



Contact Name: Nev Crase  
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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: A02/43722

**Brisbane City Council**  
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5 August 2002

The Chairperson  
Mt Coot-tha Residents Action Group  
13 Walter Street  
**TOOWONG QLD 4066**

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the petition signed by you and other members of the Mt Coot-tha Quarry Residents Action Group, requesting the payment by Council of compensation in the amount of \$6400 per household, per year, for additional costs incurred as a direct result of dust emitted from the Quarry.

Your petition has been investigated and it was considered by Council at its meeting held on 30 July 2002. It was decided at that meeting that the petitioners be advised of the information below.

In September 2001, local residents and senior officers from the Council's Quarry Operator, Brisbane CityWorks Asphalt Operations, formed the Mt Coot-tha Quarry Community Reference Group. This Group meets on a monthly basis and provides residents with the opportunity to engage in frank and open dialogue focussed on a genuine improvement of amenity resulting in a harmonious relationship between the residents and the Quarry. Residents on this Group have acknowledged a significant decrease in dust emissions since the commencement of the meetings.

The Mt Coot-tha Quarry operates in accordance with the licence conditions prescribed by the State Government's Environmental Protection Agency. Dust emissions are continually monitored by an independent testing authority and reported on a monthly basis. Reported dust levels are continually below the recommended level.

Brisbane CityWorks Asphalt Operations is also actively working to further improve environmental performance despite full compliance with licence conditions imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. This has been demonstrated by modifications to quarry plant and equipment, further training of quarry staff and contractors, implementation of revised work practices and increased environmental awareness across all levels of quarry staff.

In August 2002, Brisbane City Works will engage an independent testing authority to carry out extensive dust monitoring at several locations to determine the particulate air quality in the locality of the quarry. This testing will be in addition to dust monitoring undertaken as a condition of the quarry licence. The results will then be compared to profiles from other published studies to estimate the contributions from motor vehicle, quarry dust and other general/local source types, and will be reported to the Mt Coot-tha Quarry Community Reference Group.

This proactive initiative will provide an excellent source of information for understanding dust in the local area. It is pointed out that other sources of dust are prevalent in the Mt Coot-tha area, especially from adjacent parks and bushland, recent earthworks and construction projects and dust generated from vehicular traffic on roadways.

The Council would like to emphasise that it is committed to working with the Mt Coot-tha Quarry Community Reference Group, on an ongoing basis, to monitor and address the community's concerns, following the completion of the air quality test.

In respect to the compensation issue, the Manager of the Council's Brisbane City Legal Practice after considering the request, has advised there is no legal basis for the claim for compensation made in your petition.

It is noted that if Council did agree to pay the compensation requested, funding in excess of \$600 000, per annum, would be required for residences included in the petition or those nearby. This does not include the cost of assessing claims and managing payments. It would also increase the cost of quarry materials for Brisbane residents.

The Council has therefore decided to reject the compensation claim made in your petition, on the bases of the following:

- (a) the Quarry complies with Environmental Protection Agency licence conditions;
- (b) there are multiple sources of dust in the area and the Quarry is not the sole contributor;
- (c) residents have acknowledged that there has been a significant improvement in dust emissions; and
- (d) The Council has confirmed its commitment to working with residents to alleviate their concerns.

Thankyou for bring this matter to the Council's attention.

Could you please advise the other petitioners of the outcome of the petition. Should you require any further advice, please contact Nev Crase, Operations Manager, on telephone 340 37830.

Yours sincerely



David Redding  
**Administrative Officer**  
**CITY SUPPORT**

*Copy to: Councillor Magub, Toowong Ward Office*