

Quarry's future in public hands

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For Immediate Release

The future of the Shire's most sizeable asset will be determined by Hornsby Council and the community rather than developers and the Land and Environment court.

Following the compulsory acquisition of Hornsby quarry from CSR Limited, Council has engaged a team of expert planning consultants to help determine the site's future prospects and residents will be involved every step of the way.

A planning study will now be undertaken for the 40-hectare site in the heart of Hornsby comprising the old quarry and the surrounding Council land known as Old Mans Valley.

This will provide the basis for a draft Masterplan to guide how the site will be used and developed.

The study will help identify the major issues, development opportunities and constraints of the area, and formulate appropriate strategies to promote the best use of the site, accommodating the future needs of residents and protecting the natural environment.

Hornsby Mayor, John Muirhead, said the purpose of engaging planning consultants is to establish what the site is capable of and to maximise community benefit.

"Council now has the responsibility of determining, in consultation with residents, what uses would best serve the public interest.

"The rehabilitation of the quarry and the surrounding land is paramount. There is a need to stabilise the area, manage and restore the surrounding bushland and determine its future use," the Mayor said.

The scope of the study will include traffic and transport issues, revenue opportunities and infrastructure constraints such as sewer and water services. Geotechnical issues, flora and fauna, bushfire hazard, visual environment, drainage, and heritage considerations will also be taken into account.

"The entire process will be open and transparent with newsletters, public meetings, workshops, focus groups, and discussions involving residents, state government agencies, service providers, and business and community groups," the Mayor added.

Old Mans Valley was required for "Open Space" as far back as 1951 when the quarry was still in full operation. When CSR Limited claimed the site was no longer financially viable, by law Council was bound to acquire the land at the owner's request.

The compulsory acquisition of the site will enable the community to achieve a much safer and healthier outcome for the Shire.

Further information regarding Hornsby quarry and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on Council's website at www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au