



Department of
**Environment and
Heritage Protection**

Ref EPPR00447313

26 July 2016

Mr Terry Bird
Branch Manager
Mount Coot-tha Quarry, Brisbane City council
152-170 Mount Coot-tha Road,
Toowong, QLD 4066

Dear Mr Bird,

RE: Mt Coot-tha Quarry blasting activities

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) refers to a meeting with Brisbane City Council (BCC) representatives and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) representatives on 14 June 2016 to discuss environmental limits associated with blasting, general quarry noise and community engagement protocols at the Mt Coot-tha Quarry.

As you are aware, BCC is the holder of Environmental Authority EPPR00447313 that authorises the extractive activity at the Mt Coot-tha Quarry.

At the meeting EHP raised for discussion, blast limits for overpressure and vibration, and asked BCC for its views on voluntarily reducing blast and vibration limits. The basis for this request is as follows:

- Although the quarry has operated for decades, BCC has permitted residential development within close proximity to the quarry. Some residents are concerned about property damage due to vibration from blasting and it seems appropriate for BCC to operate the quarry against contemporary limits given the residential encroachment that has occurred.
- Since the permit was issued, technological developments have led to strategies that reduce noise and vibration from quarry blasting.
- In addition to residential proximity and technological advancements, a recent decision by BCC to extend the quarry life has increased community expectation that the quarry will demonstrate continual improvement and comply with best practice

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noise and vibration limits. Adhering to and committing to comply with current best practice limits for noise and vibration in the environmental permit seems appropriate and may could assist to enhance BCC's community messaging about the future of the site and its management.

EHP requests that BCC consider voluntarily agreeing to reduce blast and vibration limits within Environmental Authority EPPR00447313 to reflect EHP's current standard for blast and vibration limits for quarries as outlined in the enclosed guideline (page 1).

Also, during the meeting EHP enquired whether BCC has established a formal community engagement plan for the Mt Coot-tha Quarry and if so, whether BCC has evaluated the effectiveness of the plan. During the meeting, BCC advised of many continual improvement programs at the quarry however it is unclear whether the current plan is delivering relevant information that may assist to placate concerned members of the community. For example, community members have raised with EHP that having an option to receive a text message notification of a pending blast would prevent surprise and shock when blasting does occur.

EHP requests that BCC consider the matters raised and advise EHP whether it will voluntarily agree to reduce blast and vibration limits in Environmental Authority EPPR00447313. EHP also requests that BCC evaluate the effectiveness of the current community engagement plan to ensure it best delivers information about BCC's quarry management practices to the community.

Please respond to this this correspondence in writing by mailing to GPO Box 2454, Brisbane QLD 4001 or email to ESComplianceBrisbaneMoreton@ehp.qld.gov.au

EHP thanks you for your time considering this matter and looks forward to hearing from you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Sarah Rowe, ATeam Leader of the department on telephone 3330 5368.

Yours sincerely

s.49 - Personal Information (signature)

Andrew Connor
Executive Director
Industry, Development and South QLD Compliance
Environmental Services and Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Enc. Guideline – Noise and vibration from blasting