

Item 5: Correspondence

The Chairperson referred to his annual report on the operation of the CCC, circulated to CCC members and submitted to the Department since the last meeting, covering the activities of the committee for the year.

Item 6: 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 4, 5 and 6. In the 4 months to 31 October 2019, 261,395 tonnes of hard rock products were produced on site, including approximately 203,081 tonnes of blue basalt products and 58,314 tonnes of red agglomerate. Production going forward is expected to remain at approximately the same rate.

ii) Issues arising from site visits

A site inspection of the Albion Park Quarry has been rescheduled to the 17/12/19.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Dust

Cleary Bros are currently commissioning the real time particulate monitors at the Albion Park Quarry. These will replace the existing depositional gauges and high volume air sampler, and allow modifications to site activities where required in real time to respond to the monitors.

Depositional dust levels have varied across the site (12-month average), with the gauge closest to the entrance increasing to 7.3g/m²/month in response to the Albion Park Rail bypass earthworks directly adjacent. All other gauges have recorded between 1.6 and 2.2g/m²/month, which are similar to the previous report.

There have been no exceedances of the daily PM10 criteria as recorded by the High Volume Air Sampler since the last CCC meeting. The annual average (to 29/10/19) has increased slightly from the past report to 23.3µg/m³ reflecting the continuing rainfall deficit experienced over the last 12 months and site activities getting progressively closer to the monitor.

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, with some variability that appears to be correlated with rainfall. Despite the low groundwater levels, there do not appear to have been any adverse impacts to groundwater quality.

Blasting

All blast results have complied with EPA and DP&E limits. FY20 average and maximum blast overpressure at nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 106.2 dB(L) and 110.0 db(L) respectively. FY19 average and maximum blast PVS vibration at nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 2.89mm/s and 3.83mm/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.

The remaining revegetation areas on the western slope have now been fenced off, and we are waiting on suitable ground moisture for planting out these remaining areas.

Progress of rehabilitation actions will continue to be reported on in subsequent inspections and CCC meetings.

iv) Community complaints and response to these complaints

Three community complaints have been received since the last CCC meeting (25/7/19), one related to dust clouds and fallout, and two related to impacts from blasting activities. Each complaint has been investigated with a response provided to the complainant.

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:

Item (iii): Air Quality - TIS average dust deposition in gauges DDG1 to DDG4 to 30 November 2019 was 8.8, 2.4, 1.7, 2.2g/m²/month respectively. Annual average PM₁₀ as measured by HVAS was 21.8µg/m³ for FY19.

Item (iii): Blasting – Average and maximum overpressure for FY19 were 106.3 and 110.0 dB(lin) respectively. Average and maximum vibration for FY19 were 2.87 and 4.11mm/s respectively.

Discussion

No matters raised.

Resolved: Report received and noted.

Item 7: Other Agenda Items

i) Development Application for Stage 7 of the Quarry

MH verbally reported that Cleary Bros have submitted the scoping study to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure, and Environment for Stage 7 of the quarry. The Department issued Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR's) which describes the matters to be assessed by Cleary Bros in the Environmental Impact Statement. Cleary Bros have commenced the EIS process, including the commissioning of groundwater assessments, which require a longer period of background monitoring. It is expected that the EIS will be submitted in the second half of 2020.

Discussion

SD queried the earlier application to Council to demolish the Belmont homestead, and why was it withdrawn. SD also stated that the existing separated building is the garage, as the dairy and bail sheds had previously been removed.

MH stated that it was decided to withdraw the application and include it as part of the Stage 7 application, rather than as a separate Council application.

MM confirmed that the application was withdrawn while still on exhibition, and that Council does not provide advice on an application until after the exhibition process has been completed.

Item 8: General Business

Blasting Notification Process

SD queried whether the blasting notification processes had changed, specifically why a different person now calls to provide a window of time of when the blast is to occur, rather than a phone call immediately prior to the blast.

MH stated that due to a deterioration in the relationship, CB had decided to align the blasting notification processes back to being in accordance with the Blast Management Plan, where an expected time of firing is provided on the morning of the blast.

MM expressed disappointment that relations had deteriorated on this matter and encouraged both parties to work together in accordance with the consent granted by the Court. He also stressed to all parties the importance of ensuring that matters raised are relevant to the activity of the meeting, and not related to previous disagreements.

Site Inspection

MM expressed concern that the site visit, scheduled to be held today, was cancelled unilaterally at short notice.

BW clarified that he had decided to postpone the site inspection following consultation with several members including JM when it was obvious the inspection would not be starting on time. He too regarded the inspection as most important and would ensure that it was held as soon as possible subject to the availability of all members.

In closing, BW expressed his disappointment with the sentiments expressed at the meeting and urged all parties to strive to cooperate notwithstanding that there will inevitably be difficulties from time to time in the future. He wished all members the Compliments of the Season. In closing the meeting, he stated that arrangements would be made for the inspection to be held as soon as possible.

Meeting closed 1:50 pm

Next meeting planned for Thursday 23 July 2020 at 1:00pm.