Philip & Denisse Best MCQ Event Diary detailing MCQ quarry blasting damage.
Address: 3 Sir Samuel Griffith Drv Mt Coot-tha QLD 4066 Date: 7/11/2017

We purchased and began designing our home in the belief that the quarry was going to close in 2015.

Whilst we were in the building design phase, we detailed our blast vibration concerns to the Mt Coot-tha Quarry Manager (Robert Bell).

Mr Bell assured us that the MCQ blast vibrations were much lower than those which would be required to cause damage to homes.

- This was verified in writing by BCC Chris Lange, stating the maximum MCQ vibration as 10mm/sec.
- These assurances, plus the Chris Lange letter, were provided to our structural engineers who took this into account when designing our house (particularly the footings and slab).
- After 600 blasts, the residents were able to convince the BCC MCQ to do blast monitoring near the homes closest to MCQ.
- These blast vibration measurements were on average 3.99 times stronger than Richer St and 3.35 times stronger than Sussex St, which shows that the previous measurements of blasting strength were seriously underestimated and hence, flawed.
- As such, it appears that Mr Bell and the BCC would have had no concept of what impacts their blast vibrations had on the local residents' homes.

On the 15th August 2015, we detailed the following information to the DEHP Mr Ross Blake, showing exactly what it is like being inside our house when the MCQ blast vibrations hit the building:

- At this time, we were living on site in the secondary dwelling and constructing the main house.
- It is important to understand that our house is new. We very carefully built it ourselves, designed to last for more than 100 years.
- It is the closest house to the MCQ.
- The sound inside our house from the blast vibration showed as being 90dB.
- This noise is NOT the blast sonic boom, it is the result of ground vibration on the building and lasts for almost one minute.
- Hence it exceeds the general noise limit (+5dB) by a more than 50dB, but this recorded result was not accepted or actioned by DEHP.

When a Blast hits our home, it is like a small earthquake or like a bomb going off (each is different).

1. It is a regular event, mostly once per week, sometimes more or less (we are never told).
2. In spite of asking a large number of times, the residents are never advised about the planned blast strength. These requests are ignored.
   - Even though it would make life much easier for the unfortunate residents, they are never told any blast parameters, only that a blast might occur on a particular date.
3. Sometimes the quarry does a 'phantom' blast on the next day, other times they postpone the blast. They don't always advise the residents of this change of plans.
4. We have asked several times for a second MCQ-residents meeting, but our request has been ignored.
5. We were advised by a blasting technician that the MCQ manager had specified that they use a tent-peg (aka soil spike) transducer monitoring method at 159MCR, instead of the industry standard concrete block which already existed in the same location. This leads us to have concerns about the accuracy of their measurements.

Footnote: The quarry blast vibration footprint reporting to DEHP before Nov-2011 has turned out to be incomplete and inadequate due to the excessive distance away from the quarry of the monitoring locations. In constructing our new house, we relied on the written authority from BCC Chris Lange. It now seems the BCC and MCQ did not have any idea of likely blast impacts on the closest resident's homes & contents for 20 years, because they had never monitoring there until we insisted.

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Here is my diary of events as reported to DEHP on 15th August 2015. No response was received.

Monday 10th August	Feeling great, sleeping well, work productivity is high.
Tuesday 11th August Morning	Feeling great, slept well, work productivity is high.
Tuesday 11th August Afternoon	The most incredibly strong blast hits our home. Without any kind of warning, my own house shakes violently all around me and the sound level instantly reaches above 80dB. The shock wave suddenly hits me and it is apparent that this is the strongest blast ever felt here. After the blast I take a good 10 minutes to get my heart rate back to normal and I start looking for signs of building damage. My Stress Level is extremely high. My ability to continue work is zero. We hope there is no damage to our computer hard drives. I speak to other residents who verify the shock level is the highest ever. The blast strength is obviously much more than was measured.
Wednesday 12th August	Wake up around 1am highly stressed unable to get back to sleep. Ability to work during the day is poor. Work productivity is virtually zero.
Thursday 13th August	Wake up around 2am highly stressed unable to get back to sleep. Ability to work during the day is poor. Work productivity is poor. Vibration Measurement comes back from Rob Bell, it is 6.6 and we were expecting 12, because that is what it felt and sounded like.
Friday 14th August	Wake up around 3am highly stressed unable to get back to sleep.
Saturday 15th August	Sleeping better but worrying about what the next blast will be like.

This is the diary of events whilst building our main building house.

Early 2014	We began constructing our main house. The slab and footings were made extra strong and thick to ensure no blast vibration problems. Footings were excavated into hard bedrock. MCQ does a blast only 3days after our slab was poured (before it has gained sufficient strength).
Early 2015	Concrete slab shrinkage cracks had become wider than 1mm.
Mid 2015	Existing concrete cracks had got wider, plus there were new cracks & some chips. Balustrade glass panel 9m above ground, explodes after a quarry blast (3 glass panels had to be replaced). Glass is shattered for several metres around.
End 2015	Concrete Slab cracks getting wider >1mm, chips getting bigger, a 5mm dome is visible.
	We advised the BCC, they said to lodge a damage claim to JLTA Lawyers. We did this.

Early 2016	DNRM Mines Inspector Inspected the damage, but could do nothing to stop it. We were advised not to drive on or load up the slab until the damage claim was finalised. Slab cracks getting longer & wider, chips getting much larger, new cracks have formed.
June 2016	JLTA Lawyers passed our damages claim to King and Company Lawyers who did nothing.
July 2016	Local residents organised a community meeting at Mt Coot-tha electorate office.
	DEHP asked MCQ to reduce their blast vibrations. BCC replied refusing this request.
	DEHP asked MCQ to do community engagement. MCQ ignored this request.
August 2016	MCQ let rip with the strongest blast in 3 years. On that same day the noise inside our house was measured with a NATA approved and calibrated decibel data logger.
	The decibel data showed that the house continued to vibrate, emitting sound for more than 30 seconds after the (typically 1 second) blast vibration had dissipated.

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	Local Residents including myself attended Kenmore Council Listens Forum but were prevented from using the microphone. Afterwards we complained strongly to LM Quirk and Cr Matic to stop damaging our precious homes. LM Quirk, Cr Matic and the BCC Staff appeared to Ignore everything that we said, as well as rejecting the photographic evidence of damage that was provided to them. BCC Ignored their AP186 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.
Late 2016	Slab cracks & chips getting ever larger, new cracks growing longer. Dome is 10mm high.
	DEHP also said that the effects of large numbers of blasts are cumulative.
	DEHP advised that Building vibration with height may be a problem.
	DEHP Director writes to MCQ asking them to adhere to state maximum ERA-16 5mm/sec. BCC writes back totally refusing to comply with this request.
Early 2017	RTI data obtained showing: Average blast vibration level = 3 times Sussex Level.
	Data Corruption Report provided to Mt Coot-tha Electorate office, but no reply received.
	LM Quirk advised that damages claim is proceeding (this seems unlikely to us). LM Quirk advises that BCC only works with legal authority (presumably not with requests made by DEHP Director Andrew Connor or the residents). LM Quirk advises that he will no longer correspond with us on MCQ topics.
Mid 2017	Further analysis and checking of RTI data done. It appears that the BCC MCQ provided their inadequate and incomplete vibration footprint reports to DEHP for more than 20 years. No response from DEHP regarding claims for corrupted blast vibration reporting. Corruption complaint filed with Qld CCC.
Late 2017	After 2 years, Damages Claim is still pending. House construction is practically complete.
	Cannot use the garage in our new home. On the ground floor we were forced to use tiling instead of polished concrete, however the tiling cannot be completed because of slab damage. Cars are still sitting out in the weather fading, peeling and rusting.

October 2017 and beyond	It appears that there is a 'stand-off situation' between DEHP and BCC regarding the quarry blasting levels. DEHP requested BCC MCQ to reduce their blasting levels, which BCC has declined to do. We have proven that MCQ did not truthfully report the whole of its blast vibration footprint until blast number 600. We wonder if our home will ever be liveable.

This Report created and submitted by Philip Best 8th November 2017.

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