



24 Nov 2016

Hornsby Advocate, Sydney

Author: Nigel Gladstone • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Classification : Suburban • Audience : 47,365 • Page: 5 • Printed Size: 338.00cm²
Market: NSW • Country: Australia • Words: 310 • Item ID: 690931167



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Page 1 of 2

\$31 MILLION BILL TO FILL QUARRY

Nigel Gladstone

THE operation to partly fill a hole in Hornsby's heart is set to cost about \$31 million, with peak trucking to fill the quarry likely to begin in "mid-2017".

The *Advocate* had an exclusive tour of the site on Tuesday with project manager Michael Van Rooyan, who explained some of the engineering challenges.

The extension and upgrade of Bridge Rd from Roper Lane for up to 70 trucks an hour to fill the quarry required raising the road by up to 2.5m in some places as well as a widening it up to 12.5m, he said.

Noise mounds around key sections of the site have been built, with noise barriers set to be erected next to the road.

A four-stage conveyor belt system to transport about a million cubic metres of spoil from the NorthConnex tunnels to the quarry is being planned and built off-site.

Expectations the quarry may get

1.5 million cubic metres of spoil have been reduced.

Hornsby state Liberal MP Matt Kean said: "At this stage we expect to still receive 1 million cubic metres."

Changes to the project design and using Quarry Rd instead of Bridge Rd delayed a final sign off after it was approved by the Department of Planning in January.

The changes added \$9 million to the original \$22 million budget but would result in a better outcome for the community, Mr Kean said.

Roads and Maritime Services will cover the extra cost, using savings in other areas of the project as well as with extra funding from Transurban.

New mountain bike trails in Old Man's Valley are being built and will include two tunnels going under Quarry Rd and the conveyor belt.

The project is expected to be complete in "late 2018".



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Page 2 of 2



Work is continuing at the Hornsby Quarry in preparation for spoil being brought in next year. Picture: Troy Snook