

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Cleary Bros Gerroa Sand Resource Community Consultative Committee
Held at the Gerroa Fishermans Club, Gerroa
Thursday 25 July 2019 at 11:35 am

Present:

Chairperson	Brian Weir (BW)
Community Representative	Kel Sekulic (KS)
Community Representative	Stephen Brazier (SB)
GEPS Representative	Warren Holder (WH)
Cleary Bros Environmental Officer	Mark Hammond (MH)
Cleary Bros Representative	Ashley Mathie (AM)

Welcome

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

BW also welcomed Mr Warren Holder to the CCC as the new GEPS Representative.

The Committee acknowledged Terry Barratt for his contribution to the operation of the CCC, especially his enthusiasm and knowledge of relevant matters.

Item 1: Site Inspection

A site inspection of the Gerroa Sand Quarry was held prior to the formal meeting from 10:10am to 11:30am. All present attended the site inspection.

The tour stopped at three different sites of the current operations and proposed extraction area, including the current processing area, the southern end of the proposed extraction area, and the hill overlooking the majority of the proposed extraction area. Specific items discussed were: acid sulphate soils; timing and extent of site revegetation; future extraction; and future site improvements. There were no matters arising from the site inspection.

Item 2: Apologies

Kiama Municipal Council Representative Cr Andrew Sloan (AS)

Item 3: Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

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

Mark Hammond and Ashley Mathie indicated they are employees of Cleary Bros.

Item 4: Business arising from previous minutes

Dust Monitoring – In response to discussion on Item 5 of the previous CCC meeting, MH advised that he has investigated options for supplementary testing of deposited dust in the event of anomalous measurements within the dust gauges. He verbally reported that following discussions with the laboratory that is used for dust analysis, laser particle sizing can be used to determine the particle sizing of materials, which will provide some indication of sample contamination. However a minimum sample size equivalent to a dust deposition of approximately 25g/m²/month is required for this analysis. Cleary Bros have requested this analysis be conducted in the future on any dust deposition sample for Gerroa that meets this minimum requirement.

TB has resigned from the CCC, and been replaced by Warren Holder, maintaining GEPS representation on the CCC.

Item 5: Correspondence

BW received an email from GEPS requesting Warren Holder replace Terry Barratt (TB) on the CCC, as TB is no longer able to attend the CCC meetings.

Subsequently, a request was sent by MH to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) requesting Mr Warren Holder be appointed as GEPS representative on the CCC.

Letter subsequently received by BW and CB from DPE appointing Mr Warren Holder as the GEPS representative on the CCC.

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

Total sand transport from the Gerroa resource for the 11 months to 31 May 2019 was 50,891t. This equates to an annualised production rate of 55,517 tonnes. Cleary Bros continue to supplement the Gerroa sand supply with alternative sources including manufactured sand and sand sourced from 3rd parties. Production rates are expected to remain at similar levels in the short to medium term, dependent on the availability of suitable 3rd party supplies.

ii) Issues arising from site visits

A site visit was undertaken as part of this CCC meeting.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Meteorology

Automatic weather station continues to operate well. Rainfall in the first half of 2019 continues to run below average, with 415mm falling in 2019 as at 15 June 2019. Rainfall throughout this period has also been inconsistent, with only March

and June (to date) recording average rainfall, while February and May recorded 25mm and 18mm respectively.

Dust

Deposited dust levels in two of the three gauges have decreased since the last report in December 2018, with the third gauge increasing slightly. Dust gauges 1A, 2A, and 3A are averaging (as at May 2019) 2.1g/m²/month, 2.9g/m²/month, and 1.2g/m²/month for the previous 12 month period.

Dredge Pond

Dredge pond water quality is generally stable and consistent with historical level results. It has shown a close relationship with rainfall patterns, with the water level variable around a low level with the fluctuating month-to-month rainfall observed in the first half of 2019. Total Oxidisable Sulphur of sand extracted has remained low in the range of <0.02-0.03%

Boreholes

Borehole water levels continue to remain at low levels in the first half of 2019, with variations across the monitoring network closely following rainfall patterns. Despite the generally low groundwater water levels, water quality of the bores has remained largely stable with all measurements generally within the historical range of recorded measurements for each bore. Bore MW1 continues to exhibit a saline influence which is consistent with historical results.

Revegetation and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation works are now in the maintenance phase. Infill planting continues where suggested by the ecologist to boost revegetation success and weed control is ongoing when conditions permit. Ongoing management of these areas continues based on the advice provided in the quarterly internal inspections and annual inspections by an ecologist.

iv) Community complaints and response to these complaints

No community complaints have been received since the last CCC meeting.

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.

Recommend: Cleary Bros recommends the above report is received & noted by the CCC

Verbal report to the meeting

MH provided further updates as follows:

Item (i): FY19 production of sand from the site was 55,784 tonnes.

Item (iii): Dust – Average dust deposition in gauges 1A to 3A for FY19 was 2.1, 2.9, and 1.2 g/m²/month respectively (unchanged).

Discussion

SB asked about the tree plantings in area 2C1, when they were planted and why that area took so long to be planted.

AM explained that the area was re-surveyed about a year ago to check the accuracy of that area, and following this re-survey, additional seedlings were planted. The original planting area for Zone 2C1 was based on the designated area required by the Consent as shown on the drawings. The subsequent survey was undertaken to ensure the 50m corridor from the creek was maintained. Further thickening of the area is planned in the Spring when growing conditions are suitable. AM explained that plants are sourced from Jamberoo Native Nursery.

MH elaborated that the plants selected are based on the planting list as described in the QEMP, and the availability of these plants from the nursery, which is often limited.

WH asked whether CB could commission the nursery to collect seeds of other species from the site that weren't currently available from the nursery.

MH explained that given the current advanced stage of plantings, further seed collection wasn't warranted.

SB asked what happens with the topsoil that is pulled off ahead of quarrying.

AM explained that it is pushed up around the edges to create a flood bund.

SB asked whether it can be used to supplement the topsoil in the planting areas.

MH explained that it is not practical at this stage, as it would bury the existing plantings.

WH asked about the cultural heritage of the proposed extraction area and the investigation and assessment methods.

MH outlined the test excavations that had been undertaken in recent months. These test excavations were undertaken in accordance with the OEH Guideline and under an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit. The process involved consultation with registered Aboriginal parties, with four members of local indigenous groups, including Jerrinja Land Council, participating in the test excavations daily, supported by three archaeologists. A report would shortly be prepared by the consultant archaeologist summarizing the findings.

MH asked all CCC members if they had received a copy of the Annual Environmental Management Report for 2018-19 that was sent the previous week.

SB and WH advised that they had not received the AEMR.

MH advised that he will resend the AEMR to SB and WR, and also noted that a copy is available on the Cleary Bros website.

Resolved: Report be received and noted.

Item 7: Other Agenda Items

i) Proposed Modification to the Gerroa Sand Quarry

MH advised that Cleary Bros are now finalizing their response to the comments raised by government agencies in response to Cleary Bros' Response to Submissions. These matters related primarily to groundwater and the Aquifer Interference Policy, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. Since the last CCC, Cleary Bros have undertaken test excavations for Aboriginal cultural heritage artefacts across the proposed project footprint. The report from these test excavations is expected to be finalised within the next two weeks, and will be included in Cleary Bros submission to the DPE.

Discussion

KS asked about further assessment of visual and noise impacts. KS requested that noise is re-examined in the forthcoming response from Cleary Bros.

SB asked who was involved in groundwater matters.

MH explained that a specialist hydrogeologist from Douglas Partners had been engaged to assess groundwater matters.

ii) Other Matters

Nil other matters.

Item 8: General Business

Nil general business.

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

Meeting Closed 12:10 pm

Next meeting planned for Thursday 5 December 2019 at 10:30am.