

GOLD COAST QUARRY NEWSLETTER



Part of the Burleigh to Springbrook
Bioregional Corridor



Hardrock core sample testing
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Welcome to the fifth 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.

BIOREGIONAL CORRIDOR STUDY COMPLETED

A new review of the Burleigh to Springbrook Bioregional Corridor (the Corridor) has found that rehabilitation and revegetation, as well as other protection measures, could enhance the fauna and flora conservation values of the area.

Greening Australia, which presented its review in November 2012, reported that it was "imperative to ensure that the community in the region is aware of the significance of the corridor and that conflicting land uses in the nearby area are mitigated to the greatest practicable extent" to maintain and enhance the overall functionality of the Corridor.

Greening Australia described the Corridor as "fragmented remnant vegetation" considered to be of State, regional and local significance, with continuous vegetation in the western areas and highly fragmented vegetation within the urban matrix to the east.

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.

The Greening Australia review was commissioned by Boral to identify opportunities

to enhance the Corridor's capability for sustaining wildlife populations and movement between the Gold Coast hinterland and coastal areas.

The review mapped the Corridor and identified specific areas which could benefit from regrowth and/or rehabilitation/revegetation activities, roadway mitigation works, land acquired for conservation purposes, and fauna crossing infrastructure.

The Greening Australia report recommended the priority actions were:

1. Roadway mitigation (reduced speed limits and signage)
2. Regrowth management
3. Revegetation/rehabilitation, monitoring, fencing, underpasses/overpasses, implementing management plans, land acquisition and buffer management; and
4. Developing a Burleigh to Springbrook Bioregional Corridor management plan

Boral will provide the Greening Australia review to relevant EIS consultants to help inform their reports, and will consider how the company may contribute to improved management of the Corridor.

PROJECT UPDATE

Almost 20 independent contractors have been working on- and off-site over the past few months to undertake the broad range of scientific, geotechnical, cultural and social impact studies required under the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Gold Coast Quarry.

The studies have included detailed fauna and flora surveys, weed identification and mapping, social impact assessments, groundwater assessment and geotechnical surveys.

Boral anticipates all studies will be completed by the end of 2012 and the EIS will be lodged with the State Government in early 2013.

The EIS will then be advertised by the State Government for public comment in early 2013, prior to the Coordinator General making a determination on the project.

If the Coordinator General recommends the project for approval, Boral will then need to make a separate development application to the Gold Coast City Council.

DOORKNOCKING AND FOCUS GROUPS

Over the past four months, independent consultant ImpaxSIA Consulting conducted activities for the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) required under the EIS Terms of Reference.

ImpaxSIA door knocked 129 houses, conducted two focus groups and held face-to-face interviews with 15 local businesses.

Other activities included interviews with local representatives, education providers and peak bodies, as well as phone and email interviews.

Feedback received will be reviewed and considered as part of the project's EIS. ImpaxSIA will lodge a report on the Social Impact Assessment as part of the EIS documentation.



The Hon. Jann Stuckey MP and Michael Hart MP inspect the koala fodder plantation activities at Boral's Petrie Quarry



Social fishing day at Petrie Quarry dams

TEST DRILLING COMPLETED ONSITE AS PART OF EIS STUDIES

Specialist exploration drilling contractors recently completed a series of test bore-holes on the proposed Gold Coast Quarry site. Works were conducted between July and early October.

The contractors drilled five deep test holes as part of the geotechnical and resource evaluation requirements under the project's EIS Terms of Reference, using rotary diamond core drilling methods. A separate series of holes (seven in total) were also drilled for assessment of groundwater conditions.

Additionally, a much larger number of shallow percussion holes were drilled, utilising the same equipment that is used for normal quarry production drilling.

The drilling program operated up to seven days a week, between 6am and 6pm. Boral was pleased that no noise disturbance incidents were reported during the drilling program.

Test drilling rig onsite

KOALA FODDER TREES AND FISH BREEDING A FOCUS OF PETRIE QUARRY VISIT FOR MPS

Gold Coast State MPs the Hon Jann Stuckey (Currumbin) and Michael Hart (Burleigh) made a trip north in October to visit Boral's Petrie Quarry in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area.

The MPs were invited by Boral to inspect the koala fodder plantation activities on site which provide food trees for koala carers and Australia Zoo.

Minister Stuckey and Mr Hart were taken on a four-wheel drive tour to look at quarry operations, long-term revegetation programs and receive a briefing on the koala fodder plantations.

The MPs also received information about the fish breeding program run from the quarry's three on-site dams. The local Pine Rivers Fish Management Association accesses the dams - which are stocked respectively with Bass, Saratoga and

Silver Perch - to restock nearby Lake Samsonvale for recreational fishers. The program has been running successfully since 2003.

Boral's Petrie Quarry site covers an area of 136.6 hectares, with 26% (35.5ha) of the site used as a quarry pit and for infrastructure and 74% (101.1ha) set aside as a conservation buffer.

During the establishment of the quarry in the early 1990s, Boral implemented a comprehensive rehabilitation plan to screen the plant and quarry operations from neighbours and to address the needs of the resident and migrating koala population, which is widespread throughout the district. To date, well over 100,000 trees have been planted at the Petrie operation to enhance the habitat on the quarry buffer land.

TRESPASSING AND VANDALISM

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

Police have been involved and notified of the trespassers and Boral has been in contact with Gold Coast City Council about improving site security to minimise trespassing. Boral (along with the Gold Coast City Council) has also implemented a range of responses, including:

- Warning signage (which was vandalised and then stolen)
- Bollards protected with padlocks
- Concrete barriers
- Large bunds around the entrance

Police have encouraged the community to report trespassers and to provide details such as vehicle registration numbers, date and time to Police Link on **131 444**.

QUARRY PRODUCTS DONATED FOR MARKET GARDENS

Boral was pleased to sponsor Clover Hill State School at Mudgeeraba recently by delivering drainage aggregate and crusher dust from its West Burleigh Quarry for paths, and some rocks for market gardens to help the students learn about recycling and growing fruit and vegetables.

NO CONTROLLED BURNS PLANNED THIS SEASON

The Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigade (TVRFB) has advised Boral that no controlled fuel reduction burn is proposed on the quarry site this summer.

The site will be reassessed in the New Year with a view to a possible winter fuel reduction program.

Gold Coast Quarry project team contact

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