

SMART QUARRYING

*Today's foresight;
tomorrow's global
advantage*



By Paul Sutton

Simply asking the question "Why?" can lead to new ideas and innovations that can directly affect the bottom line. Organizations benefit from research that results in challenging the status quo, research that investigates new ways of looking at customer needs, new ways of delivering customer service, new ways of strengthening customer interactions and research that explores new products and services that might attract new markets. Research needs to be undertaken to prepare the Australian Quarrying Industry to be fit-for-future i.e. what will our industry look like in 5, 10, 15 years from now and what needs to be done now to be ready for the challenges this change will create.

The Australian Quarrying Industry has been under increasing pressure to introduce fundamental changes in business practices given the ongoing rollout of state-based Acts and Regulations. The industry has also had to respond to increasingly stringent local authorities' requirements on consents for both new and existing sites. Further pressure for change has come from the environmental and sustainability agenda.

Despite the acknowledged need to increase the amount of recycled materials and decrease environmental impact, there remains a need to continue to extract primary aggregates. The industry is a major contributor to the GDP of Australia and a supplier of raw materials not only to construction but also to a wide range of manufacturing industries. All these customers are seeking higher quality products at minimum costs while also responding to their own environmental and sustainability agendas.

So, how do we prepare the Australian Quarrying Industry to meet these challenges? Our industry needs to establish best operational practices that provide individual customers and the economy in general with the products they need, whilst carrying out this primary function with due regards to the legislation of the day. The industry will not be able to achieve this objective unless the relevant personnel are equipped with the necessary knowledge and understanding of operational issues and how these apply to legislation and society's expectations.

The purpose of the ***SMART QUARRYING Research Project*** is to develop a fit-for-future ***Capability Development Model*** to ensure Quarry Managers have the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to ensure professional practice efficacy to meet legislative, workplace health and safety, productivity and profitability requirements as well as meeting their corporate social responsibility.

The ***SMART QUARRYING Research Project*** proposes to answer the following questions to develop the Capability Development Model:

- What professional capabilities describe the fit-for-future practice of Quarry Manager Professionals?
- How do the political, economic, societal, technological, regulatory, environmental and ethical variables moderate the relationship between Quarry Manager Capabilities and Quarry Manager Professional Efficacy?
- Will the Capability Development Model influence current and future professional development programs and professional certification systems?

The **SMARY QUARRYING Research Project** aims to provide a **Trilateral Advantage** to the Australian Quarrying Industry (Figure 1)



The following members of a **Project Advisory Committee** will guide the **SMART QUARRYING Research Project**:

- David Cilento (Industry and AIQEF representative)

- Chris Hamilton (Industry and Young Member Network representative)
- Travis Potts (Industry and IQA Board representative)
- Aaron Johnstone CCAA representative
- Jason Egan (Industry representative)
- Tony Ingram (Industry and IQA Board and CP Board representative)
- Felice Stocco (Supplier representative)
- Steve Seal (Industry representative)
- Steve Della Bona (Industry and IQA Board representative)
- Rob Kelly (Regulator representative)
- Wagner Representative (Industry representative)
- Anita Waihi (Supplier and Women in Quarrying Network representative)
- Luke Van Der Laan (Futurist and the University of Southern Queensland)

The first meeting of the Project Advisory Committee will be on 14 and 15 February 2016 in Brisbane.

I invite all IQA members to be active passengers on the SMART QUARRYING Research Project bus. I will be publishing four articles during 2016 in QUARRY Magazine providing an update on proceedings to date. I will also be providing monthly updates in the monthly IQA General Manager eNewsletter that is emailed to all IQA members on the 1st of each month. I welcome your questions, feedback etc after each update and report. All IQA members will receive an electronic survey during some point in 2016 and I encourage you to complete the survey with the future in mind but balancing it with your experience. I am very confident that the findings of the SMART QUARRYING Research Project will provide the blueprint for the future of the Australian Quarrying Industry. What a ride it will be!