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you are here: News | New Crushing Plant for Edmonton Quarry

HOME

PRODUCT AND SERVICES

PROJECTS

NEWS

CONTACT US



## Latest News

- New Crushing Plant for Edmonton Quarry

## New Crushing Plant for Edmonton Quarry

Thursday, July 5, 2012  
3,108 characters

After nearly two years of planning and 9 months of construction Pioneer North Queensland now has a new crushing plant at Edmonton quarry. The plant was opened on the 18th of May after 3 weeks of commissioning and is now in full swing producing quality aggregates for the Far North Queensland market.

Concrete footings and the retaining wall were next on the agenda and again local contractors, The Concretors were employed. The pour used 650m3 of concrete and was delivered in a numerous stages throughout the construction. Although the design of the plant had been developed in the initial phase of the project, after the capital investment was approved we needed to commit to the final layout. Local engineers, Colefax Rodgers were employed to do all the structural and civil drawings and designs.

Site excavation commenced in July 2011 and involved the removal of 80,000 tonne of fill material, some was sold and the remaining had to be stockpiled for later use.

Two years ago it was decided to investigate moving the plant as the old plant site was sitting on the best reserves of rock available in the quarry. A drilling program was conducted to consolidate work done previously and it was found the plant was sterilizing potentially 13 million tonne of material of which 7.8 million tonne was first grade aggregate quality.

The boilermakers, riggers and electricians were also employed from the North Queensland area. The only contract outside of North Queensland was to Gordyn and Palmer from Melbourne who did the switchroom and PLC. This was due to their expertise in crushing plants which we felt was crucial to the overall success.

"We had a strong push to use local suppliers for the project as we wanted to support the community in which we operate. The result was a lot of local ownership in the project and pride in their achievements. It was a huge team effort with many inputs from within our own ranks" says Brad Allman, Quarry Operations Manager.

"The interesting part was that during construction we still had a quarry to run and 2011 ended up being the quarries best year ever. It is a credit to all involved that with all the other distractions and numerous contractors on-site we were still able to maintain our customer focus. This is emphasized by the still healthy stock levels at the completion of the shutdown which took 3 months and finished at the end of April. It was achieved by long hours crushing in the second half of 2011 including Christmas and New Year when we would traditionally have shutdown."

"What we have now is a state of the art, fully computerised crushing plant capable of 320tph which makes it the best in North Queensland. This will help us to satisfy the needs of Cairns and surrounds for the next 25 years. The Edmonton should be extremely proud of their achievements" concludes Brad.

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