

SANDY POINT

Open day gives residents look at Sandy Point

Tour of quarry aims to ease the worries of locals

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BENEDICT Industries opened its Sandy Point Quarry on the weekend, allowing its neighbours to have a sticky-beak around.

Residents were able to take a 30-minute bus tour of the site and discuss the company's development plans.

Co-managing director Dana Dupere said they answered questions about its proposal to recycle sand and sandstone at the quarry.

"Discussions centred around the environment improvements we've made ... and the ways we inform our neighbours about our day-to-day activities, including blasting and transportation of materials to and from the quarry," Ms Dupere said.

"We wanted to assure residents our air quality modelling at the site meets EPA criteria.

"We are proud of our neat and tidy quarry and it was great to have so many people come along to see for themselves what happens here.

"We wanted to put their minds at ease."

Time to reuse

- » Benedict Industries plans to mesh its quarry and recycling works to reuse materials that would normally end up in landfill
- » Wants to put in a development application to recycle sand and sandstone and blend it with raw materials on-site
- » They'll source excavation materials from tunnels and projects like WestConnex

Since acquiring the quarry in 2010, Benedict Industries has installed irrigation systems to minimise dust on roads in the quarry and applied a polymer sealant to previously cleared inactive areas to minimise wind-generated dust.

Looking to the future, consent has been granted to the company to lodge a development application to recycle sand and sandstone. It will be assessed by the Department of Planning.

Following community feedback, the company

pulled back its extensive recycling plans, limiting the materials that would be processed at the quarry to sand and sandstone.

The proposed activities will process mainly virgin natural excavated material, extracted during the construction of WestConnex and other major infrastructure projects in Sydney.

They will then be blended with raw materials on-site and instead of going to landfill, will be put to good use.

The development will include a \$4 million intersection on Heathcote Rd at the quarry entry to minimise truck traffic impact.

"The Sandy Point Quarry has been operating successfully for over 50 years and is a valuable resource for the state," Ms Dupere said.

Benedict Industries has already invested \$5 million on the site with plans to invest a further \$1 million in infrastructure and \$2 million in a mobile plant as part of its expansion.

The company first started with Ms Dupere's parents and one office staff member.



Benedict Industries opened its Sandy Point Quarry to its neighbours on the weekend with residents taking advantage of a 30-minute mini-bus tour of the site to discuss the company's development plans for the quarry.