

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Cleary Bros Albion Park Quarry Community Consultative Committee
Held via Zoom videoconference
Thursday 23 July 2020 at 1:00 pm

Present:

Chairperson	Brian Weir (BW)
Fig Tree Hill Representative	Susan Dunster (SD)
Community Representative	John Murray (JM)
Shellharbour City Council Representative	Mark Miller (MM)
Cleary Bros Environmental Officer	Mark Hammond (MH)
Cleary Bros Representative	Todd Kalajzich (TK)

Welcome

BW welcomed all members and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land and paid his respects to Elders past and present.

BW thanked everyone for making the effort to meet in these unusual times.

Item 1: Apologies

Item 2: Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Brian Weir indicated that he received a small sitting fee to chair the meeting.

Mark Hammond and Todd Kalajzich indicated they are employees of Cleary Bros.

Susan Dunster represents Fig Tree Hill, adjoining land owner.

Item 3: Record of Minutes & Business arising from previous minutes

Minutes accepted as an accurate record of meeting held 5/12/2019 and site visit held 17/12/2019. No matters arising.

Item 4: Correspondence

No correspondence received.

Item 5: Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

The following report was provided to all members as an attachment to the agenda, and read out by MH:

i) Progress of the project

Currently excavating rock from Stages 5 and 6. In FY20 820,790 tonnes of hard rock products were produced on site, including approximately 599,236 tonnes of blue basalt products and 221,554 tonnes of red agglomerate. Production going forward is expected to remain at approximately the same rate.

ii) Issues arising from site visits

No site visit is planned for this CCC meeting. A site visit was held following the previous CCC meeting on 17/12/2019.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Dust

Cleary Bros have encountered difficulties commissioning the real time dust monitors at the Albion Park Quarry. These dust monitors measure the concentration of fine dust particles in the air. These are currently with the manufacturer for refurbishment, and once returned will be calibrated to allow replacement of the existing dust monitoring gauges on site, and allow modifications to site activities where required in real time to respond to the monitors.

Depositional dust, which consists of larger dust particles that can settle out on surfaces, have varied across the site (12-month average), with the gauge closest to the site entrance increasing to 11.8g/m²/month due to the Albion Park Rail bypass earthworks directly adjacent. All other gauges have recorded between 1.6 and 3.1g/m²/month, which are similar to or slightly higher than the previous report. A deterioration in regional air quality was observed in December, January, and February, due to bushfires in the surrounding regions, which led to higher depositional dust levels being recorded at this time. Depositional dust levels have returned to typical levels for the past four months.

The High Volume Air Sampler records dust particles that are suspended in the air and are smaller than 10 micrometers, which is referred to as particulate matter (PM₁₀). There have been no exceedances of the daily PM₁₀ criteria since the last CCC meeting. The annual average (to 26/5/20) has maintained steady from the past report at 23.3µg/m³, with higher particulate matter levels recorded at times from November 2019 to February 2020 reflecting the generally poor regional air quality over this period associated with various bushfires and dust storms. Since mid-February, particulate matter levels have remained mostly low and below the annual average.

Boreholes

Cleary Bros have continued quarterly sampling of groundwater bores. Groundwater levels as recorded across the monitoring network are generally

at lower levels compared with the historical average. In line with the low groundwater levels and below average rainfall over the last few years, the concentrations of some major salt particles and salinity levels have continued to increase.

Blasting

All blast results have complied with EPA and DP&E limits. FY20 average and maximum blast overpressure (noise) at the nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 107.4 dB(L) and 114.5 db(L) respectively. FY20 average and maximum blast vibration at the nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 2.69mm/s and 4.74mm/s respectively.

Rehabilitation and Revegetation

Planted vegetation within the revegetation areas are now largely self-sufficient with no additional watering required. The focus in these areas is now on restricting annual weed growth around the smaller seedlings, to ensure they can compete. In the eastern extent of the rehabilitation area, tree growth has surpassed expectations, and is largely self-sufficient, with weeds generally controlled under the expanding canopy.

With excellent much needed rainfall recorded in February and March 2020, planting within the fenced area of Zone 4 on the eastern side of the drainage line was undertaken. Extensive infill planting was also undertaken in Zone 1, within individual cages installed around each plant to reduce the threat from grazing animals. Examination of these plantings in June showed good survival with only a minor loss of seedlings to date.

Further to these plantings, revegetation efforts have focused on control of woody weeds in the western half of the biodiversity areas, as well as madeira vine.

Community complaints

Eight community complaints have been received since the previous update was provided at the start of December 2019. Of these complaints, four were related to impacts from blasting activity, two were related to noise, and two were related to dust. Five of the complaints were received directly from a community member, while the remaining three were received from a government agency. Each complaint has been investigated with a response provided to the complainant. Where the complainant was a government agency, the agency appears to have been satisfied with Cleary Bros response.

v) Information provided to the community and any feedback

The Cleary Bros website is regularly updated to ensure all required information is current, including approvals, management plans, and environmental monitoring data.

Cleary Bros recommends the above report is received and noted by the CCC

Verbal report to the meeting

MH provided further verbal updates as follows:

In regards to site progress, MH stated that the production volumes for the next year are likely to be reduced from FY20, noting that the previous year was higher than past years.

TK confirmed that this was likely to be the case.

In regards to Boreholes, MH stated that groundwater monitoring bores would be monitored monthly for the next 6 months, to try and better understand the results observed.

Discussion

Re. Item 5(iii), SD stated that the dust gauges were regularly on a lean, and questioned the accuracy of the data collected by these monitors. SD also queried the frequency of checking the dust gauges and that there had been instances of dust blowing over SD's property.

MH responded that this had been an ongoing issue which improvements made which appear to have not been effective.

TK stated that they would look at them again to ensure they were aligned horizontally as required, and follow up on the other issues as necessary.

Re. Item 5(iv), SD queried what CB meant in the report above by "agency satisfied with Cleary Bros response".

MH explained that this meant that Cleary Bros resolved the concerns raised by the complaint with the agency, either by providing information or by making certain undertakings, with no further action taken by the regulator.

Resolved: Report received and noted.

Item 6: Other Agenda Items

i) Development Application for Stage 7 of the Quarry

MH verbally reported the following:

Cleary Bros have commenced the Environmental Impact Assessment for Stage 7 of the quarry, based on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) issued by the Department. Investigations undertaken in the past 6 months have focused on groundwater, biodiversity, and cultural heritage as these items have longer lead times or periods of monitoring, or may impact on the other assessments. It is expected that over the next 6 months, all other specialist investigations will be progressed, including air quality, noise and blasting, surface water and sediment control, and a continuation of the investigations undertaken thus far in 2020.

Cleary Bros have also written to all adjoining neighbours and representatives of the CCC inviting input into the proposal, focused on how Cleary Bros can improve the outcomes of the project to the community. Cleary Bros expects to complete the EIS towards the end of 2020, with submission in late 2020 or early 2021.

Discussion

No comment received.

ii) FY20 Albion Park Quarry Annual Review

MH asked whether all members had received a copy of the report, and that they were happy receiving an electronic copy.

SD requested a hard copy of the report.

MH stated that he would post SD a copy.

SD queried why Kiama rainfall data was used as a base for comparison rather than Albion Park rainfall data and believed that Albion Park data would be more accurate and relevant.

MH explained that it was considered that the site rainfall would more closely mirror Kiama rainfall patterns than the Albion Park BOM site, due to the proximity to the ocean and the presence of hills. MH stated that he would review this practice in the next report to identify the most appropriate base that should be used for comparisons.

iii) Chairperson's Annual Report on the operation of the CCC

BW will compile an independent Chairperson's report which will be provided to the Department of Planning. The report will summarise the happenings of this meeting and last meeting and be circulated to all members once prepared, in a similar manner to last year's report.

Item 7: General Business

SD mentioned that there had been an incident where damage to heirloom crockery was noticed after a blast. SD had tried to deal with it through her insurance however the claim was not accepted. SD is concerned that some interior damage may be related to blasting. SD wasn't sure if this was the correct avenue to raise these concerns in this environment.

BW suggested that this matter is best taken up directly with Cleary Bros rather than through the CCC. JM agreed with this approach.

There being no further General Business, the Chairperson closed the meeting.

Meeting closed 1:32 pm

Next meeting planned for Thursday 3 December 2020 at 1:00pm.