



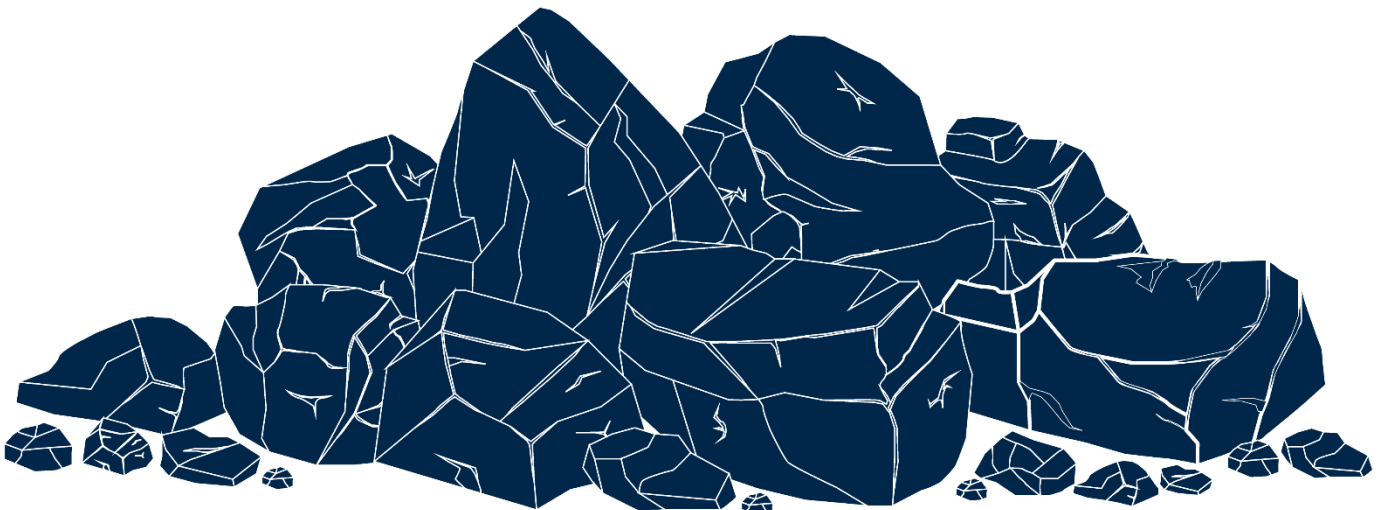
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Karuah East Quarry

Environmental Management Strategy

March 2025



Revision History

Version	Date Reviewed	Author	Status	Amendment Details
1A	October 2015	SLR	Draft for Submission	Original Environmental Management Strategy developed to satisfy Schedule 5, Condition 1 of the Project Approval.
1B	December 2015	SLR	Approved	Updated for DPIE comments.
2A	January 2019	SLR	Draft for Submission	Comprehensive review following approval of MOD1 and MOD2 to the Project Approval; and findings of the 2017 Independent Environmental Audit.
2B	May 2019	SLR	Approved	Updated for DPE comments.
3A	May 2024	KEQPL	Approved	Comprehensive review following approval of MOD8, MOD9, and MOD10 to the Project Approval; and findings of the 2023 Independent Environmental Audit. Update for new Hunter Quarries' document template.
4A	March 2025	KEQPL	Draft for Consultation	Comprehensive review following acquisition of Lot 11 DP1024564 from Wedgerock Pty Ltd. Deletion of DDG5 monitoring point.

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1.0 Introduction

Karuah East Quarry Pty Limited (KEQPL) has prepared this Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) to satisfy the requirements outlined in Schedule 5, Condition 1 of the Project Approval (MP09_0175).

1.1 Overview

KEQPL operate the Karuah East Quarry (KEQ), located approximately 5 km northeast of the township of Karuah, in the MidCoast Council LGA. KEQ supplies hard rock quarry products to the construction, infrastructure and land development industries, within the Greater Newcastle, Hunter Valley and Mid-North Coast regions.

Project Approval (MP09_0175) was granted for the KEQ on 17 June 2014 by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) (formerly the NSW Planning Assessment Commission) on behalf of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces (formerly Minister for Planning). Commonwealth Approval (EPBC 2014/7282) was granted for KEQ under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 20 March 2015.

The KEQ has approval to extract, process, stockpile and transport up to 1.5 million tonnes of andesite material annually until 2034.

1.2 Project Site

The KEQ site is located off the Pacific Highway (via Blue Rock Close) and is situated on the following lands:

- Lot 12 and 13 DP 1024564 (the KEQ site); and
- Lot 14 and part Lot 13 DP 1024564 and Lot 5 DP 838128 (biodiversity offset area).

The KEQ site is well separated from any substantial residential areas and is located adjacent to the existing Karuah Hard Rock Quarry (KHRQ), approved in June 2005 under DA 265-10-2004. The KHRQ is operated by Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd (a company affiliated with KEQPL) however the Karuah East Quarry and the Karuah Hard Rock Quarry are standalone quarry operations.

Figure 1 illustrates the site locality and regional context.

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1.3 Summary of Project Approval (MP09_0175)

The key features of the Project Approval include the following key elements:

- The extraction (excluding overburden), processing, stockpiling, and transport of quarry products is limited to 1.5 million tonnes in any calendar year;
- Quarrying operation is permitted on the site until 31 December 2034;
- Establishment and use of quarry plant and associated infrastructure;
- A total permitted disturbance area of 40.18 ha on Lots 12 and 13 DP 1024564;
- Roadworks to secure access to the site including upgrade and extension of Blue Rock Close, realignment of the Andersite Road and Blue Rock Close intersection and adjust road markings at Branch Lane and Andersite Road intersection;
- Establishment of a biodiversity offset area;
- Conditions apply to manage / mitigate potential impacts associated with a range of environmental conditions including noise, blasting, air quality, soil and water, transport, biodiversity, heritage, emergency and hazards management and waste; and
- Progressive rehabilitation of the subject site.

Quarry Operations

Approved quarrying activities undertaken on the site generally include:

- drilling and blasting of rock material within the quarry pit;
- collection and transportation of blasted material to the crushing & processing area using mobile equipment;
- crushing, processing and screening of quarried material is undertaken using fixed and mobile equipment;
- stockpiling of processed material; and
- stockpiled material is loaded onto trucks and exits the site to market via the weighbridge.

Existing and Approved Site Improvements

Existing and approved site improvements include:

- quarry pit (extraction area);
- crushing plant and processing infrastructure;
- wash plant and workshops;
- stockpiling areas;
- internal haulage roads;
- weighbridge office;
- weighbridge (two weighbridges approved);
- stormwater management infrastructure including three (3) dams;
- parking areas for light and heavy vehicles;
- administration office;
- amenity facilities;
- other minor structures; and
- fencing and access gates.

Figure 2 illustrates the approved project disturbance boundary and site layout.

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LEGEND
▭ Site Boundary
 Lot Boundary

0 70 140 210 280
 Scale: 1:10,000
 m

GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56
 8/03/2024

Karuah East Quarry



LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Approved Disturbance Boundary
- Biodiversity Offset Area
- Lot Boundary



GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56
8/03/2024

1.4 Modifications to Project Approval (MP09_0175)

The Project Approval has been modified five times as summarised by **Table 1**.

Table 1 Summary of Modifications to the Project Approval.

MOD	Approval Date	Summary
1	27/04/2018	MOD 1 approved a nominal expansion to the approved area of disturbance by 2,500 m ² to allow for improved vehicle manoeuvring in proximity of the crushing plant and processing area.
2	19/12/2018	MOD 2 approved a 1.133 Ha increase to the site disturbance area to allow for improved environmental management and improved operational safety (for quarry vehicles).
3 – 7 withdrawn		
8	22/12/2020	MOD 8 approved revised operational acoustic criteria in line with the <i>NSW Noise Policy for Industry 2017</i> . MOD 8 also formalised a number of industry best practice acoustic mitigation measures that have been installed at the quarry. No change to disturbance footprint occurred.
9	02/12/2021	MOD 9 extended the approved operating hours of the KEQ. No change to disturbance footprint occurred.
10	18/05/2023	MOD 10 provides approval to increase the disturbance area of the KEQ by 7.17 Ha (bringing the total disturbance area of the KEQ to 40.18 Ha). The purpose of MOD 10 was to increase the approved disturbance area to establish additional stockpiling areas, facilitate improved surface water management, construct a new administrative building and expand the vehicle manoeuvring and parking at site.

1.5 Purpose

This document has been prepared to provide KEQPL with a consistent approach to environmental management across the site and sets out the minimum standards and processes to achieve this intended level of management. The Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) applies only to the KEQ site described in **Section 1.2** and illustrated in **Figure 2**.

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2.0 Regulatory Requirements

2.1 Requirements of the Project Approval (MP09_0175)

The requirements of the Project Approval are summarised by **Table 2**.

Table 2 Summary of Relevant Conditions of the Project Approval.

No	Requirements	Section
Schedule 5 – Environmental Management, Reporting and Auditing		
Condition 1	<p><u>Environmental Management Strategy</u> <i>The Applicant must prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This strategy must:</i></p>	Whole Document
	<p><i>a) be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to the commencement of construction activities;</i></p>	Appendix A
	<p><i>b) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development;</i></p>	Section 3.1
	<p><i>c) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development;</i></p>	Section 2.0
	<p><i>d) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development;</i></p>	Section 3.2
	<p><i>e) describe the procedures that would be implemented to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development;</i> ■ <i>receive handle, respond to, and record complaints;</i> ■ <i>resolve any disputes that may arise during the course of the development;</i> ■ <i>respond to any non-compliance; and</i> ■ <i>respond to emergencies; and</i> 	Section 5.0
	<p><i>f) include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>copies of any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and</i> ■ <i>a clear plan depicting all the monitoring required to be carried out under the conditions of this consent.</i> <p><i>The Applicant must implement the strategy as approved by the Planning Secretary.</i></p>	Section 3.3 Section 4.0

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2.2 Requirements of the Environment Protection Licence (EPL 20611)

The EPA regulates the operations conducted at the KEQ site through an Environment Protection Licence (EPL 20611) issued under the NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act).

There are several conditions relating to environmental management in the EPL that have been addressed in this EMS. Specific EPL conditions are summarised in **Table 3** together with the relevant sections of the EMS indicating where the requirements have been addressed.

Table 3 *Requirements of the Environment Protection Licence (EPL 20611).*

Condition	Summary of Condition	Section
M5	Recording pollution complaints	Section 5.3
M6	Telephone complaints line	Section 5.3
R2	Notification of environmental harm	Section 5.2
R4	Blast and noise reporting conditions	Section 5.2

3.0 Environmental Management Strategy

3.1 Strategic Framework

The EMS has been prepared with reference to ISO 14001:2015 *Environmental management systems – Requirements and guidance for use*. The EMS incorporates the Plan-Do-Check-Act concept which provides an iterative process to achieve continual improvement, as outlined by **Figure 3**, and includes:

- **Plan:** – establish environmental objectives and procedures necessary to deliver results in accordance with KEQPL’s environmental policy;
- **Do:** – implement the processes as planned;
- **Check:** – monitor and measure processes against environmental objectives, requirements and operating criteria and report results; and
- **Act:** – take actions to continually improve.

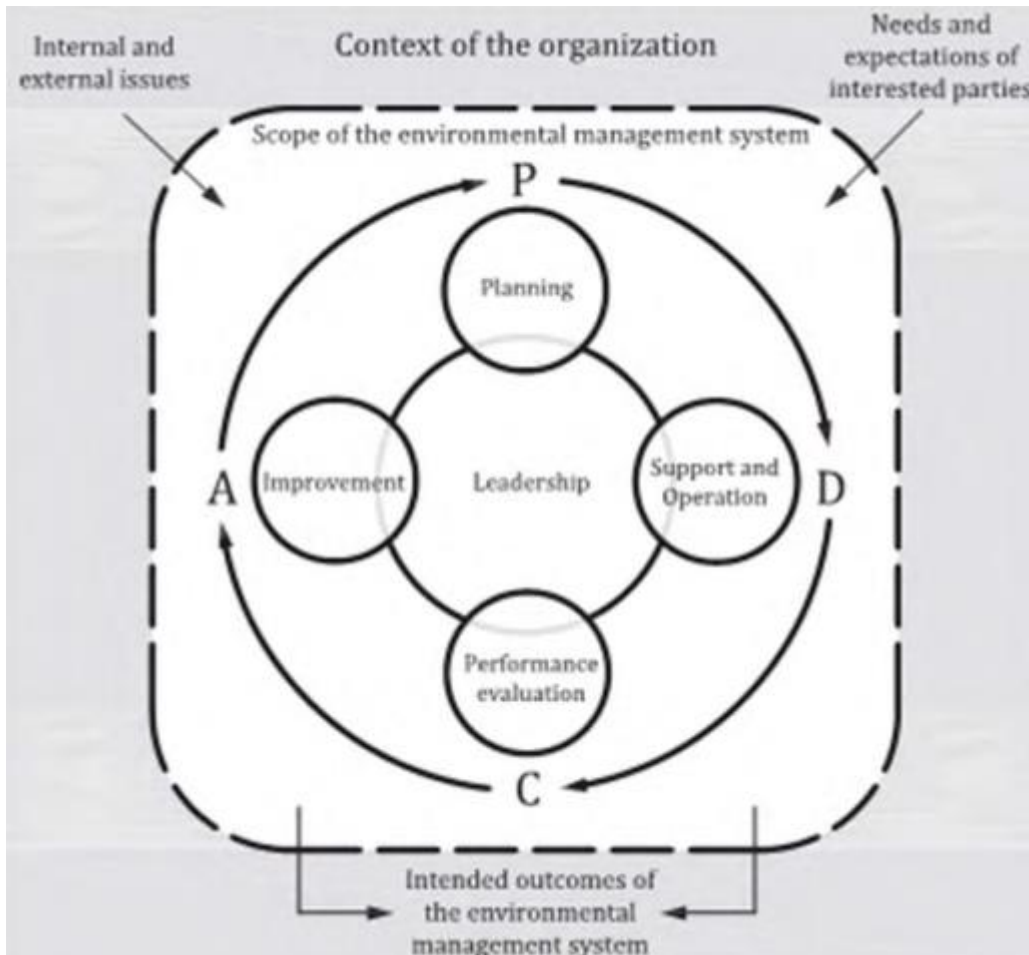


Figure 3 ISO 14001:2015 Plan-Do-Check-Act Model.

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3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Table 4 summarises the key roles and responsibilities for environmental management across the Karuah East Quarry site.

Table 4 *Roles & Responsibilities for Environmental Management*

Position	Responsibility
General Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide sufficient resources for the effective implementation of this EMS.
Quarry Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all employees and contractors undertake the relevant environmental management training; and Ensure all employees and contractors carry out work in accordance with this EMS.
Environment & Development Manager (or suitable delegate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall responsibility for environment and community compliance with licences and approvals; Coordinate environmental monitoring, reporting, inspections, environmental training, authority liaison, maintaining complaints register, and rehabilitation planning; Representation on the Community Consultative Committee; Prepare the necessary documentation to demonstrate compliance and meet legislative obligations; Review outcomes of environment and community incident investigations; Record, investigate and respond to complaints and/or enquiries and review outcomes of investigations; Investigate community complaints and or enquiries in consultation with the Environmental Specialists and review outcomes of investigations; The implementation and adherence to the EMS and other key management plans; Providing adequate training to employees and contractors regarding their requirements under the EMS and key environmental management plans; Monitor relevant site environmental performance – compliance, risk assessment and improvement actions; Planning for adequate resources to implement the EMS; and Develop and implement an audit and review schedule for the site.
All employees and contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become familiar and comply with the EMS and key environmental management plans; Support KEQPL's commitment to environmental management; Work in a manner that will not harm the environment; Report all environmental incidents/complaints; and Report any inappropriate environmental management practices and take immediate action.

3.3 Environmental Management Documents

The EMS consists of the following documents as summarised by **Table 5**.

Table 5 Summary of Environment Management Plans, Strategies and Programs.

Document ID	Document	Requirement	Condition
ENV-MP-KEQ001	Environmental Management Strategy	Project Approval	Schedule 5, Condition 1
ENV-MP-KEQ002	Air Quality Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 16
ENV-MP-KEQ003	Biodiversity Offset Area Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 28
ENV-MP-KEQ004	Biodiversity Offset Strategy	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 33
ENV-MP-KEQ005	Blast Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 12
ENV-MP-KEQ006	Heritage Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 36
ENV-MP-KEQ007	Landscape & Rehabilitation Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 32
ENV-MP-KEQ008	Noise Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 7
ENV-MP-KEQ009	Pollution Incident Response Management Plan	Environment Protection Licence	Condition O4
ENV-MP-KEQ010	Transport Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 26
ENV-MP-KEQ011	Tetratheca Juncea Translocation Plan*	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 27
ENV-MP-KEQ012	Water Management Plan	Project Approval	Schedule 3, Condition 21
ENV-MP-KEQ013	Waste Management Plan	Not a statutory Management Plan	

* Tj Translocation Plan was completed in 2020.

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4.0 Environmental Monitoring Program

In order to verify the degree of impact the operation is having on the environment and the success of mitigation measures employed, a number of monitoring programs have been produced to cover operations. **Table 6** summarises the monitoring regime for each environmental aspect, with refer details provided in each specific operational management plan.

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Table 6 Summary of Environment Management Plans, Strategies and Programs.

Environmental Aspect	Monitoring Parameter	Monitoring Site	Frequency, Sample Rate, or Methodology	Performance Criteria	Project Approval Requirements	Responsibility
Meteorology	Temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, wind speed, wind direction, and sigma theta.	Karuah Hard Rock Quarry Weighbridge	Continuous	N/A	Schedule 3, Condition 17	E&D Manager (or delegate)
Air Quality	Depositional Dust	DDG1, DDG2, DDG3 & DDG4	Monthly (28 to 32 days)	4 g/m ² /month	Schedule 3, Condition 13	E&D Manager (or delegate) VGT Laboratory
	TSP	HVAS (TSP)	Every 6 days	90 µg/m ³ (annual)		
	PM10	HVAS (PM10)		30 µg/m ³ (annual) 50 µg/m ³ (24 hour)		
Blast	Overpressure	Receptor B	Every Blast	120 dB(Lin Peak) (absolute) 115 dB(Lin Peak) (5% annual threshold)	Schedule 3, Condition 8	Quarry Manager (or delegate) Precision Drill & Blast
	Ground Vibration			10 mm/s (absolute) 5 mm/s (5% annual threshold)		
Noise	Noise generated by the development during the Morning Shoulder, Day, and Evening periods.	Receptor A, Receptor B, Receptor G, Receptor H, & Receptor I	Quarterly Attended Monitoring	Site Specific Noise Limits	Schedule 3, Condition 3	E&D Manager (or delegate) EMM Acoustics Technician
Surface Water	Surveillance Monitoring	Dam 1, Dam 2 (existing & new), Dam 3, SW 1, SW 2, SW 3, SW 4, & SW 5	Six-Monthly	N/A	Water Management Plan & EPL	E&D Manager (or delegate)
	Discharge Monitoring		Daily Grab Samples (during discharge)	6.5 < pH < 8.5 TSS < 40 mg/L O&G < 5 mg/L (or not visible) Turbidity (NTU, sample only)		

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Environmental Aspect	Monitoring Parameter	Monitoring Site	Frequency, Sample Rate, or Methodology	Performance Criteria	Project Approval Requirements	Responsibility
Erosion & Sediment Control	N/A	Visual Inspections of Entire Site	Monthly or Post-Rainfall (> 20 mm)	Excessive regular erosion	Water Management Plan and Landscape & Rehabilitation Management Plan	E&D Manager (or delegate) Quarry Supervisors
Groundwater	Groundwater Levels	BH205, BH207, BH208, BH303 & BH502.	Quarterly	N/A	Water Management Plan	E&D Manager (or delegate)
	Groundwater Quality		Six Monthly			
Flora & Fauna	Pre-Clearing Inspections	Areas of Disturbance	As required	N/A	Landscape & Rehabilitation Management Plan	E&D Manager (or delegate) Quarry Manager
	BOA Monitoring	Biodiversity Offset Area	Annual Inspections	N/A	Biodiversity Offset Area Management Plan	E&D Manager (or delegate)
	Rehabilitation	Areas of Rehabilitation	Annual Inspections	N/A	Landscape & Rehabilitation Management Plan	E&D Manager (or delegate) Quarry Manager
Waste & Hydrocarbon	N/A	Visual Inspections of Entire Site	Monthly	N/A	Waste Management Plan	E&D Manager (or delegate) Quarry Supervisors

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5.0 Environmental Procedures

5.1 Community Consultation

Community Consultative Committee

In accordance with Schedule 5, Condition 6 of the Project Approval, KEQ has established and operates a Community Consultative Committee (CCC). The CCC is operated in general accordance with the Community Consultative Committee Guideline, State Significant Projects (NSW Planning, June 2023).

The CCC is an advisory committee to facilitate communication, consultation and information sharing between the KEQ and the local community. Further details of the CCC are provided on KEQ's website (www.hunterquarries.com.au).

Landholder Exceedance Notifications

In accordance with Schedule 4, Condition 1 of the Project Approval, as soon as practicable and no longer than 7 days after obtaining monitoring results showing an exceedance of any air quality, blast or noise criteria in Schedule 3, the Applicant must provide the details of the exceedance to any affected landowners and/or tenants. Any notification of air quality exceedances will also include a copy of NSW Health's *Mine Dust and You* Factsheet.

Landholder Blast Notifications

In accordance with Schedule 3, Condition 11(c) of the Project Approval, KEQPL has developed a blast notification register for landholders within 2 km of the extraction area.

A text message notification will be issued prior to the day of the planned blast and a day-of reminder to all landholders and other external stakeholders of:

- Site of the planned blast;
- Day of the planned blast; and,
- Approximate time of the planned blast.

Note, individual landholders within the 2 km notification zone may request to be removed from the blast notification register.

5.2 Agency and Public Reporting

Schedule 5, Condition 11 of the Project Approval requires all significant documents to be published to the Hunter Quarries website, including this Management Strategy.

Schedule 5, Condition 8 of the Project Approval requires all monitoring results and other environmental performance data to be made publicly available on the Hunter Quarries website (www.hunterquarries.com.au/reporting/). This information is currently produced on a monthly basis through monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR's).

Schedule 5, Condition 4 of the Project Approval outlines the requirement for annual reporting through the Annual Review reporting process.

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Condition R2 of the EPL requires notification of environmental harm immediately to the EPA's Environment Line; with a follow-up written report within 7-days.

Condition R4.1 of the EPL requires any exceedance of the licence blasting limits to be reported to the regional office of the EPA as soon as practicable after the exceedance is identified.

Condition R4.2 of the EPL requires an annual blast monitoring report to be included in the Annual Return submitted to the EPA within 60x days of the EPL's anniversary date via the EPA eConnect portal.

5.3 Complaints Handling

All complaints received regarding environmental matters associated with the operation will be acknowledged within 24 hours by appropriate personnel and investigated as soon as reasonably practicable. The complainant will be kept updated at key milestones of the investigation and will be notified of the outcome once available.

KEQ will operate a Community Call Line (**1800 329 161**) for the purposes receiving complaints from members of the public in relation to activities conducted at the premises.

KEQ will keep a record of any complaints made to the quarry in relation to the project site for at least four years after the complaint was made. Additionally, the record will be available to any authorised officer of the EPA who wishes to view them.

Records will include:

- date and time of complaint;
- method by which the complaint was made;
- personal details of the complainant (if provided);
- nature of the complaint;
- weather conditions corresponding to the time of the complaint;
- action taken by the quarry and any follow up actions; and
- if no action was taken, the reason why no action was taken.

Additionally, Condition M5 of the EPL outlines the process for recording pollution complaints.

5.4 Dispute Resolution

In accordance with Schedule 4, Condition 2 of the Project Approval, if a landowner considers that KEQ is exceeding any relevant air quality, blast or noise limits they may ask the Planning Secretary in writing for an independent review of the impacts on their residence or land.

If the Planning Secretary is not satisfied that an independent review is warranted, the Planning Secretary will notify the landowner in writing of that decision, and the reasons for it, within 21 days of the request for a review.

If the Planning Secretary is satisfied that an independent review is warranted, within 3 months of the Planning Secretary's decision, or other timeframe agreed by the Planning Secretary, KEQPL must:

- commission a suitably qualified, experienced and independent person, whose appointment has been approved by the Planning Secretary, to:
 - consult with the landowner to determine their concerns;

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- conduct monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant criteria; and
- if the development is not complying with the relevant criteria, identify measures that could be implemented to ensure compliance with the relevant criteria; and
- give the Planning Secretary and landowner a copy of the independent review; and
- comply with any written requests made by the Planning Secretary to implement any findings of the review.

5.5 Non-Compliance and Incident Response

Schedule 5, Condition 7 of the Project Approval requires:

The Applicant must immediately notify the Department and any other relevant agencies immediately after it becomes aware of an incident. The notification must be in writing via the Major Projects Website and identify the development (including the development application number and name) and set out the location and nature of the incident.

Schedule 5, Condition 7A of the Project Approval requires:

Within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance, The Applicant must notify the Department of the non-compliance. The notification must be in writing via the Major Projects Website and identify the development (including the development application number and name), set out the condition of this consent that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.

Note: A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

It should be noted that an exceedance of the air quality, blast or noise limits is typically classified as a non-compliance rather than an incident.

Where a significant pollution incident occurs which causes an impact or material harm, reference will be made to the KEQ Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP).

5.6 Emergency Response

KEQPL has developed a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) which covers the key actions to minimise occurrence of a pollution incident and manage a pollution incident if one occurs (during and after a pollution incident).

The PIRMP has been prepared for managing the impact to human health (employees and nearby neighbours) and the environment (onsite and offsite) and are required to immediately report pollution incidents to regulatory authorities and relevant sensitive receivers.

The PIRMP will be tested annually (simulation) and within one month (incident review) of any pollution incidents occurring to ensure the plan is up-to-date and remains capable of being implemented in a workable and effective manner.

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6.0 References

- Environmental Assessment Report – Proposed Karuah East Quarry (AD Johnson 2013); Preferred Project Report - Proposed Karuah East Quarry (ADW Johnson 2013);
- Section 75W Application (MOD1) to amend Part 3A Project Approval 09_0175 Minor Increase to Approved Disturbance Area (ADW Johnson 2017);
- Section 75W Application (MOD2) to amend Part 3A Project Approval 09_0175 Minor Increase to Approved Disturbance Area (ADW Johnson 2018b);
- Karuah East Quarry S4.55 (1A) Modification Report (MOD8) Proposed Modification to Operational Noise Criteria and Implementation of Improved Acoustic Mitigation Measures PA 09_0175. Prepared by ADW Johnson Pty Ltd June 2019
- Karuah East Quarry Modification 9 (MP09_0175-MOD-9) Proposed Extended Hours of Operation. Prepared by ADW Johnson Pty Ltd August 2021
- Submissions Report, Karuah East Quarry. Modification 10. Proposed increase to Approved Disturbance Area (ADW Johnson 2022)
- ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental management systems.

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