



ANNEX C

Community Newsletter

ARDGLEN QUARRY

Extension of Quarry Stone Reserves

Community Newsletter

November 2006

INTRODUCTION

NSW Railways has been operating a hard rock quarry at Ardglenn, adjacent to the Main Northern Railway, for over 100 years. Daracon Quarries purchased the quarry in 2005 and wish to continue the production of high quality hard rock products which are generally used in railway and civil construction. Existing reserves of hard rock are diminishing and therefore Daracon proposes to extend the extraction area to the west as illustrated in *Figure 1*. This will ensure the continuing availability of high quality aggregates for the rail and civil construction in the Upper Hunter and New England region.

Daracon has engaged Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Australia Pty Ltd, an environmental consulting company, to undertake a thorough Environmental Assessment of the proposed quarry extension and to assist with community consultation.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information on the proposed extension and details of who you can contact if you wish to learn more about the proposed development.

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

The proposed quarry extension will involve:

- extension of the extraction area into adjoining properties to the west; and
- the same quarrying practices that are currently carried out in the existing extraction area including the staged removal of vegetation, topsoil and overburden, progressive quarrying and site rehabilitation.

Existing mobile plant and equipment at the quarry will be used to transport raw material from the proposed extension area to the existing processing plant. No processing will be carried out within the extension area. There will be no increase in the amount of aggregate processed each year at the quarry and there will be no change in quarry operating hours. Aggregate processed at the quarry will continue to be transported off site via the existing rail siding that connects to the Main Northern Railway and the road adjoining the New England Highway.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

An Environmental Assessment is being undertaken to assess the potential effects of the proposed quarry extension on the environment. The Environmental Assessment being undertaken by ERM will accompany the application that will be submitted to the State Government seeking approval for the project.

The Environmental Assessment comprises a range of environmental studies, including assessments of:

- noise;
- air quality;
- surface water;
- flora and fauna;
- visual impacts;
- Aboriginal heritage;
- social and economic impacts; and
- other issues (such as hazards and waste).

The Minister for Planning is responsible for approving the proposed extension.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you have any queries or would like to learn more about the Environmental Assessment process or the proposed extension, you can contact:

Contact: Carolyn Maginnity

Tel: (02) 4964 2150

Fax: (02) 4964 2152

Email: carolyn.maginnity@erm.com

Postal Address: Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd
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