

Boral Stockton Quarry

Maximising existing resources to keep our region growing

February 2019

The team at the Boral Stockton (Fullerton Cove) Quarry wishes all residents a happy new year. For 2019, we're focussed on progressing our plans to make the best use of the available sand resources within our land into the future.

Following our community 'doorknock' in March last year, Boral representatives are eager to continue having conversations and obtaining feedback about our proposed operations. We'll be inviting your feedback while we seek approval for our new plans.

Today's situation with sand...

Sand has emerged as a valuable commodity for the building and construction industry. A key ingredient of concrete, the world's second most consumed material after water, the availability of 'new' sand for the industry is declining.

While this may seem strange given the amount of sand you see in many different locations, not all sand is suitable for use in manufacturing.

As with the 'hard' rock extracted at 'conventional' quarries, the sand used in production must meet certain specifications to ensure the end product can do its job.

This means suitable sand can only be sourced from a select range of places. Consideration then has to be given to the environmental consequences of extracting that sand.

All of this means starting a new sand 'pit' can be a lengthy, complicated and expensive process. Accordingly, the preferable option is to ensure existing approved sand resources are managed to provide the maximum yield possible.



Sourcing sand at Stockton

The world famous Stockton Beach sand dune system occupies a very important place in the Hunter's social, cultural, environmental and economic life.

Stretching for 32 kilometres along the Pacific shoreline, the dunes are sited on the traditional lands of the Worimi people who have lived in the area for tens of thousands of years.



The Beach is well known for recreational pursuits and, thanks to careful conservation programs, hosts many excellent examples of coastal vegetation and habitat.

Not as prominent is the long-standing contribution the dunes have made to the extractive industry.

Our **Boral Stockton Quarry**, located off Coxs Lane, is one of around 10 like local operations permitted to remove and process dune sands situated within private land.

Operated by Boral since **1996**, the quarry occupies just under **250 hectares** east of Nelson Bay Road, with the site's boundary jutting out onto the edge of the dunes.



We can currently extract up to **500 000** tonnes of sand each year at the quarry. For many years, this has been done using front end loaders along a narrow section within our property, at the interface between the dunes and vegetation line.

More information? www.boral.com.au.

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Feedback or questions? Send us an email – feedback@boral.com.au.

Or call Stockton Quarry on **02 4920 1976**.

The extracted sand is 'screened' to remove any possible debris before being stockpiled, then trucked to customers.

Stockton sand is being used as far away as northern Sydney for key public infrastructure projects, for example the new **NorthConnex Motorway** tunnel at the end of the M1.

Making the most of it...

Thanks to the dune system, there's an ongoing supply of high grade sand available in the area where we are now working.

Despite this, we only hold approval to extract from this area until **2028**. With the demand for sand unlikely to abate, we now need to consider where else to conduct extractive operations.

One thing we can do is establish **dredging** in the part of our property which served as the original quarry 'pit' from 1996 until 2007-08.

Another is to extract further into the **15 metre zone** we've left between the boundary of our property and our current working areas.

In either instance, we'll need to initiate the appropriate planning process with the **NSW Department of Planning & Environment**.



What is dredging?

When Boral started working the area proposed for dredging in 1996, front end loaders removed the material (as they do now next to the dunes).

Over the following 11 years, the 'above ground' sand resource was exhausted. However, usable sand reserves remain 'below' the current surface which could now be extracted.

At this part of the site, the water table is only about **150 centimetres** under the surface. This means dredging is a more practical option.

A dredge is a boat which vacuums up sand from below the water before it is transferred to stockpiles for 'washing' and processing. Process

water is returned back to the dredge pond, with very little water in the sand product leaving the site.

Dredging took place in areas around the Stockton site prior to our ownership of the land. As the proposed area to be dredged has been quarried before, there's a reduced risk of disturbing cultural heritage items or long-established environmental assets.



Closer to the boundary

Under our current planning approval, we can quarry up to our property boundary, but need to leave an appropriate 'batter' (or slope) behind.

This is so the landform left after quarrying is in a safe condition, without sheer drops to catch out unsuspecting pedestrians, vehicle drivers or wildlife.

In order to achieve this requirement, to date we've left a 15 metre space between the operating area and the property boundary. From our calculations, this means hundreds of thousands of tonnes of usable sand has been left in place.

In an effort to again maximise the existing resource within our land, we've identified that a safe batter can still be created with a much smaller zone to the boundary.

Like to know more?

*A community 'drop-in' session will be held at the Williamtown McDonalds, corner of Nelson Bay Road and Lavis Lane, Williamtown. Members of our team will hold a morning session from **9am until 11am**, and an afternoon session from **3pm until 6pm**, on **Thursday 14 February**. No registrations are required - simply call in and follow the Boral signage.*

To provide feedback at any other time, simply send an email to feedback@boral.com.au.

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