



Lynwood Quarry Proposal

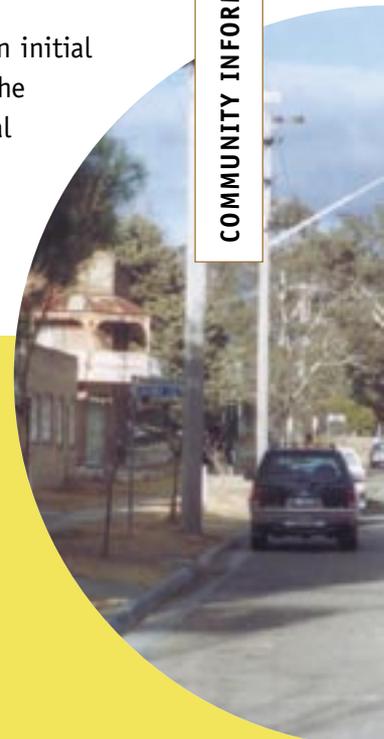
Community Comment

NOVEMBER 2004

Readymix Holdings Pty Ltd proposes to establish a major hard rock quarry on their land to the West of Marulan to provide high quality construction grade rock suitable for producing concrete, road and other heavy construction and building products. The project is of significant regional importance and is located adjacent to major transport links providing ready access to major markets.

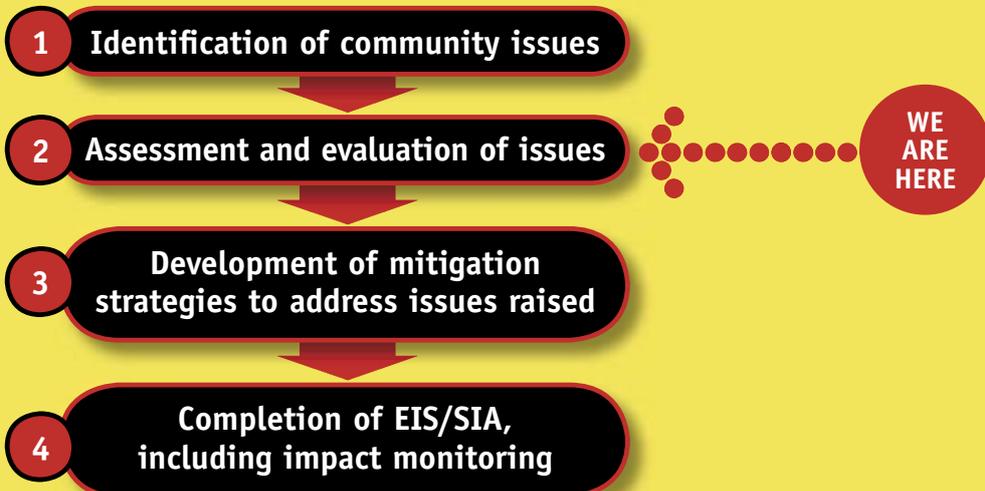
Coakes Consulting has been appointed to undertake a social impact assessment and community involvement program for the proposed quarry. As part of this program an initial round of community consultation was undertaken in August 2004. The purpose of the consultation was to provide the community with an overview of Readymix's proposal and to identify any issues associated with the development. This information sheet provides a summary of the key issues raised as part of the initial round of consultation with community residents.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET NO.2



THE PROCESS

The Social Impact Assessment process has a number of distinct phases:



To inform the community and identify stakeholder issues, a number of methods have been used. These include:

- **Community information Sheet** – Information sheets providing an overview of the proposal were distributed to over 200 households in Marulan and surrounding areas.
- **Stakeholder interviews** – personal interviews were undertaken with 55 stakeholders including local residents living in proximity to the site, local government, local businesses and community organisations with an interest in the proposal.
- **Random Survey** – a random telephone survey of 174 households was undertaken across the township of Marulan and surrounding suburbs.

Having identified the issue of importance and concern to the community, these issues will be assessed and evaluated as part of the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the project. Where appropriate, strategies will be developed to maximize the positive and minimize the negative impacts of the proposal.



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

In general, most participants were supportive of the development of a quarry in Marulan citing the economic benefits i.e. principally local employment, associated with the proposal. Participants indicated that a lack of employment opportunities in the township in the past had meant that people had to move out of the locality or travel significant distances to find work.

Participants also acknowledged that any new industry in the town would also provide benefits for the community, in terms of an increase in the town's facilities. It was also acknowledged that new people in town could be of benefit to the town's social fabric.

>> *'I think more people in town is good for our kids – it means that they are not so insular'*

>> *'I am all for having new faces in the town'*

A number of key themes emerged from the consultation process. These issue themes are outlined in detail below.

Dust

Dust was a key issue identified by participants in relation to the quarry proposal. Some participants were concerned that the prevailing south west wind could potentially carry dust from the quarry in the direction of the town.

>> *'Noise I can live with, but dust is a real problem'*

Two participants raised the issue of health effects associated with dust:

'I am all for new jobs but we have to think about health'

Participants also requested further information regarding dust monitoring and modeling.

Blasting

A further prominent issue theme identified by participants related to blasting at the quarry. Concern related to the potential time and frequency of blasting and the potential damage to property i.e. cracking of walls.

'What guarantees do we have that Readymix will do the right thing in terms of blasting?'

>> Transport

Current road traffic from Readymix's existing quarry, Johniefelds, prompted participants to raise the issue of road traffic to and from the proposed quarry.

>> *'There are two key things to make this project work – keep the trucks off the road and local employment'*

Some participants asked about a potential increase in road traffic during the construction phase of the quarry.

>> *'Will this mean more trucks on our roads?'*

Some of those interviewed felt that the existing roads through Marulan were poorly maintained. It was also expressed that any road levies paid by companies to use public roads should be directed to improve the roads directly affected by the trucks.

>> *'We don't understand what the Council does with all the money Readymix pay for the roads'*

Participants also raised the issue of transport of material from the quarry via the rail, specifically the impact of loading trains and increased trains travelling through Marulan.

>> *'(Readymix) should have to do something about the level crossing due to more trains'*



Noise

A further issue raised by participants related to the level of noise generated by the quarry operations. Specifically, participants were concerned about potential noise associated with the quarry's infrastructure. Participants also asked what amount of noise would be generated by the quarry outside normal business hours, i.e. night time operations.

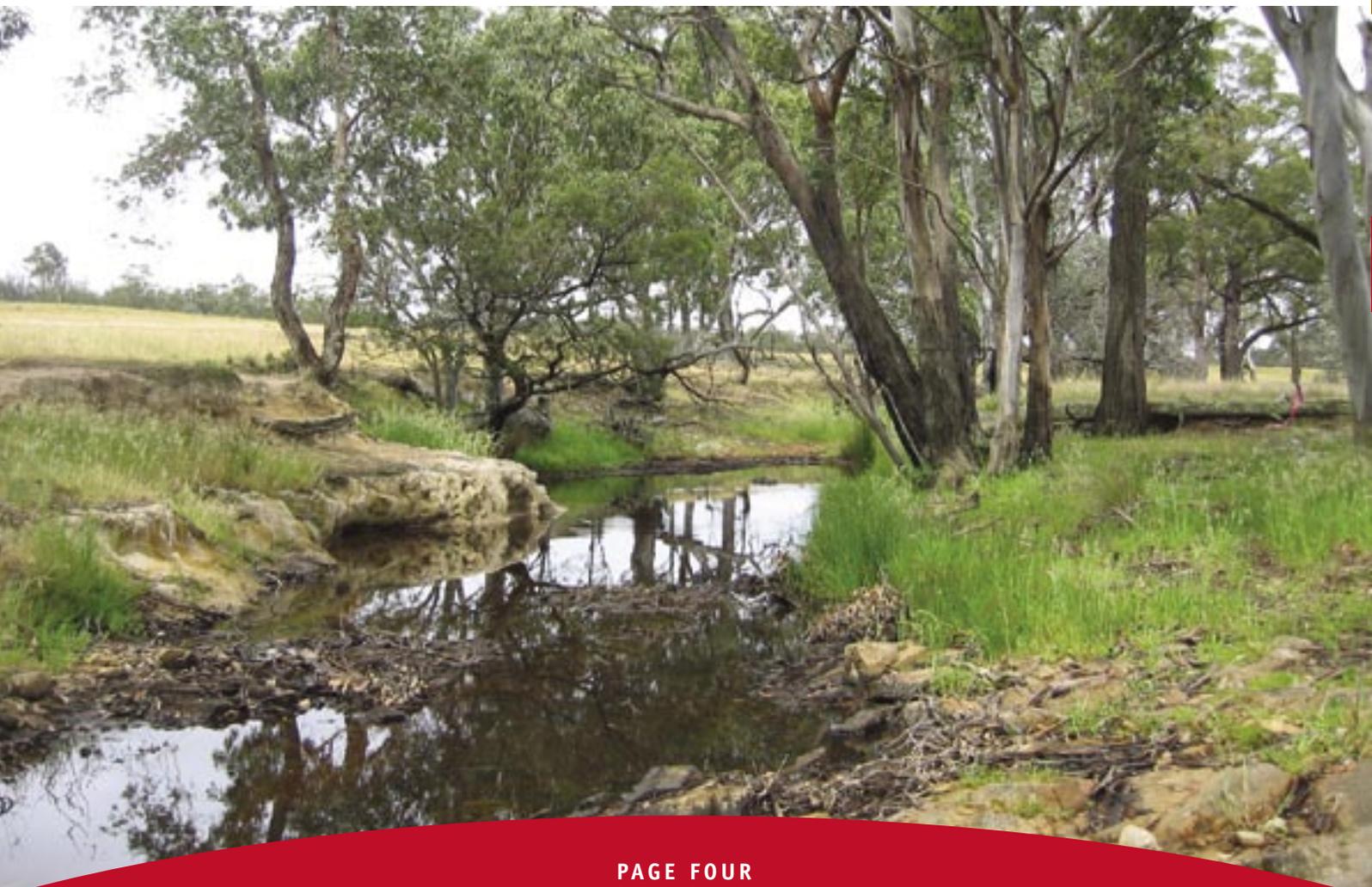
- >> *'We have a strong wind here and it will blow the noise this way'*
- >> *'I've retired down here for peace and quiet'*

Residents requested information on noise monitoring and noise predictions, associated with the proposed development.

Water

The issue of water was also an important issue raised by participants. Concerns centred on the supply of water to the quarry for production and dust suppression. Participants were concerned that the need for water for quarry activities would impinge on Marulan's town water supply.

- >> *'Where will Readymix source water from to run the quarry – the town has not any to spare'*



Community contribution

Most of those interviewed agreed that Readymix had been good corporate neighbours; however participants did raise the question of Readymix's contribution to the community. A number of participants felt that if the proposal was to go ahead, Readymix should make a commitment to the community e.g. financial donations or in-kind support. Suggestions ranged from the provision of assistance for the development of a sports recreation centre in the township, donations to the local school, to the supply of gravel for community buildings.

'Readymix have been good in the past in supporting the town, they were marvellous at the Australia Day celebrations'

'Readymix should start doing a bit more for the town'

Property value and development

A key issue for some residents related to the impact of the proposed quarry development on property value. It was suggested that should a quarry be developed in the area, that this may have a negative impact on property values. This was largely seen to be due to a decrease in visual amenity and potential noise impacts e.g. blasting. However, other residents also saw the potential for property prices to rise due to increased opportunities in the region.

Flora and fauna

Some participants were also concerned at the amount of land that may need to be cleared for construction of the Lynwood quarry. A number of participants asked if the quarry would disturb local wildlife in the area and what measures would be put in place to minimise impacts on the local flora and fauna.

RANDOM COMMUNITY SURVEY

Following interviews with key stakeholders i.e. residents in close proximity to the quarry site and groups with an interest in the proposal; a random telephone survey of households in Marulan and Marulan South was undertaken in late August/early September, to provide an opportunity for the wider community to also have an input to the proposal. Respondents were asked a number of questions relating to their knowledge and awareness of the proposal and their attitudes towards the proposal.

Those responding to the survey were aged between 15 and 79 years, with an average age of 51.6 years. Approximately 40% of respondents were male and 60% were female. Thirty-eight percent of respondents had been residents at their address for less than five years and 58% had been resident at their current address for less than ten years.

The points below summarise the key findings of the survey.

Key Findings of the Survey

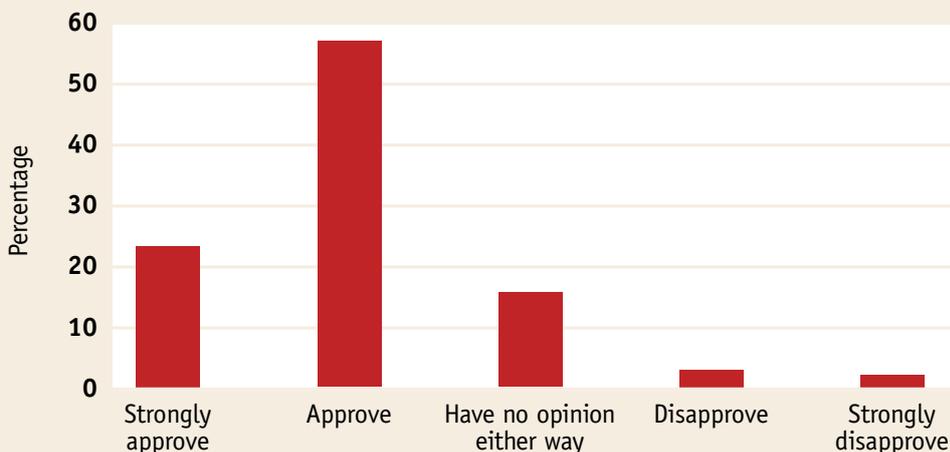
- Awareness of the quarry proposal was high (85%), however 41% of all survey respondents indicated that, while aware, they had no specific knowledge of the proposal.
- 80% of all respondents indicated that they either ‘strongly approved’ or ‘approved’ of the quarry proposal.
- 55% of all respondents indicated that they had no issues of concern associated with the proposal. Of the remaining respondents, 24% raised the issue of dust impacts from the operation. Other perceived impacts of quarry operations were traffic congestion related to trucks from the quarry (12%) and noise from quarry operations (12%).
- Attitude statements indicated that while a significant percentage of the community believed the quarry would go ahead regardless of what the community thinks (52%), the majority of residents trust the development approval process that is being undertaken for the quarry (74%).
- 79% of respondents believed that the benefits a quarry would bring to the area would outweigh any of the disadvantages. Nearly all respondents (92%) believed the proposed quarry would make an important contribution to the local economy in the region and that it would not detract from the area (78%).

In summary, the survey highlighted the views of the broader community in and around Marulan and Marulan South in relation to the Lynwood quarry proposal. Furthermore, the survey assisted in identifying the issues of importance to the community that require further consideration as part of the formal Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal.

‘Given what you now know about the proposed quarry, would you...’

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly approve	40	23.0
Approve	99	56.9
Have no opinion either way	27	15.5
Disapprove	5	2.9
Strongly disapprove	3	1.7
Total Respondents	174	100.0

Source: EBC (2004).



COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

During the consultation, participants raised a number of questions in regard to the development of the quarry. The most frequently asked questions are listed below:

>> *How many people will be employed by Readymix at the new quarry?*

At this stage Readymix estimate that there will be in the order of 50 permanent employees working at the Lynwood quarry.

>> *What is the timing for this project? How long will it take to get approval?*

Readymix plan to lodge the Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement in the first half of 2005 with the view to gaining approval in the first half of 2006. Construction would then commence in 2006.

>> *What will happen to the existing Readymix Quarry - Johniefelds?*

Johniefelds will continue to service the local market in accordance with it's current approvals.

>> *Will the Lynwood Quarry be accessing the same type of rock as is currently being sourced from Johniefelds?*

Yes, the proposed Marulan quarry will target the same type of rock currently quarried by Johniefelds, although the Lynwood site has a much larger resource. The resource on the Lynwood site is a high grade igneous hard rock, suitable for a range of construction projects and will provide high quality construction grade rock suitable for producing concrete, roads and other heavy construction products.

Will the new quarry mean more trucks on the road through the Marulan township?

No, once the quarry is operational, it is proposed that the bulk of the quarry's output will be transported by rail to Sydney. Local and regional markets will be serviced by road transport via a direct link onto the Hume Highway. The proximity of the proposed Lynwood Quarry to the Hume Highway and main southern railway is a major consideration in the planned development of the resource.

>> *What about traffic during construction phase?*

During construction of the new road, there will need to be construction traffic access through the Marulan township. This access is planned to be primarily through Marulan's industrial area.



