

The IQA North Queensland Branch

Site Visit

20th April 2021



The North Queensland IQA branch recently held a Quarry Site Tour on the 20th of April. Wet weather threatened to complicate the tour but fortunately it held off long enough so that the group of 60 attendees could explore BQC Quarries “The Rocks” site in Ayr. IQA members travelled from far and wide for the event including Cairns in the North and Brisbane in the South.

BQC Quarries (Est. 1974) has been hard rock quarrying in the Burdekin, Bowen and Whitsunday regions for nearly 50 years. BQC was the successful quarry supplier for the Foam Bitumen (FB) unbound 2.1 pavement supply for the nearby \$500 million Department of Main Roads – Haughton River Floodplain project, with The Infrastructure Group (TIG) being the Principal Contractor for this project. As part of BQC’s project win, a Foam Bitumen Plant was to be situated at its Rocks Quarry for the duration of the project. This presented a perfect opportunity to showcase the supply logistics of the first plant-mixed Foam Bitumen DTMR project in North Queensland in over 15 years.

Once on site and the visitor inductions completed the group was escorted through Koppens’ Development Pty Ltd Foam Bitumen plant where Koppens’ FB Plant Operator, Matthew Burns, introduced everyone to the intricacies of Foam Bitumen production. Koppens are being subcontracted by TIG to supply and place approximately 85,000 tonne of Foam Bitumen for the Haughton Floodplain project.



Koppens' Foam Bitumen plant



Matthew Burns of Koppens

The attendees then boarded the bus for a site tour of The Rocks Quarry. While passing through the stockpile areas, several different quarry products could be seen ranging from Crusher Dust to Base Type 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4, screenings, ballast and drainage and scour protection rock. The tour then proceeded past the various mobile crushing plants, fixed plant crushers, precoat plant and onto the first bench where the group could see the quarries bench layouts and source rock as well as drilling preparations for an upcoming blast. Throughout the tour, BQC Quarries Operations Manager Lawrence Fahey gave an informative talk on the quarry's history, geology, plant setups and current challenges.

As the rain continued to stay at bay all attendees exited the bus to take in the sights from the viewing platform which had been erected especially for the tour on the top bench. From this lookout the group could see all over the quarry and far across to the mighty Burdekin River. This was a great photo opportunity for many to enjoy.



Viewing platform on the top bench

As the evening progressed the group then travelled to Claredale Pastures at Mio College to enjoy a 'paddock to plate' meal and a few drinks. Guest speakers for the night included Justin Guilfoyle of Finlay Screening and Crushing, Damien Volker of DTMR who gave a technical talk regarding foam bitumen and Scott Meyn from TIG who gave an informative talk on the Houghton River Floodplain project and its progress.



Damien Volker of DTMR



Scott Meyn of TIG

The IQA appreciates that the night would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Burdekin Transport and Finlay Screening and Crushing. A special thanks also to the very informative speakers, the quality meal provided by Claredale Pastures and of course BQC Quarries and Koppens Development who allowed access to our members through their Quarry and Foam Bitumen Plant.

NQLD IQA members and associates can now look forward to the next [Dinner Meeting](#) which will be held on the 19th of May in Mackay shortly followed by the [NQLD IQA Quarrying & Mining Safety & Health Conference](#) and Dinner in Townsville on 23rd June.