

GOLD COAST QUARRY NEWSLETTER



Consultants working on the EIS studies visited Boral's West Burleigh Quarry in June



Consultants from Cardno Chenoweth undertaking flora and fauna surveys on the proposed Gold Coast Quarry site

Welcome to the fourth 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.

PROJECT UPDATE

Scientific, technical and geotechnical studies for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have commenced on the site of Boral's proposed Gold Coast Quarry near Reedy Creek.

Boral has engaged 18 independent consulting firms to undertake the studies and investigations required by the State Government Terms of Reference for the project.

Preliminary studies, including some fauna and flora surveys, had already commenced but, with the recent engagement of the full consultant team, activity on site will increase in coming months, including some night-time investigations.

The EIS studies will include:

- More detailed fauna and flora surveys;
- Weed identification and mapping;
- Social impact assessments;
- Groundwater mapping and geotechnical surveys;
- Air quality;
- Environment, ecology and visual amenity assessments; and
- Acoustics.

Some of these investigations will involve heavy equipment use, such as drilling for geological investigations, however Boral does not expect this to disturb neighbours or local residents.

The EIS is scheduled to be completed and lodged with the Coordinator-General in December 2012.

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) required under the EIS Terms of Reference will commence in earnest over the coming weeks. SIA activities will be conducted by independent consultant ImpaxSIA Consulting and will include phone and face-to-face interviews with residents and other stakeholders, plus some focus groups. ImpaxSIA will write to stakeholders prior to the engagement program starting.

SIGNAGE AND RESTRICTED ACCESS

Following the commencement of preliminary studies, Boral limited unauthorised access to the proposed Gold Coast Quarry site and installed heavy equipment warning signage as a health and safety precaution in early July.

Boral has since been forced to remove some of the signage due to vandalism, and bollards which were installed to limit unauthorised access have also been damaged.

The company has advised local residents to not access the site without permission and urges the public to follow the precautions that have been put in place for their safety.

The improved security will also assist Boral to manage illegal dumping on and around the site.

BIOREGIONAL CORRIDOR STUDY

Boral has recently engaged Greening Australia to conduct a multi-phase study on the Burleigh to Springbrook bioregional corridor, which the proposed Gold Coast Quarry sits within.

The Burleigh to Springbrook bioregional corridor connects Springbrook National Park and the World Heritage listed forests of the Scenic Rim to Burleigh Heads National Park on the coast.

With 70 percent of Boral's 220 hectare proposed Gold Coast quarry site to be set aside as vegetated buffer, the company believes there is significant potential to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the corridor.

To assist Boral to identify potential opportunities and involvement within the area, Greening Australia is conducting a study to assess current activities and engage with stakeholders in the broader corridor. Boral also hopes the study will help it to effectively communicate to stakeholders the value of its planned vegetation buffers and proactively address local environmental concerns.

Conducted in different phases, the study will begin with a literature review and include liaison with local council and community groups about work in the corridor and an assessment of general ecological research and initiatives that have been conducted in the region.

The second phase will involve desktop mapping and assessment of Boral's proposed Gold Coast Quarry property in relation to the Burleigh to Springbrook corridor.

The primary work undertaken in this phase will be through Geographical Information Systems (GIS) assessments and will include written interpretation and recommendations.

This information will be used to identify opportunities on the Reedy Creek site to improve broader corridor outcomes, which will form part of the EIS proposals.



Representatives from Greening Australia, Mark Bonner and Craig Deveney, visited Boral's proposed Gold Coast Quarry site.

EXTRACTIVE RESOURCE AVAILABILITY IN SEQ

In 2007, research commissioned by Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) estimated that South East Queensland (SEQ) required 850 million tonnes of extractive resources to sustain its growth and support infrastructure developments until 2026.

Although the study found approximately 1,656 million tonnes of total resource was available in SEQ, much of this resource is significantly constrained, with more than half not having development approval.

CCAA's study indicated that the total available resource in SEQ could potentially be depleted by about the year 2020 if additional approvals were not gained.

With approximately 84 million tonnes of exploitable hardrock, the proposed Gold Coast Quarry site contains the largest deposit of high-grade hardrock resource within the Gold Coast.

Its development is crucial to ensure that an uninterrupted, cost-effective and sustainable supply of construction materials is available for the critical infrastructure and development projects of the Gold Coast region over the next 40 years.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Over the past few months there has been public concern expressed about the distance between Boral's quarry site and nearby residences.

Incorrect images distributed through the community have misinterpreted the size of the proposed quarry footprint on the site. The site's favourable topography, sensitive project design and extensive vegetation buffers will help to avoid any impact on visual amenity for the majority of residents.

The closest residence to the quarry is 395 metres from the area to be disturbed by quarry operations (southern end of Wonga Street). Other streets surrounding the site are 600 metres to 1.1 kilometres from the disturbance footprint.

These distances are measured from the closest residences to the proposed quarry area.

Last year Boral commissioned detailed animations of the proposed quarry site which put the site into its regional context and measured 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.

To view the animations visit www.boral.com.au/goldcoastquarry and click on the "Location and Site Ownership" link.

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

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