

GOLD COAST QUARRY NEWSLETTER



Virtual flyover sight line to the quarry from a nearby residence

Welcome to the second edition of the Boral Gold Coast Quarry Newsletter, to keep the community informed of the proposed project as it progresses through the Queensland Government's Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Further updates will be provided as Boral prepares and submits its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to government. For more information, visit www.boral.com.au/goldcoastquarry

PROJECT UPDATE

The final Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gold Coast Quarry were released by the State Government in August 2011.

Since then, Boral has been making preparations to commence the detailed EIS in early 2012. Current activities include commencement of further operational design activities and engaging the professional and technical experts who will undertake the wide range of technical studies and assessments required by the TOR.

As part of the EIS, Boral will continue with its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Program which will engage stakeholders in informed discussion about what the project may mean to the local area and the surrounding region.

NEW VIRTUAL FLYOVERS SHOW THE SITE IN CONTEXT

Boral has commissioned detailed animations of the proposed quarry site which are available on the project website and will be used by various consultants during the EIS. The animations include a five-minute overview of the project and the site, putting the proposed quarry into its regional context, as well as seven shorter animations which measure distances from nearby residences to the proposed quarry. Each animation is based on topographical data, recent aerial and ground photographs to ensure it is as accurate and up-to-date as possible. The animations are live on the project website: www.boral.com.au/goldcoastquarry. Go to the "Location and Site Ownership" page.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Some enquiries to the project team have asked how the proposed quarry would benefit locals. While detailed reporting on its social, economic and environmental impacts will be comprehensively addressed during the EIS process, recent advice from business and property economists, Norling Consulting, has concluded that failure to approve the proposed quarry would likely lead to an increase in the cost of supplying construction materials for housing and infrastructure projects due to supply not keeping up with demand, and because only one other long-term quarry is situated on the Gold Coast. The flow on effects may lead to a decline in housing affordability. Conversely, approval of the Gold Coast Quarry is expected to benefit the region.

In a recent letter to local MPs, the Housing Industry Association said quarry products accounted for 25% to 40% of the construction cost of a new home and that it was "critical that the housing industry on the central and southern Gold Coast has access to these quarry products at reasonable prices".

Once operations at Boral's West Burleigh Quarry cease in about 10 years, the proposed new Gold Coast Quarry near Reedy Creek will provide a more cost effective and environmentally efficient alternative to the next nearest sources of hardrock quarry materials at Nerang and Luscombe.

Compared with the transportation of quarry materials from the nearest long-term quarry at Nerang, the proposed Gold Coast Quarry could reduce both costs and environmental impacts. Norling Consulting has found that for every 20 kilometres saved on transport distance, the proposed Gold Coast Quarry will deliver greenhouse gas emission reductions of approximately 1,100 tonnes per annum.

BLASTING

The requirements for blasting activities at the proposed Gold Coast Quarry will be determined during the design phase of the project and evaluated in detail as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

To achieve the proposed annual extraction rates at the Gold Coast Quarry, blasting is anticipated to be conducted on one day per week (based on weather conditions). There will generally be only one blast, sometimes two, lasting for about half a second each.

On this basis, if blasting occurs on 52 days per year (once a week) for 2 blasts each day, for a timeframe of 0.5 seconds each, blasting time for an entire year is less than 1 minute (52 days x 2 blasts x 0.5 seconds = 52 seconds).

It is anticipated that, as happens at existing quarries, blasting will be undertaken at less sensitive times of the day.

SITE ACCESS AND FENCING

The site of the proposed Gold Coast Quarry has recently been subject to unauthorised access and illegal dumping, creating both safety and environmental hazards.

In the past couple of months, Boral has been contacted by the Gold Coast City Council, the Queensland Fire Service and the Rural Fire Brigade about improving site security to minimise trespassing, illegal dumping and arson. As previously advised, Boral is currently considering options for improving security on site to prevent unauthorised access and will consult with neighbours prior to undertaking any works, eg fencing.

Boral continues to manage the site, including removing illegally dumped rubbish, which will improve amenity in the area.



Improved site security will prevent illegal dumping

FIRE SAFETY

Following recent fires on the site and neighbouring properties, suspected of being deliberately lit, the Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigade (TVRFB) conducted a controlled fuel reduction burn on site on 22 November.

TVRFB advised Boral and its neighbours that the controlled burn would enable it to reduce the high fuel load in the area.

First Officer of the TVRFB, Jon Jessen, said the controlled burn was necessary to minimise the impact to flora and fauna should a wildfire occur.



A controlled burn was conducted by TVRFB on 22 November

“Future fuel reduction burns may be necessary to reduce the risks to neighbouring properties, and neighbours will be informed accordingly,” Mr Jessen said.

Gold Coast City Council Manager Bushfire Planning and Mitigation, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Inspector William Kennedy, said it was pleasing to witness the cooperation between Boral, Council and the rural brigades which enabled a quick resolution of the administrative issues to allow it to happen.

“It is a good outcome for all the neighbours of the site including those to the north off Observatory Drive,” Mr Kennedy said.

In conjunction with the TVRFB, Boral has developed a Fire Management Plan to ensure appropriate fire clearings and escapes are incorporated and maintained on the quarry site. Prior to, and during, the controlled fuel reduction burn, Boral enlisted the services of six experienced fauna spotter catchers to ensure impacts on site fauna were minimised.

WHY A NEW QUARRY?

The proposed Gold Coast Quarry represents a \$2.2 billion resource and will replace Boral’s nearby West Burleigh Quarry to supply the Gold Coast with high grade construction materials for 40+ years.

The Reedy Creek Key Resource Area is the only high-grade hard rock resource positioned to provide a long term, cost-effective supply of construction materials for the central and southern Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Quarry project team contact

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