

# Community update

## The future of the Somersby Sand Quarry

(December 2009)



**T**his newsletter provides an update for local residents on Hanson's plans to extend the Somersby Sand Quarry.

Our goal is to ensure the local community remains well informed of any developments at the quarry, as your support and the ability of Somersby to uphold community expectations, is critical to its ongoing success.

Somersby Sand Quarry is one of the oldest working quarries in the area. Since the early 1960's, it has provided both high quality construction materials to local and national markets and a valuable source of local employment.

**we'll make it happen**





## The Somersby Sand Quarry

The existing quarry occupies an area of approximately 33 hectares and has an annual production of approximately 300,000 tonnes.

## Our expansion plans

Expanding the quarry will add approximately eight hectares of land to the quarry area.

Because it aims only to extend the life of the quarry operation, the additional land area will not alter traffic haulage routes or increase the number of vehicles on-site.

The quarry's operating hours and annual production rates will also not change and the proposal will not see additional plant or equipment used on site. Instead, it will rely on existing plant, equipment, loading facilities and the administration building already being used at the quarry.

## Progress so far

Following preliminary investigations, the Department of Planning has confirmed in writing that the proposed quarry extension will be a 'major project' as defined under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. The Department of Planning is the approval authority for any application for quarry expansion.

## The Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Hanson has engaged Insite Planning Engineering Economic & Social who has prepared a Preliminary Environmental Assessment which was submitted to the Department of Planning in July 2008.

It is available for viewing on the Department of Planning website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

Following a review of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment and a Planning Focus Meeting with the Department at the quarry (along with other key government agencies), the Department of Planning set out the Director General's Requirements for the proposed quarry extension.

## The Director General's Requirements (DGR's)

The Director General's Requirements (DGR's) sets out all of the important matters that must be addressed in any application prepared for the extension of the quarry. It is a comprehensive list of all matters deemed by the Department of Planning and other Government agencies as requiring attention.

## The impact of the global recession

The global economic crises resulted in delays to the project between late 2008 and early 2009 and a significant time lapse between when

the Preliminary Environmental Assessment was prepared and the current round of works.

Insite Planning Engineering Economic & Social is currently preparing the Environmental Assessment and collating all of the documents for the formal approval.

## Preparing the Environmental Assessment (EA)

The Environmental Assessment is currently being prepared, including specialist reports dealing with all important matters, such as:

- Traffic
- Acoustics and noise
- Groundwater and surface water impacts
- Air quality and dust
- Ecology
- Aboriginal archaeology and heritage

It is anticipated that the Environmental Assessment and all associated reports will be completed within the next few weeks and the application will be submitted to the Department of Planning.

## Community consultation

Hanson has already discussed the proposed development with many neighbours living around the quarry and all feedback will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment.

Once submitted to the Department of Planning, a formal round of consultation through the Department will be undertaken, giving all residents the opportunity to review all documentation and provide further feedback.

## Our neighbours are important to us

Hanson prides itself on maintaining excellent relationships with our neighbours. The fact that the existing quarry has operated very successfully for over four decades is testament to this. Hanson now aims to maintain these relationships throughout the planning process for this minor quarry expansion.

If you have any questions or comments, please submit a written submission to either of the addresses below.

Hanson looks forward to working with you in making continuing improvements to the Somersby Quarry and its surrounding environment.



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