

12 Horrocks St
Toowong 4066

20/2/2003

The Lord Mayor
Brisbane City Council

Dear Lord Mayor,

I am the Spokesman for the Mt Coot-tha Quarry Residences Auction Group which has been established because of overproduction and unsatisfactory operations of the Quarry.

A recent meeting of concerned local ratepayers came to the following conclusions and made the following decisions in regard to the quarry

Firstly the Group was most disappointed that the extension in the lifetime of the Quarry was not included in your letter of . The meeting felt that this decision without consultation was most arrogant and not to be mentioned in your letter was a lack of honesty

Further to the above the lowering of the tonnage cap to 400,000 tonnes per annum only reduces the quarry operations to the tonnages of the 1990's, prior to the Inter City Bypass and well over the tonnages acceptable in a residential community.

The health risks from quarrying seem to have been ignored by your Council. The fact that Quartz is considered of high risk to health should cause the closure of the quarry which is now "inner City" far too close to our houses.

I am therefore calling on the Brisbane City Council to close the Quarry, not extend its life, because of dust, noise, health and the effect these factors have on the health and lifestyle of our local community.

One further point is that the Council established communication with this group through regular meetings, however no Council Officers have turned up for the last two meetings. It would be appreciated if the above can be explained.

I remain

Yours Faithfully

John M Higgins
/2003

CC. Ald J Campbell, Ald J Magub

**QUESTIONS FOR CIVIC MEETING WITH JIM SOORLEY
THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2003**

1. Mr Soorley I'm sure you're aware of the effects of quartz dust are well documented. There's a body of evidence that suggests it causes emphysema, asthma and a range of other respiratory and lung conditions. As you know, the dust from the Mt Coot-tha quarry, which is known to send a cloud for several kilometers radius, is known to contain quartz. In fact, my Doctor has diagnosed my baby with asthma and suggested the quartz dust from the Mt Coot-tha quarry could be the cause. I respectfully request that Council conducts an immediate survey to understand the extent of the health effects of the dust from the quarry and this report is made public on completion.
2. In your letter to the locals regarding the opening of Bracalba Quarry at Caboolture, why was it not mentioned that as part of the deal the life of the Mt Coot-tha Quarry would to be extended by 17 years with the new date for closure now 2032? I am surprised that for a Council whose PR would suggest a commitment to community consultation did not in any way consult with residents about extending the life of the quarry. Many people feel this was a slight of hand and feel deceived by this.
3. Having looked into the issue recently, I am extremely concerned to learn that the Quartz dust produced from the Mt Coot-tha quarry could be harming myself and my family – particularly with schools operational in the local area. I would like to know two things: 1) whether the council are able to conduct extensive regular dust testing in not just the immediate area, but the whole area to where the dust actually extends to (like Bardon, Ashgrove, Toowong etc) and 2) if you could establish a benchmark for when the dust hits a certain critical level in any of these areas, where the quarry would have to stop production for that day?
4. In what is already becoming an eyesore for the city, I'd like to know how you're going to manage an additional 400,000 tonnes per year for the next 30 years out of Mt Coot-tha Quarry without slicing half the mountain away? Where will you get the rock from – are you going underground, or taking more of Sir Samuel Griffith Drive away like you did last time – or worse, taking away more of the tree line?
5. Now that you have opened Bracalba Quarry at Caboolture, why not shut down the Mt Coot-tha Quarry that is in the middle of a major tourist attraction for the city and more importantly, only metres from residents and their children? Surely the council would be more concerned with the health of residents in what is an inner city suburb than any economic benefits?
6. I wonder how many people in this room have correlated the amount of dust they have inside and outside their homes, the fact that family members now have asthma when previously they did not, or the fact their eyes now itch with the dust created by Mt Coot-tha Quarry. Just because you can't see the quarry from your home, doesn't mean the dust isn't getting to you. Mr Soorley, with your catch line "Livable Brisbane", I'd have to argue that this inner city quarry is making the extended area around the quarry quite UN-livable. Why, when you know it's affecting the people of your city, would you continue with a quarry in an inner city area when you can use the Caboolture quarry?
7. As the chronic health effects of quartz dust in the workplace has been well documented, would you confirm if the workers at the Mt Coot-tha Quarry wear protective breathing gear?