

# Boral Quarries Stockton

Building the Hunter and Port Stephens communities of tomorrow

March 2020

**Boral's Stockton Quarry, located at the end of Cox's Lane at Fullerton Cove, has played a significant role in building and construction for much of the NSW population for almost 25 years. It's a legacy we've recently been preparing to continue into the future.**

## Connect with Boral Stockton

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Hours: 6.15am-5pm Mon-Fri  
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## The long history of local sand

*The 32 kilometres of rolling dunes along the Stockton Bight making up the world famous beach have provided many opportunities to those living in the area.*

For thousands of years the **Worimi people**, as original custodians of the land, knew the dunes as a source of food and meeting place. The beach remains significant to their culture and traditions today.

Following European arrival, other uses of the sand available in the area began to emerge. Among these was the harvesting of sand for use in **building** and **construction**, an activity which continues at present.



**Boral's Stockton Quarry** is positioned on one of the longest-standing sites used for this purpose. Although our operations have been around for **almost 25 years**, the land around our operations has been **extracted** by **excavation** and **dredging** as far back as the **1950s**.

With the sand produced from our site holding just as much value today as it has in the past, we're making moves to ensure this important community resource remains ready to support everyone for years to come.

## Quietly going about business

*Whether you've lived in Fullerton Cove or Fern Bay for a long time, or you're newly arrived, you mightn't be aware of our long-standing local operations, largely hidden from the ordinary view of the public.*

It often catches even long term residents by surprise to discover we've been around since the **mid-1990s**, harvesting sand from within our **250 hectares** of **private** land to the **east** of **Nelson Bay Road**.

This is because our quarry is largely **out of the sight** of passers-by, positioned between the slopes which line the road and the back side of the beach.



Each day, we use **front end loaders** to simply scoop up the sand and load it onto trucks for deliveries across the Hunter, Port Stephens and further afield.

Typically these customers are our own **concrete** or **asphalt plants**. They need sand as a core component of their products which underpin the **housing**, **buildings** and **infrastructure** we all rely upon.

## When sand isn't sand...

*It may seem strange to say considering how long and broad Stockton Beach is, but finding the sand needed to create reliable building and construction products is becoming more and more of a challenge.*

This is because we can't use any type of sand we like in manufacturing. Only certain types of **fine sand** are able to be safely integrated into materials like concrete to maintain its strength in structures.

More information? [www.boral.com.au/stockton](http://www.boral.com.au/stockton).

Like us on **Facebook** – [@Boral Australia](https://www.facebook.com/BoralAustralia).





While Boral is a leading developer of **alternatives** to fine sand for use in products, nothing has yet been identified as a **100 percent** ideal **replacement**.

This means continued access to fine sand resources is a **must**. In a modern context where **environmental** and **economic** factors are significant considerations for establishing **new** operations, our approach at Boral is to **maximise** those areas we already operate.

As our community grows and associated demand continues, this in turn means fully exploring every opportunity we have for our current sites, including **working in areas** where we've been **before**.

## The past is our future...

*Our Stockton Quarry operates to a planning consent due to expire in 2028. While that may seem a while off, we've needed to plan ahead so the site could keep operating beyond then.*

One option is to **dredge** part of our land which formed the **original quarry pit** from the start of operations in **1996** until it was 'finished' in **2008**. The dredge is floated on a **pontoon** to **vacuum** up sand before it is pumped to our plant for **washing** and **processing**.



While many thousand tonnes of sand were extracted over those years, there is a significant amount of resource remaining **below** what we quarried back then. We believe this can be dredged given the high **natural water table**.

Dredging the **previously quarried area** offers the distinct advantage that **environmentally** or **Indigenous heritage** items of significance are **highly unlikely** to be present given the earlier operations.

In order to be allowed to proceed with this dredging, we've applied to the **NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE)** for a **State Significant Development (SSD)** approval to do so.



## SSD now on exhibition

*Two years in the making, our SSD application seeks permission to extract up to 500 000 tonnes of sand from our site via dredging for the next 25 years.*

This is the **same** amount of sand we're currently allowed to quarry by **excavation** at the back of the sand dunes - ultimately the application is about **shifting** the **source** of the sand from one part of our site to another. **No other changes** are sought.

If approved, however, there will be a period where **both** excavation and dredging take place. Rather than using both approvals **simultaneously** with potential associated effects like increased traffic, we've proposed that until the current approval expires in **2028**, a **combined limit** of **750 000 tonnes** per annum should be in place.

Although straightforward, as we've worked on our application we've taken opportunities to carefully explain it and seek feedback from the **community**.

This has included **visiting neighbours** in **Fullerton Cove** and **Fern Bay**, holding a **community 'drop in' session** at the Williamstown McDonalds, issuing several **newsletters**, briefing **local elected officials**, updating our Stockton Quarry **website**, and using Boral's **Facebook** page.

Now, the DPIE wants to hear from **you** about our proposal as the application is exhibited for public comment from **13 March** until **9 April**.

All documents, plus details on how to have your say, are available from DPIE's **Major Projects website** at [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects).

You can also access this link on our **Stockton Quarry website**. We're also very happy to receive questions or comments about our proposal **directly** via any of the contacts in this newsletter or on our website.

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