

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cleary Bros Gerroa Sand Quarry Community
Consultative Committee**

**Held at the Gerroa Fishermans Club
On Thursday June 22, 2023 at 10:45 am**

Present:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairperson | B Weir |
| Community Representative | K Sekulic (by video link) |
| Community Representative | S Brazier |
| GEPS Representative | W Holder |
| Kiama Council Representative | Cr Croxford |
| Cleary Bros Environmental Officer | M Hammond |
| Cleary Bros Representative | T Kalajzich |

Item 1: Welcome and Apologies

The Chairperson opened the meeting, extended a welcome to all, and then acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land on which the meeting was being held and paid his respects to Elders Past, Present and Emerging.

Item 2: Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

These interests- being Messrs. Hammond and Kalajzich being employees of the proponent and the Chairperson receiving a meeting fee, were again declared.

Item 3: Business arising from previous minutes

Nil

Item 4: Correspondence

Nil

Item 5: Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

Mr Hammond spoke to his report (attached). No further comments or changes from the report as submitted with the meeting papers.

SB asked what is manufactured sand.

TK explained that it is crusher dust from Cleary Bros' Albion Park Quarry which has been screened to remove clay materials, and allow it to be used in concrete to reduce the amount of fine sand needed to make the concrete.

SB asked what the floodgates are.

MH explained that they were installed around the 1960's to Blue Angle Creek to prevent salt water from going back up the creek, while still allowing freshwater to flow down the creek. They were installed to improve the agricultural use of the farmland.

SB referred to Figure 5 of the report, and asked about vehicular access along the bund.

MH explained that a vehicular track would not be required along the bund, and it is easy enough to walk along the bund.

WH asked whether a access track would then cause clearing in the fenced conservation area.

MH clarified that no track is required in this area, and that no plantings in the conservation zone 2C.1 would be removed or disturbed.

SB asked about the ongoing issues of the woody weeds in the conservation area, particularly lantana growth, and that the revised Landscape and Rehabilitation Management Plan requires the removal of weeds to promote natural regeneration.

MH explained that weeds are not stopping natural regeneration in the conservation areas. While we do look to control lantana growth, our focus has been on controlling emerging weeds to ensure they don't gain a foothold. The ground conditions over the last few years have also impacted our ability to get to certain parts of the property.

SB mentioned the growth of lantana along the boundary of CB's property beside Gerroa Road.

TK added that we can only manage what is on our property.

MH agreed that CB would review the actions for the control of lantana along CB's property near the road corridor.

MW suggested CCC write to IDWA regarding focus on lantana in local area.

BW agreed Chair and MH will prepare a letter for CCC to consider on this matter to be sent to IDWA.

KS asked when works commenced in the Modification Area.

MH explained that it was a couple of months ago. MH in looking at photos on his phone, said that it was after 15 March 2023 when the new water monitoring stations were installed. MH added that the flood bunds were constructed before this earlier in the year.

KS asked about the calibration of the weather station especially around rainfall, noting that he had recorded lower rainfall totals than we had recorded.

MH noted that the weather station used a tipping bucket rain gauge which are generally more accurate than sensors that use pads, and advised that we had checked the totals from the weather station against other rain gauges used on the Gerroa farm. There seemed to often be quite some variability across the farm, but that

the weather station was generally reasonably consistent with other readings on the farm.

Nevertheless, MH committed to undertaking a calibration of the rain gauge.

WH asked about the presence of acid sulphate soils, and whether there were hotspots on the site.

MH explained that CB undertook detailed sampling across the new area at regular intervals and at depth. The monitoring indicated that generally there weren't really any hotspots, but that there was normally no acid sulphate soils (ASS) within the first 1-2 metres of the surface, but then it was detected below this depth. ASS were low in the northern section, while towards the southern end they were higher.

SB asked about how the acid sulphate soils were managed in the sand stockpile.

MH explained the control strategies in use, including the real time pH monitoring stations, the layer of lime that had been applied to the base of the product stockpile before dredging started, the addition of lime to the initial excavated material and ploughing of it in followed by testing, and the new outlet for the processing return water which is now piped directly into the dredge pond to stop it coming into contact with air. Also the continued testing of the sand stockpile for sulphur to ensure it has been removed by the processing plant.

SB asked about any requirements for creation of wading bird habitat for the new dredge pond.

MH clarified that there was no requirement to establish shallow habitats in the new area. Extraction would follow the base of the sand so this may occur in the western parts, however it isn't a requirement of the site.

WH asked if there were any carp in the dredge pond.

TK stated there wasn't, but mosquito fish are present.

Item 6: Other Agenda Items

i) Modification to the Gerroa Sand Quarry – upcoming and planned works

This was discussed under Item 5.

SB asked whether deer grazing had been a problem.

TK explained that they weren't currently an issue on the site.

No further discussion was held.

Item 7: General Business

i) Annual Review Preparation

Discussion regarding the manner in which the Committee will consider the 2022-2023 Annual Review which is required to be presented to the Committee prior to August 31, 2023.

It was agreed to hold a Zoom meeting on Thursday 31 August at 10:30am to allow for any queries that may arise following the submission of the Annual Review.

MH will distribute the Annual Review and provide all with connection details for this meeting.

SB asked about the progress of the Planning Agreement.

MH explained that the draft agreement was submitted to Planning in December 2022. No response has been received to date, and as such MH followed up with the Department earlier this week but is still yet to receive a response.

SB asked about the new CCC Guidelines.

BW read from an email just received this morning from the Department of Planning regarding changes to the new CCC Guidelines.

The Chairperson stated that the CCC Chairpersons were to receive briefings on the new provisions and he would then consult with the CCC regarding the implementation of the new provisions following the briefings.

MH noted that the new CCC Guidelines dated June 2023 are now available on the Department of Planning website.

No further General Business was raised.

Item 8: Next Meeting:

It was agreed by all that holding a meeting in December or late November is difficult at this busy time of year. It was agreed to schedule the next meeting for Thursday 15 February 2024, which would include a site visit.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 11.40 am.

Item 5 – Gerroa Sand Resource CCC Meeting 22nd June 2023

Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

Progress of the Project

Total sand transported from the Gerroa resource in FY23 to 30 April was 22,784 tonnes. Cleary Bros continue to supplement the Gerroa sand supply with manufactured sand produced at our Albion Park Quarry. Production rates are expected to increase closer to the upper production limit of 80,000t/year, with the exhaustion of the resource of a 3rd party supplier, and commencement of extraction from the modification area.

Since the last CCC meeting in December, the remaining environmental management plans for the modification area have been approved, including the Water Management Plan and overall Quarry Environmental Management Plan. Since this time, the following works have taken place:

- Fencing around Conservation Area C (cultural heritage management area).
- Installation of sediment and erosion controls.
- Construction of flood bunds around the “CP” area (figure 4 and figure 5).
- Installation of pipeline infrastructure, including return water pump and pipeline.
- Installation of new continuous water monitoring stations in the existing dredge pond (figure 1) and on Blue Angle Creek.
- Excavation of the initial dredge sump.
- Treatment and verification testing of acid sulphate soils from the initial excavation.
- Lime treatment of stockpile area base.
- Installation of deepwater outlet on processing returns line (figure 2).
- Initial noise monitoring of construction activities.
- Planting of seedlings for vegetation screen in accessible areas (above the floodplain)
- Commencement of dredging in new dredge pond (figure 3).

Future works planned for the coming months include:

- Plant remaining seedlings for the tree screen (when accessible).
- Installation of continuous water monitoring station in the new dredge pond.
- Winter noise monitoring of site operations.

Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken at the previous meeting. No site visit is planned for this meeting.

Monitoring and environmental performance

Meteorology

Automatic weather station (AWS) is currently operating well. Rainfall recorded for FY23 to 31 May was 1580mm, skewed by the 444mm which fell in July 2022. This total is above the long term average, and while there have been some relatively dry months during the past 12 months, ground conditions across the site have remained wet.

Dust (Total Insoluble Solids)

Average annual dust levels in all gauges are currently below the historical averages for each site. Dust gauges 1A, 2A, and 3A are averaging 1.6g/m²/month, 1.2g/m²/month, and 0.6g/m²/month respectively for the previous 12-month period.

All measurements of air quality are within the criteria of the Development Consent and Environment Protection Licence for the Quarry.

Surface Water Management

All monitoring of the dredge pond has been in accordance with the Development Consent. The water level in the dredge pond has remained high over the past 6 months with the continued above average rainfall. The water quality of the existing dredge pond has remained relatively stable over the past 6 months. With the approval of the updated Water Management Plan, the water monitoring program has broadened to include additional considerations including an expanded suite of dissolved metals and measurement of total alkalinity. The data collected to date is providing a good baseline as extraction commences in the new dredge pond.

A continuous water monitoring station has been installed in the existing dredge pond (Figure 1), which is recording the water level and pH at two levels within the dredge pond. A continuous water monitoring station has also been installed in Blue Angle Creek immediately above the floodgates, at the downstream boundary of the site.

Water monitoring in the new dredge pond will commence in June. The continuous water monitoring station will also be installed once the northern bank is fully formed in coming months.

Boreholes

All groundwater monitoring has been in accordance with the Development Consent. The revised Water Management Plan has included a revision of the groundwater monitoring program, with four new bores around the new extraction area, and some of the older bores no longer sampled.

Borehole water levels have remained relatively stable over the past 6 months with the continued above average rainfall. Groundwater quality is also relatively stable, with a brackish influence noted in the bore close to Blue Angle Creek northeast of the new dredge pond, as well as the background bore located approximately one kilometre west of the new dredge pond. Other bores close to Blue Angle Creek exhibit very low salinity levels.

Revegetation and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation works are now in the maintenance phase. The current priorities have been updated in the revised Landscape and Rehabilitation Management Plan now approved and will direct works over the next 5 years. Since the last meeting, access to most areas has been restricted due to continued wet ground conditions, and which have limited the ability to plant the seedlings in stock in the greenhouse. A number of these plants have outgrown their original pots and have had to be re-potted while we wait for ground conditions to improve. While infill planting and planting for the new vegetation screen has been limited in the past 6 months, we have seen excellent growth from existing plantings, especially in those seedlings planted in the last 4 years, which have seen extraordinary growth over the past summer (figure 5).

Ongoing management of all areas continues based on the advice provided in the quarterly internal inspections and annual inspections by an ecologist.

Community Complaints

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

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.

See also figures on following two pages.

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

Signed: Mark Hammond (Environmental Officer)

31/5/2023

Figures



Figure 1 - New continuous water monitoring site established in the existing dredge pond – measuring water level as well as pH at 2 zones within the dredge pond



Figure 2 - Deepwater outlet on processing returns line running into the existing dredge pond



Figure 3 - Initial dredging in the northern part of the "CP" area. Plantings from zone 2C.1 can be seen behind the flood levee in the background



Figure 4 - Flood levees established in “CP” area (intermediate levee in foreground, boundary levee in background)



Figure 5 - Flood levee and new dredge pond at northern limit of “CP” area. Revegetation in Zone 2C.1 can be seen in the right side of the photo.