

Southern Tablelands

Hard Rock Quarry Audit

Fact Sheet

December 2016

Which facilities were audited as part of the Department's 2016 Southern Tablelands hard rock quarry audit?

The sites audited were Gunlake, Lynwood and Barina Quarries(Goulburn-Mulwaree LGA), and Cooma Road Quarry (Queanbeyan-Palerang LGA) (Figure 1).

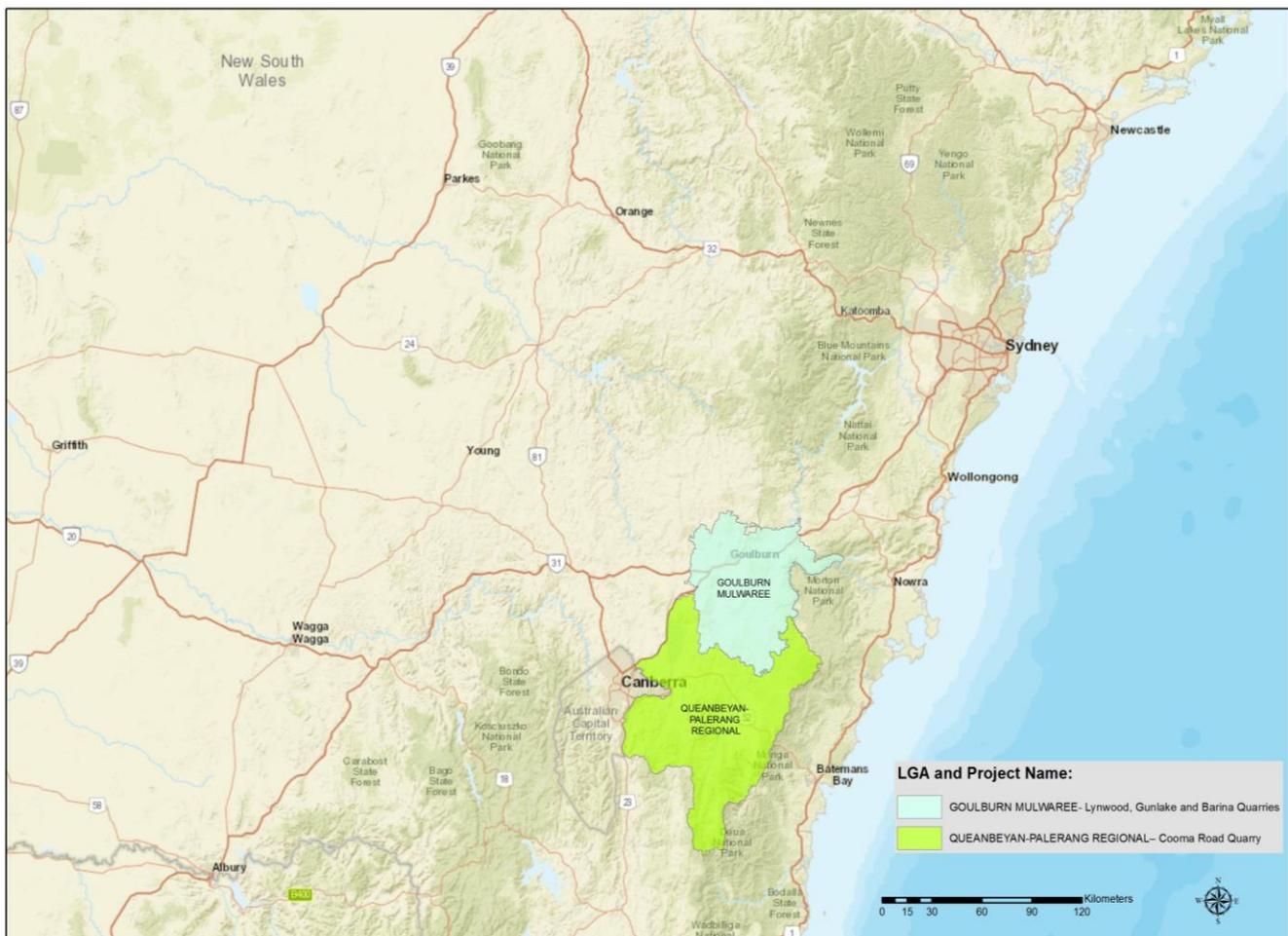


Figure 1: Location of quarries audited as part of 2016 Southern Tablelands hard rock quarry campaign

Why did the Department audit these hard rock quarries?

Quarrying is expanding in the southern region of NSW, particularly in areas readily connected by rail and road to greater Sydney as demand for materials increase, and existing operations in the Sydney region reach the end of their life.

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It is important that the community has confidence these quarries are operating in accordance with their development consent conditions. The purpose of the audit campaign was to evaluate the chosen quarries level of compliance with the selected conditions of development consents.

The Barina Quarry is not currently operating and is in care and maintenance. While it is important to ensure that operating quarries are complying with their conditions of development consent, it is equally important to ensure that those quarries that are not operating are adequately maintaining facilities and minimising any risk of environmental harm.

Who conducted the audits?

The 2016 Southern Tablelands hard rock quarry audit was undertaken by the Department's Compliance Team, with site inspections completed in the July and September 2016.

What were the results of the audits?

The hard rock quarries audited were found to be generally operating at a high level of compliance with their conditions and/or commitments. The audits of the four hard rock quarries in this campaign identified a 91% compliance with approval conditions.

A summary of audit results for the project approval/development consent conditions are provided in Table 1 below.

The majority of non-compliances identified in the audit related to:

- failure to submit documents or undertake reviews required under the project approval within required timeframes; and
- failure to implement management measures.

The Department issued a \$15,000 Penalty Notice Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd, operators of the Cooma Road Quarry, for failing to undertake quarterly attended noise monitoring as required by the noise management plan in the two years prior to the audit. The company has since commenced noise monitoring in June 2016.

In addition to the Penalty Notice, the Department issued two Official Cautions to the company for failing to install air quality monitoring equipment as required by the air quality management plan, and failing to submit the required annual reviews for 2014 and 2015 within the time required under the approval.

The company has since submitted the annual reviews and has installed the required air monitoring equipment.

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Quarry	Approval	Significance-Rating				Total number of approval conditions audited
		High	Moderate	Low	Administrative non-compliance	
Lynwood Quarry	DA 125-5-2005	0	0	0	2	40
Gunlake Quarry	PA 07_0074	0	0	0	1	42
Barina Quarry	DA 1_01_2000	0	1	0	1	23
Cooma Road Quarry	SSD_5109	0	2	0	6	44
Total non-compliances		0	3	0	10	

Table 1: Summary of the 2016 Southern Tablelands hard rock quarry audit findings

What is the ongoing monitoring and future actions?

Quarry operators have either addressed the identified non-compliances or will implement an agreed action plan to address the non-compliances, observations for improvement and post audit actions identified by the audits.

The Department will follow up with each quarry to ensure the agreed action plans are implemented. Progress on actions will be reported in each quarry's respective annual reviews/annual environmental management reports (AEMRs).