR ever wanted to do was to get on with their live, just like ordinary people: - perhaps like you do at your home and with your own family.

However the MCQ imposition over the past 20 years has forced the residents into doing years of unpaid proactive work, we call this "slavery" because the very large amount of proactive professional work over the past 20 years, was forced upon us to protect our homes and families.

Around 2008 the current chairperson (John Higgins) asked me to begin a pro-bono engineer role for the local residents, prior to that they had a silica dust scare which was supposedly solved by only monitoring dust near the crushing area.

Even now in 2020 the BCC MCQ has never monitored their silica blast dust storms which regularly exceed the MCQ boundary fence line into the tourism areas, residential homes and natural parkland. Silica dust is totally endemic to the MCQ area, it lies all over the MCQ grounds, blows in the wind exists on the public roadway and gutters during the dry seasons.

After 2008, as the MCLR Engineer, I had to learn and research everything about the MCQ and their blasting.

1. Their blasting license EPPR00447313 Schedule-F allowed double the normal maximum ground vibration and on every 10th blast there was no defined maximum.
 - a. Even though the DES director had twice written to the Aggregates Manager asking them to comply with contemporary regulations, the BCC flatly refused each time.
 - b. In 2010 BCC Aggregates department provided the MCLR with a signed statement saying that their blast vibrations were much lower than which could ever cause damage to homes.
 - c. This turned out to be a blatant gross lie.
2. Our research proved that the MCQ was publishing their blast vibration footprint based entirely upon blast monitoring using a soil spike simply pushed in aerated soil and only at much further away locations.
 - a. In November 2011 we contacted State Treasurer and local MP Andrew Fraser, who immediately saw that this was invalid and around blast number 600, the MCQ was forced to conduct blast monitoring near the closest homes.
 - b. After January 2012, the MCQ was forced to conduct permanent monitoring there, which was approved and encouraged by Dr John Heilig who personally installed the standard 200mm cube concrete block as a an AS2187 compliant permanent monitoring location.

- c. However after Dr Heilig had departed, the MCQ manager ordered the monitoring technician to use the less accurate aerated ground soil spike actually beside the concrete block, presumably to reduce the blast monitoring data values.
 - d. The MCLR photographed the Sussex and Richer street monitoring locations to prove that no concrete block existed there.
 - e. Hence virtually all the BCC blast vibration monitoring was AS2187 non-compliant, guaranteed inaccurate, with lower values and probably legally inadmissible.
 - f. Soil Spikes can only be used in aerated soil and provide a reduced distorted reading, occasionally characterised by an inverted pendulum effect.
- 3. After Blast 600, it was immediately obvious that the blasting effects in the private homes were much reduced.
 - a. However the MCLR still knew that something was not right, because the blast strength felt inside the homes was considerably stronger than what the MCQ was publishing and which was causing further damage to private homes.
- 4. The MCLR further researched everything they could find out about blasting plus the (now redacted) AS2187.2-2006 blasting standard.
 - a. This standard contained an Appendix-J which covered the actual monitoring of blasts.
 - b. The Appendix-J emphasised the fact that their contents were only ever advisory and could never be used to override statutory conditions (such as those in schedule-F).
 - c. Standards Australia confirmed that all appendix documents are non-compulsory.
 - d. Both Engineers Australia and the QLD TMR published limits for historic buildings and monuments which were much less than the DES standard, but were totally ignored by the MCQ, even though many examples (such as Cobb & Co and Stuartholme existed).
- 5. The MCLR studied the RTI-obtained blast vibrations from 2001 until 2016 and it was immediately obvious that major discontinuity had occurred around Blast-600.
 - a. We provided this data to a professional statistician who concluded that a c300% residential blast vibration misrepresentation had occurred for approximately 600 blasts before January 2012.
- 6. The MCLR noted in AS2187 Appendix-J that vibration amplification in taller buildings was a known effect.
 - a. They contact the EDO Lawyers, who stated that the MCQ EA Schedule-F required blast vibrations to be measured in or on any noise sensitive place.
 - b. A financial client agreement was formed with the EDO, for which the MCLR paid.
 - c. The EDO senior solicitor Mt Sean Ryan, further considered the case and provided a signed legal statement/decision.
 - d. The Seismology Research Centre verified that ground vibrations were commonly amplified inside tall buildings.
 - e. Dr Heilig was asked if the BCC would extend their monitoring to include on the outdoor structures of private homes, he replied stating that the MCQ manager had expressly forbidden his company from doing this.
- 7. In 1H 2018, the MCLR embarked upon a series of outdoor blast vibration monitoring on attached to private home building structures.
 - a. The outcome of this was to verify the Appendix-J statements as well as the SRC.com.au measurement research.
 - b. Our statistician conformed that the blast vibrations done on the outdoor part of private home buildings at the same address as that used by the MCQ since Blast 600, were approximately 260% higher than what the MCQ was reporting to the DES as their blast vibration footprint.

- c. Hence the MCLR had twice proven that the MCQ blast vibration data was both invalid, and because of the soil spike usage it was probably legally inadmissible.
- 8. On the 3rd August 2016, the MCLR had hired a decibel datalogger from NV Engineers in Camp Hill.
 - a. This proved that the building internal noise continued to exist for some seconds after the blast was finished.
 - b. The MCLR people had always complained that the MCQ blasting was like a “Bomb Explosion actually inside their private homes”.
 - c. The MCLR began studying the blast vibration and associated audio waveforms.
 - i. These clearly indicated the existence of ground vibrations and on the audio trace it was possible to see the sonic boom (called Overpressure).
 - ii. However the overpressure frequency was well below the adult audible range, plus it arrives more than one second after the ground vibrations.
 - iii. It was possible to see on every trace, that there existed an ordinary noise which both arrived at the same time as the ground vibrations and was actually phase-coherent with the ground vibrations.
 - iv. Hence the MCLR has discovered the cause of the noise “like a bomb explosion actually inside the private homes”, which was unrelated to the Sonic Boom Overpressure inaudible noise.
 - v. Further examination of the overpressure waveform indicated that the internal building vibration noise actually continued as an amplitude modulated waveform on top of the inaudible overpressure.
 - d. The MCLR then consulted commercially again with the EDO Principal Lawyer Mr Sean Ryan, who provided signed credible evidence that this noise indicated clear non-compliance with the MCA EA Schedule-F noise conditions.
 - i. The MCLR had thus proven that the MCQ was non-compliant with their EA noise conditions.
- 9. In 2018 and 2019, the MCLR began examining the physical properties of the MCQ gigantic hole.
 - a. They used the Qld-Spatial and Qld-Globe facilities to determine the size of the actual MCQ hole.
 - i. They estimated that the total hole volume was around 13 Million Cubic Metres.
 - ii. The extracted mass was approximately 42 Million Tonnes, thus requiring 8 Million Truck Movements.
 - b. By using the BCC MCQ RTI data, they were able to determine the approximate size of every blast.
 - c. They contacted other southside quarries who stated a common mine-gate asphalt-gravel price of \$25/tonne.
 - d. Hence the MCLR were able to create an estimated approximate financial sales and profit amount for each blast.
 - e. All previous attempts to obtain this data through Brisbane RTI were rejected.
- 10. The MCLR then looked at the rehabilitation costs and searched for known factors as a starting point.
 - a. The Roma St Parklands rehabilitation cost was known to be \$72 Million in 2001.
 - b. This could then be annualised forward using the ABS CPI data to \$105 million (if completed in 2020 money).
 - c. The Qld-Globe calculations provided a difference in surface area from 16ha for Roma St to 39ha for MCQ.
 - d. They added a 30% contingency due to the dangerous terrain and the need for something more difficult and better than Roma St.

- e. Hence the first MCQ rehabilitation cost was estimated as \$300 Million in 2020 and by 2032 this would be \$500 Million.
 - f. This being several times the “profit” and greatly exceeds the sales benefit since 2001.
11. After the failed Mt Coot-tha Zipline, the MCLR noted there was a significant stated general financial benefit, so they started looking at other completed mine rehabilitation projects.
 - a. Eden Project Cornwall had a comprehensive case study outcome which indicated a £100 Million annual benefit, with associated employment and education benefits.
 - b. Gardens British Columbia 2014 report stated a CA\$300 Million annual revenue.
 - c. Hence the MCLR were able to establish a final lost tourism benefit from the MCQ since 2001, or \$3 Billion and increasing to \$5.5Billion by 2032.
 12. In Easter 2020, the MCLR produced some “Whistle-Blower” reports to the BCC Lord Mayor Schrinner.
 - a. These can be see here www.MtCoot-tha.org/LordMayor.htm

Summary:

The MCLR has been forced to do 20 years of totally un-funded and unpaid intensive, reactive, emotional and highly stressful work - in the face of extreme damage to their families and mental health.

13. Whilst much of this is not covered by the new human rights legislation, the need to create and research the 2020 data certainly is, as is the \$6 Billion Whistle Blower work.
14. Should the BCC proceed with more blasting in 2020, then that will certainly be considered as part of the 2019 Human Rights Legislation, and we believe that the disgusting actions of the MCQ will apply to more than one section.
15. However as regards the incredibly bad \$Half Billion rehabilitation debt as well as the %5.5 Billion Lost Benefit, everybody knew that “tourism blasting” has destructive effects on the Brisbane Economy, now the MCLR have bene brave enough to step forward and place a quantitative assessment on the qualitative knowledge that everyone knew was totally true.

Finally:

16. The MCLR insist that the Qld Government urgently pursue the multiple bad things about the MCQ operations, with a view to forcing a final immediate closure with immediate rehabilitation planning and costings.
17. We hope that never again should a simple residential family group ever be forced into enduring totally non-compliant activities by a mining operation which is located in the middle of BCC fully approved urbanisation, with zero separation zones, when the closure date was extended from 1998 to 2015 and then again without any public consultation or announcement, till 2032.
18. It is clear that the BCC operations in the MCQ have proceeded “blind flying” without any knowledge at all of the likely downstream rehabilitation costs.
19. The MCQ is now almost “fully gutted” and the BCC cannot delay the secret debt and lost benefit through pretended further operations, this will dramatically increase every year that the problem is ignored.
20. It is clear to everyone here, that the conduct of the BCC towards the MCQ operations, is not something that the Qld Government would approve of.
 - a. It therefore follows that some kind of remedial action should follow, so that this does not ever happen again in our civilised society.
 - b. If the attributes of honesty, integrity, fairness and public institution open-ness are valued, then hopefully the MCLR 20-year work will provide an excellent facility with which this can be remediated.

- c. Currently almost everything that the MCQ has said to the local residents is untrue (there has never ever been any MCQ duty of care).

Thank you for reading this email, we trust that you will also study and consider the years of work done by the MCLR as clearly demonstrated in their website www.SaveMtCoot-tha.org aka www.MtCoot-tha.org.

Yours sincerely,
Phil Best and all the Mt Coot-tha Local Residents.

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-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@premiers.qld.gov.au <noreply@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 16 April 2020 6:07 PM
To: thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Cc: PhilBest313@gmail.com
Subject: Mt Coot-tha Quarry Economic Disaster
Importance: High

Hello,

Thank you for your email to the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade. The Premier appreciates the time you have taken to contact her with your comments.

The Premier's email inbox is monitored during business hours from Monday to Friday. Please note that if you are sending an email outside of these hours it will be reviewed promptly on the next business day.

If you are in danger, have concerns about your safety or the safety of others, or information regarding a threat against yourself or a member of the public, contact the police on 000 at any time.

If you would like more information about Coronavirus (COVID-19), you can find it on the Queensland Government website at www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and are feeling unwell, please check the website or call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) for advice.

Coordinating the Queensland response to COVID-19 and maintaining essential services are the core priorities of the Queensland Government at this time. A response will be provided if appropriate, in due course. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Subject: Mt Coot-tha Quarry Economic Disaster

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Comment:

Dear Premier,

If there was an economic disaster to the extent of several \$BILLIONS, then I am sure that you would want to know about this.

I represent the Mt Coot-tha Local Residents (MCLR), where the BCC operated Quarry (MCQ) is located.

We have been forced into virtual slavery to defend our homes from blast vibration damage for the past 20 years, and some of our work has been very effective, whilst other work is very difficult and expensive.

We have found that almost everything that the MCQ manager says is untrue and that every blast they do violently shakes and damage our precious homes. "It is like a very loud bomb explosion inside your private home", because there is simultaneous noise and vibration.

As part of the forced research, we have looked at the MCQ economics and finance, what we have uncovered is a massive economic disaster.

1. The BCC continues to operate the MCQ without any idea of any rehabilitation plans (Brisbane RTI finds nothing).

2. The MCLR have done estimations on the massive hole size which they believe is 21 million cubic metres, or 42 million tonnes or 8 million Urban Truck Movements.

3. The MCLR used the Roma St data to estimate the MCQ rehabilitation cost at \$500 Million (by 2032). That is a BCC secret debt.

4. The Lost Benefit from blasting tourism, based upon the Eden Cornwall and other case studies is \$5.5 Billion (by 2032). Add them together and we have an economic loss of \$6Billion in 2032.

5. Over Easter we have been brave enough to write to Lord Mayor Schrinner and accuse them of massive economic disaster. Our correspondence can be found on our website www.MtCoot-tha.org/LordMayor.htm

6. At every turn there are lies and smoke-screens and the story gets much worse, with totally ignored silica dust storms with almost every blast, drifting into the residential and tourism areas.

7. There are so many bad points that I could write about that would take me a log time.

However our website www.MtCoot-tha.org or www.SaveMtCoot-tha.org or

www.facebook.com/savemountcoottha 8. You have to understand that we have been in virtual

slavery for at least 12 years as we battle to learn all about blasting and save our homes from further destruction.

9. For example the BCC has twice rejected DES Director calls for MCQ to comply with their contemporary blast vibrations.

10. They use their legacy blasting license which allows double the normal maximum (9 of 10) and absolutely unlimited on every 10th blast, where the MCLR are "sitting ducks".

...

So those are 10 points, where there are hundreds more really bad things, such as the gross faking of MCQ blast vibration reporting for 600 blasts.

Just imagine what Brisbane would be like if they had tourists at Mt Coot-tha providing \$200 million every year forever, as they do at Eden Cornwall - but instead we have this massive secret half \$Billion rehab bill, that increases every year that the LNP is afraid to face the facts that they have gutted public tourism parkland.

...Thank you for reading this email.

I can be contacted on 0411 123400 or 07 38710011 Phil Best (I used to work for Grace before 2000 - just ask her about my honesty).