



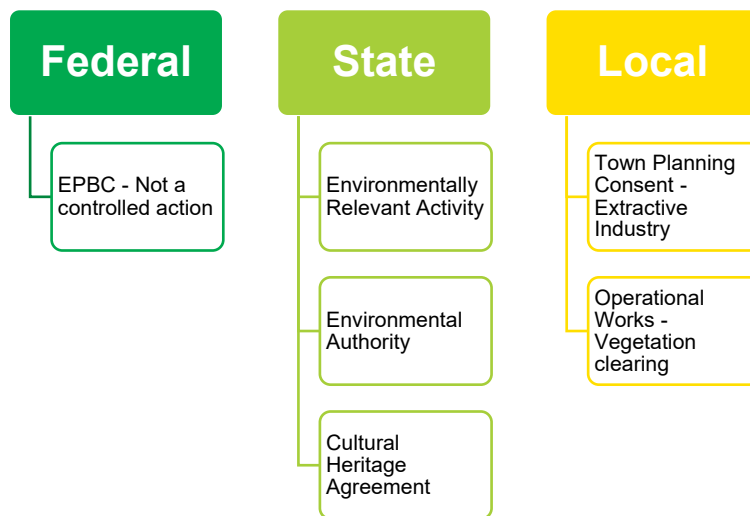
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# Redlynch Quarry FAQs

## Does Boral own Redlynch Quarry?

The Redlynch Quarry commenced formal operation in the 1980s, and under a lease arrangement with the landowner, Boral has operated the quarry since May 1990.

## What types of approvals have been secured to operate Redlynch Quarry?



In May 1990, Mulgrave Shire Council granted a town planning consent to use Lots 8 & 9 on RP749301 for the purpose of an extractive industry, subject to conditions (**the 1990 approval**). The 1990 approval has been amended on three separate occasions, and the most current Decision Notice is dated 18 November 2020.

All work currently being conducted at the quarry form part of the original 1990 consent.

On 30 June 2015, Cairns Regional Council granted an Operational Works (vegetation clearing) approval, subject to conditions. A new Development Application will be required in the future to update the Operational Works (vegetation clearing).

*The Planning Act 2016 defines Operational work as 'work, other than building work or plumbing or drainage work, in, on, over or under premises that materially affects premises or the use of premises'. The works may be on public or private land. Clearing of vegetation requires an Operational Works Approval.*

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, on 18 December 2017, the Department issued an Environmental Authority for the following Environmentally Relevant Activities:

*Prescribed ERA, ERA 16 - Extraction and Screening (2):*

*Extracting, other than by dredging, in a year, the following quantity of material, (b) more than 100,000t but not more than 1,000,000t*

*Prescribed ERA, ERA 16 - Extraction and Screening (3):*

*Screening, in a year, the following quantity of material, (b) more than 100,000t but not more than 1,000,000t*

In 2020, an application to change a condition of the 1990 approval to extend operations at the quarry until 2036 was made. This application was considered a permissible change which does not trigger public notification or a decision by Full Council. Rather, the application was decided by the delegated authority within Council.

All approvals have conditions that Boral is obligated to meet at all times. The key matters that have been conditioned include:

#### Local Government

#### State Government

Land use approval	Environmental licencing	Cultural Heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use</li> <li>• Hours of operation</li> <li>• Truck movements on certain roads</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Blasting</li> <li>• Noise and dust suppression</li> <li>• Buffers</li> <li>• Rehabilitation</li> <li>• Stormwater</li> <li>• Cessation date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual extraction limits</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Emissions</li> <li>• Water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duty of Care – Cultural Heritage Agreement</li> </ul>

#### Cultural Heritage

In relation to Cultural Heritage, in 2014 / 2015, Boral entered into three Cultural Heritage Agreements (CHAs) in order to address Aboriginal cultural heritage at the Redlynch Quarry in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (ACHA). The CHAs were entered into with three Aboriginal parties, the Yirrganydji, Gimuy and Djabugay Peoples. Under these CHAs, inspections and clearances of much of the project area were secured in 2014.

On 12 October 2016, a claim by the Cairns Regional Claim Group for native title over an area encompassing the Redlynch Quarry was accepted for registration. The effect of this registration is that the Yirrganydji, the Gimuy and the Djabugay are no longer considered to be relevant Aboriginal parties for the project area and Boral are required to enter into a new CHA with the Cairns Regional Claim Group.

In accordance with the Cultural Heritage Duty of Care Guidelines (the Guidelines) gazetted under the ACHA, Boral have obtained a priority site clearance from the Cairns Regional Claim Group representatives for the clearing within the top three benches.

#### What does the operational continuation of the Redlynch Quarry involve?

In accordance with our current planning and environmental approvals, Boral will progressively work the main ridgeline from the top of the hill in a downward direction ("top down" extraction program) where new quarry benches will start at the top of the hill and then progressively worked down to the current pit level to minimise the noise and visual impact on the surrounding community.

The haulage route has been re-established and the works involving vegetation clearing to open up the first three benches, to allow for extraction has commenced in accordance with current conditions (Figure 1 below).

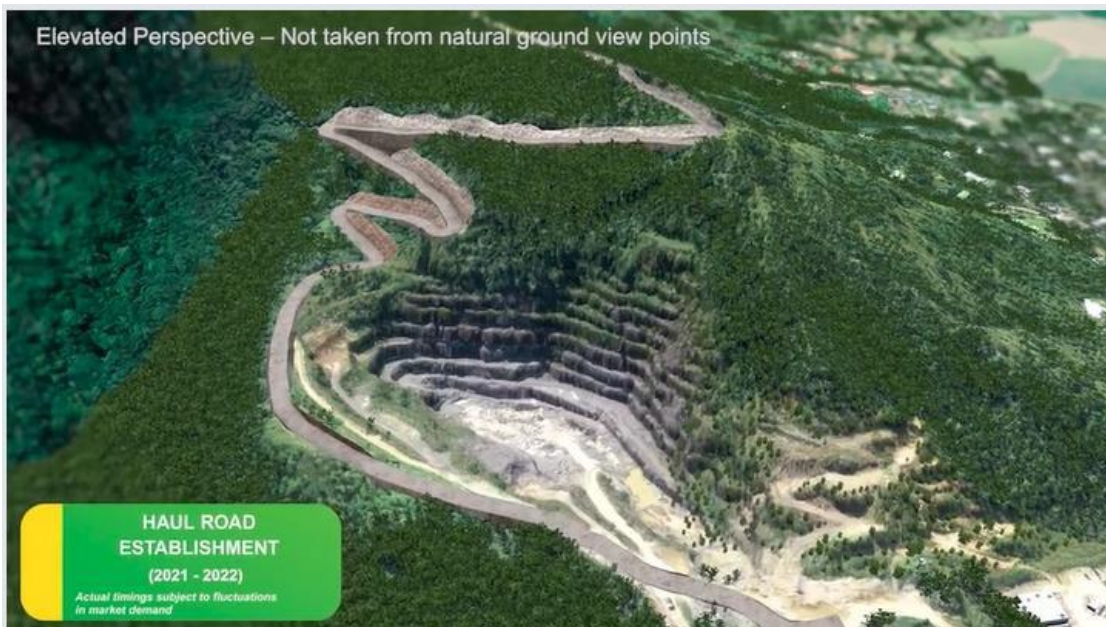
All activities at the Redlynch Quarry are conducted in accordance with current planning and environmental approvals and in line with our operating license. Everything we do is strictly monitored by the regulator to ensure compliance.



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Figure 1: Location and extent of the proposed disturbance area involved in opening up the first three (3) benches in accordance with current planning approvals



### **What vegetation clearing is currently occurring at Redlynch Quarry?**

In accordance with conditions of the Operational Works (vegetation clearing) approval received in 2015, Boral provided Notice to Council on 7 April 2022 of Intent to Clear Vegetation at Redlynch Quarry to clear vegetation within the area where the first three benches occur. Following compliance approval from Cairns Regional Council, vegetation clearing commenced on 11 April 2022.

In accordance with conditions of approval, a qualified spotter catcher will be on site prior to commencing clearing. Should any animals be found, the qualified spotter catcher will relocate them to the nearest suitable



habitat on or off site. These works will allow for Boral to continue its approved operations and will be undertaken having regard to the visual amenity impacts on the surrounding local community.

As per current planning and environmental approvals, Boral has completed extraction of the first two benches (RL270 and RL262.5 refer images below) with rehabilitation works commenced.

The mine design ensures that each bench can be progressively rehabilitated as each new stage begins, once Boral progressively moves down benches on the hillslope, the extraction will no longer be visible.



### Historical use of the site

The quarry was established in the very early 1970's and prior to that the property and the area surrounding the quarry was used for cane farming, with a substantial amount of land cleared for farming.



1979 Image extracted from Climagery illustrating Redlynch and the Valley (© Queensland Government)



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The pictures below show the successful rehabilitation of the quarry since the late 1970's.



Sources QImagery and Google Earth October 2025

### **Vegetation Clearing Operational Works**

#### *Operational Works Permit 8/10/1534*

Boral had an Operational Works (OPW) approval from Council (Ref 8/10/1534) to clean up regrowth vegetation and weeds along the haul route and go-line. All clearing associated with this approval has now been completed.

#### *Operational Works Application 8/10/1555*

Boral recently lodged an additional Operational Works application (OPW 8/10/1555) to clear regrowth vegetation and weeds in the eastern portion of the quarry. This area is entirely within the quarry's existing approved operational footprint and has been previously extracted. Independent assessments identified regrowth vegetation, weeds and 95 non-juvenile trees (9 exotic and 86 native) within the proposed clearing area.

Before lodgement, Boral engaged an ecologist to complete a detailed flora and fauna assessment, which confirmed there were no listed threatened species, no fauna breeding places, and that the area was predominantly new regrowth with high weed infestation—much of which would have required removal regardless.

However, this application has now been formally withdrawn by Boral in accordance with section 52 of the *Planning Act 2016*,

#### *Operational Works Permit 8/7/3167*

Boral has submitted a Minor Change application to update Condition 3 of the Operational Works (Vegetation Clearing) approval 8/7/3167. This approval currently expires in August 2026 because it was originally aligned with the earlier currency period of the associated Development Permit 8/18/308. Since that Development Permit has since been lawfully extended to 30 August 2036, the requested change simply updates the OPW expiry date so both approvals remain consistent.

Importantly, no new or additional vegetation clearing is proposed, and the approved clearing extent remains the same. Vegetation clearing has already been occurring progressively for several years under the existing Operational Works approval, in line with the approved quarry footprint and staging. The requested change is



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purely administrative and simply updates the expiry date to ensure the approvals continue to operate as originally intended.

#### **Ground movements, water management and boulders on site.**

Boral has undertaken the clearing and extraction ensuring that no risk to downstream properties occur. Clearing and extraction is being undertaken progressively to ensure that all water from disturbed areas of site report back to the quarry pit. Erosion and sediment controls are in place to prevent sediment and water from leaving the clearing footprint. This includes sequencing of clearing, blasting and extraction, to ensure water flows towards the quarry pit.

Boral operates under a site-specific stormwater management plan which provides guidance on control measures that are to be in place to minimise any adverse impacts to surrounding waters including increased flows. To provide a summary, all activities proposed to be undertaken by Boral have been and are designed in a manner that prevents runoff from entering surrounding water ways. All surface water runoff from disturbed areas of site is directed back into the quarry pit that has significant capacity and as such only runoff from natural drainage features continues to flow through waterways. Water that is captured within the quarry pit is then reused for processing and dust suppression around site.

Boral has also had an assessment completed by third partner geoscientists and geotechnical professionals. A summary of the findings are below:

1. The boulders would be unlikely to move from their present position without either human interference or erosion of soil from around the boulders (the latter unlikely).
2. As the boulders are typically elongate in shape, it is considered that a boulder would be unlikely to roll unless it fell with its long axis across the slope. As the long axis of all the boulders leans downslope this is considered unlikely.
3. The build up of kinetic energy in the initial 10m of travel distance prior to reaching the 40° break in slope is low. Hence. Considering the angular shape of the boulders, it is likely that a boulder would stop prior to reaching the 40° break in slope (downhill).
4. A sensitivity analysis undertaken using the "Rockfall" computer program concluded that, for appropriate friction angles, a boulder would stop well upslope of the subject houses.
5. In an attempt to quantify the risk to persons or property using an event tree approach, the total event probability for property damage and loss of life was assessed to be very low.

Based on the risk above the following controls have been added to our standard operating procedures:

1. Regular inspections are undertaken of the boulders for evidence of erosion or recent movement of the boulders.
2. Vibration monitors are placed at the base of boulders during every blast.
3. Boulders are surveyed by a third party following every blast. Any movement of boulders is recorded and reviewed by third party geotechnical engineer.

#### **Cassowary activity**

In May 2025 a request was made to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Federal Government agency) to request a reconsideration of its decision of Boral's EPBC Referral 2014/7397 for the quarry on the basis of concerns regarding the presence of the endangered Southern Cassowary within the vicinity of the quarry.

A delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Water confirmed that the quarry operation is unlikely to have a significant impact on any Matter of National Environmental Significance including the Southern Cassowary, and its original decision of Boral's EPBS Referral was correct.

An independent expert ecologist's assessment has confirmed that Cassowary has not been directly or indirectly (through dung) recorded as being present at the quarry, and that the quarry operations are unlikely to lead to a





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negative impact on the Cassowary population due to the sub-optimal nature of the potential habitat (disturbed, steep, lack of permanent water supply) and the scale of the disturbance relative to adjacent tracts of potential habitat resources for the species.

### **Dust management**

The site operates a 35,000-litre water cart which travels around the entire site twice an hour while the quarry is operational. Boral operates three dust monitors with results of the monitoring shared at our community liaison group meetings.

#### Dust Management at Boral

The safety of our people – our employees and contractors – is always our number one priority and part of our Zero Harm safety goal.

#### Our Dust Management Framework

We take very seriously our commitments and responsibilities to manage dust across all of our sites.

We strive to lead the way through a comprehensive dust management framework informed by our ongoing work with specialists and regulators to help ensure we are using modern management practices and dust control technologies to keep our people safe and healthy while at work. This includes occupational hygiene monitoring and personal health surveillance.

Like many in our industry and related industries, monitoring of respirable dust (RD) and respirable crystalline silica (RCS) is an established practice in place for many years.

At Boral, we undertake static dust monitoring, personal exposure monitoring as well as regular environmental (boundary) monitoring at relevant sites.

Static dust monitoring and personal exposure monitoring helps us to better understand where potential risks to our people exist and if additional measures are required. Health surveillance includes respiratory function tests and chest x-rays by a specialist radiologist accredited in occupational lung health. Under current regulations, health surveillance must be conducted at least every five years.

We continue to monitor and review our dust management approach and will work collaboratively with regulators and government to make sure our controls meet and, where possible, exceed required standards to safeguard the health and safety of our people.

### **Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)**

Boral understands that communities close to our quarry sites have questions and concerns regarding possible inhalation exposures to airborne Crystalline Silica.

#### **What is RCS?**

Crystalline silica is a natural substance found in sand, stone, concrete, and mortar. It is also used to make a variety of products including artificial stone products (such as kitchen and bathroom benchtops), bricks and tiles. When workers process materials containing crystalline silica with power tools or other machinery, airborne dust particles can be generated, a proportion of which may be small enough in size to lodge deep in the respirable region of the lungs and potentially cause serious illnesses or diseases - including silicosis. These dust particles are thus called Respirable Crystalline Silica – or 'RCS'.

Different types of rock and rock products can contain different amounts of crystalline silica, for example limestone has about 2%, slate 25-40% and shale about 22% of crystalline silica.

The rock present at Redlynch quarry is greywacke hard rock which is crushed for use in the construction industry as aggregate for end uses such as road bases, concrete, asphalt (asphalt and road-sealing aggregates) and revetment works. It should be noted that the amount of silica in the source rock is not indicative of the respirable crystalline silica percentage in the dust. The respirable proportion in any dust is largely dependent upon how the rock is processed.



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If the handling and processing of crystalline silica substances is controlled at the source, and workplace exposure limits and environmental dust criteria are appropriately managed, there is no risk of community exposure.

RCS in the air may appear to be concerning, especially as in recent years where there have been reports regarding health issues caused by respirable crystalline silica and the harm experienced by workers in the kitchen benchtop industry.

Visible dust observed around activities at the site is predominantly larger sized particles best described as nuisance sized dust particles, and although visible, is not small enough to be respirable or in the respirable range.

Scientific literature to date has found there are no known adverse health effects associated with airborne dust which contains low levels of respirable crystalline silica.

### **How does Boral engage with the community and our neighbours?**

To facilitate open and transparent communication with our immediate neighbours and Council representatives, Boral have established the Redlynch Quarry Liaison Group. This Quarry Liaison Group meeting was established in 2008, and regular meetings are held at The Northern Outlook at Redlynch. Minutes can be found on our website: [boral.com.au/redlynch](http://boral.com.au/redlynch)

This proactive engagement ensures that Boral can minimise any impacts on their neighbours, and in many cases, work with them to arrive on solutions.

To communicate to the broader community, in the past, we have sent out newsletters via mail box drop, but as part of our sustainability objectives, we have now switched to a more environmentally friendly way of communicating and refer people to visit our web site instead.

### **1. How long are Boral intending to operate the Redlynch Quarry?**

Currently, in accordance with our current planning approvals, Boral can lawfully operate up to 2036. However, based on our current assumptions around operational capacity of the plant, projected market demand, and extraction limits, we estimate that the life of the quarry could exceed this timeframe. In the event that this occurs, Boral will need to seek additional approvals from Cairns Regional Council.

Boral will be continually reviewing the quarry's status and updates are given via our Quarry Liaison Group and subsequent minutes that can be accessed on the website.

### **2. When will Boral blast? Will we be notified?**

The quarry conducts scheduled blasts, depending on demand, but generally once or twice a month. We have a blast register where neighbours to the quarry can add their name and contact details to be notified the day prior. To be included on the register please contact us via [community@boral.com.au](mailto:community@boral.com.au)

Regarding blasting procedures and vibration, we monitor ground vibrations for every blast at different parts of our quarry site to ensure we don't exceed our limit of 10mm/s.

### **What is Blasting?**

There are a number of ways to extract 'hard' rock, but the most common and effective method is 'controlled blasting'. As blasting is very precise practice, each blast is designed and carried out by an independent third-party blast expert. A blast design is generated and is a carefully planned operation that involves drilling into the rock in a specified pattern, then placing a very precise amount of explosive in the holes. The explosives are then detonated in a precise sequence, designed to maximise the efficiency of rock breakage while minimising noise, vibration and dust. One of the advantages of blasting is that it reduces the need to operate large heavy equipment to extract the rock, in turn reducing noise and greenhouse gas emissions. Depending on how close you live to a quarry, you may notice some vibration or noise associated with blasting, however all blasts as mentioned are precisely designed to prevent and minimise impacts to surrounding neighbours.





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### **What safeguards are in place during blasting?**

Strict national safety regulations apply to protect neighbouring homes, buildings and public places from the potential effects of blasting. Blasting operations must adhere to prescribed limits stipulated by the relevant regulatory authority that are well below the vibration levels which could cause structural or cosmetic damage. Blasts are monitored at different locations with sensitive ground and air vibration equipment to ensure they remain within regulations.

### **What else should I know about blasting?**

Apart from vibration, the energy used in blasting to move and break rocks may also result in some noise and dust. The further you are away from the quarry, the less you will notice these effects. A quarry's strict operating conditions requires that every action be taken to reduce these effects.

### **Will the operational continuation of the Redlynch Quarry generate more traffic on the roads?**

In accordance with our current approvals, the quarry's operating hours are from 7am to 6pm, five days a week (Monday to Friday) and 7am to 12noon on Saturdays. No operations on Sundays or Public Holidays.

Redlynch Quarry provides raw materials for regional development and infrastructure projects within the Cairns region. In accordance with our current approvals, Boral must limit truck numbers using Redlynch Intake Road to 26 loaded trips per hour.

Boral also has developed and operates under a Road Transport Code of Conduct that will apply to all extractive road transport vehicles. The Code has been designed to maximise safety in all aspects of road haulage and to minimise the impact of Boral's trucks on other road users and the community.

If you observe unacceptable truck driver behaviour, we ask that you please contact the quarry on 4039 1206 immediately or at your earliest convenience. The earlier Boral is aware of the issue, the quicker we can respond and follow up. The information we require include date, time, and registration. Any other information such as colour of the truck, truck and dog, or any other description will assist in the investigation.

Please note: Redlynch Intake Road is a public road and is free to be accessed by all trucks, not restricted to trucks visiting the quarry.

### **How do I contact Boral if I have any queries?**

Community enquiries should be directed to BORAL via [community@boral.com.au](mailto:community@boral.com.au)

Boral has a complaint management system that ensures matters are addressed quickly and responsibly, following up on all community inquiries and concerns; we have a good and respectful relationship with our neighbours and the community.

Any information can be sought via the quarry web site and our feedback line.

[boral.com.au/redlynch](http://boral.com.au/redlynch)