



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
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MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNTER QUARRIES FINED \$70,000 IN LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

A Karuah-based hard rock quarry has been fined tens of thousands of dollars and ordered to pay legal costs by the Land and Environment Court.

The court found Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd had exceeded approved production levels.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said this prosecution sends a clear message to the industry and the community.

“The NSW Government takes compliance with conditions of its planning approvals very seriously and I welcome the judgment,” the Minister said.

In the 12 month period between August 2008 and July 2009, 784,527 tonnes of product was transported from the Karuah Quarry compared to its limit of 500,000 tonnes per annum.

The breach was identified by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water during a routine inspection.

The court found the breach represented a systematic failure on behalf of the company to monitor its production and transportation records.

Mr Kelly said conditions are imposed on planning approvals for environmental and other reasons.

“The company’s failure to adequately monitor its operations led to an increase in truck movements,” the Minister said.

“The message is clear, compliance with the Government’s approval conditions are closely monitored and when breaches occur, we will enforce the State’s planning laws including, if necessary, through the courts.”

In 2009-10, the Department of Planning carried out 114 enforcement actions relating to compliance with the Government’s planning approvals, a 46 per cent increase over the previous 12 months, ranging from warnings through to penalty notices and prosecution.

The Government’s compliance presence was further bolstered in October, with three compliance officers appointed to a new Department of Planning office in Singleton to monitor coal mining operations in the Hunter Valley.