

Boral Asphalt – North Coast

Building better roads to the Northern Rivers

May 2016

The Boral Alstonville Asphalt Plant, located within the Tuckombil (Gap Road) Quarry, has provided the Northern Rivers with road surfacing materials for more than 20 years. We are pleased to present this community update to inform our valued stakeholders about this important local operation.

Paving the way to progress

The thriving communities of our region are linked by a common thread which is central to our ongoing economic and social development.

During the last 20 years, we have seen the Pacific Highway transform from a narrow, winding local road into a modern motorway connecting our towns and two capital cities.

Each upgrade has brought with it improved travel times and safer road conditions. In turn, the better logistics produced for our residents, visitors and businesses have allowed the faster and more secure movement of people and goods, with resulting benefits for all.

Boral is proud to have made a contribution to these gains through our Alstonville plant and other local operations. Today, we continue to make this input as highway works proceed south, further increasing these returns.

It's not just the Pacific which has been built with materials from Alstonville. The town bypass was also supplied from the local site, while roads in many new subdivisions around Ballina and Lismore are also paved with local asphalt.

With more than 35 local people and contractors working at the site, we'll continue to seek ways in which we can support the infrastructure we all need to keep the Northern Rivers moving.



A quarry, and a plant...

During February 2015, we approached almost 100 local households in and around the Panorama Estate to seek resident views on the operation of our asphalt plant.

After sending a notification letter late in January, our representatives spent the afternoon of 4 February visiting locals to ask about the plant's performance, and to understand any concerns which may have arisen.

From the feedback received, it became evident that many residents did not actually realise that the plant is sited near them. For those that did, many were confused as to the ownership of the plant and the quarry, and what each site does.

To clarify, our plant is sited inside the Tuckombil Quarry. The quarry is owned by Ballina Shire Council (BSC), but has been leased for many years by Lismore City Council (LCC).

LCC extracts rock from the quarry to turn into aggregates, the basis of material such as concrete and asphalt. Boral separately leases the land upon which the plant is sited from BSC.



Our plant is obviously used to produce asphalt. This is made by combining aggregates with bitumen and other elements, with the finished product taken by truck to worksites.

The quarry and the asphalt plant are therefore entirely separate businesses, despite the co-location and use of the quarry's aggregates.

What you told us!

Apart from understanding the relationship between the quarry and plant, most neighbours also raised the topic of 'nuisance' dust.

Managing dust is a challenge for all extractive industry operators. There are measures, however, which can be deployed to reduce the risk of dust emissions.

The Alstonville plant is fitted with a 'bag house'. The bag house collects dust generated during manufacturing through the use of extractors. Once full, the 'bag' is emptied, with collected dust fed back into the next round of production.

Points of the plant which potentially emit dust have also been enclosed or covered to prevent 'fugitive' emissions. This measure is considered best practice within the industry.

Neighbours may sometime notice what appears to be dust emitting from the plant's stack. This is, in fact, steam generated as the result of production. This steam is constantly monitored to ensure dust is not being mixed in.

If you have any concerns about dust, please call us on **6628 0725** so we can take action as soon as possible. You can also contact the quarry on **6628 0404** to enquire about any dust appearing to come from the sites.



Working into the night

Another matter raised during our 2015 visits was noise coming from the site, particularly at night.

Although those we spoke with mentioned this noise was not often intrusive, on occasion the sound of production and vehicle movements can be heard well into the evening.

The reason activity sometimes takes place at night is due to the needs of our customers. These days most roadworks, particularly on major routes, take place at night to avoid creating delays for traffic.

As asphalt has to be laid soon after it is made, manufacturing takes place just before the asphalt is required.

To ensure residents are not consistently disturbed during the evening, the planning approval for our Alstonville plant limits us to 60 days of up to 24 hour operation, with no more than four consecutive nights of activity allowed.

It's more often the case than not that we don't work through the entire night, stopping at around 10-11pm once customer needs are met.

If you ever have concerns about noise from the plant, please contact us on **6628 0725**.



Bringing the outside in...

Throughout our plant's history, the aggregate from the Tuckombil Quarry has naturally found its way into our asphalt. But not for much longer.

LCC has indicated it does not wish to operate the quarry indefinitely and may cease operations at some point. The planning approval for our asphalt plant, however, states we can only use aggregates from Tuckombil.

If LCC ceases quarrying, we will no longer have access to an approved aggregate source. Therefore, to ensure we can continue operations, we're currently seeking to modify the plant's planning consent.

An approved modification will allow aggregates from other quarries, like our site at nearby Teven, to be brought in for production.

We're also asking for the removal of a current condition which restricts the use of articulated vehicles at the plant.

If this restriction is removed, we will need only half the number of trucks to move materials to and from site. This would prove beneficial for not only our business, but also our neighbours.

The modification request is now with BSC and will soon be exhibited for public comment. In the interim, we welcome any questions or comments you have about our proposal.

*You can connect with us through the site on **6628 0725**, via our Planning & Development team in Sydney on **9033 5056**, by emailing feedback@boral.com.au, or visiting www.boral.com.au/feedback.*