

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Cleary Bros Gerroa Sand Resource Community Consultative Committee
Held via Zoom videoconference
Thursday 22 July 2021 at 10:33 am

Present:

Chairperson	Brian Weir (BW)
Kiama Municipal Council Representative	Cr Andrew Sloan (AS)
GEPS Representative	Warren Holder (WH)
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

Community Representative	Stephen Brazier
Community Representative	Kel Sekulic

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.

Item 3: Business arising from previous minutes

Minutes accepted as an accurate record of meeting held 3/12/2020. There was no business arising raised.

Item 4: Correspondence

The Chair advised that SB had requested an update on various matters related to the rehabilitation areas at the site in an email dated 17/7/21. This matter is to be discussed under Item 5.

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

Total sand transport from the Gerroa resource for FY21 to 31 May 2021 was 36,441t representing an annualised rate of 39,754t. 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.

MH further stated that the production quantities for FY21 were 43,155 tonnes of sand products.

WH queried how production levels compared with the average from the site.

TK explained that this production level was below average.

ii) Issues arising from site visits

No site visit is planned for this CCC meeting. A site visit was held at the previous CCC meeting on 3/12/20.

Nothing further raised.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Meteorology

Automatic weather station (AWS) is currently operating well. Rainfall recorded for FY21 to 31 May 2021 was 1407mm, which is slightly above average, and follows an extended rainfall deficit over the preceding three years.

Nothing further raised.

Dust

Average annual dust levels in all gauges have decreased since the last meeting due to a reduction in regional dust levels. Dust gauges 1A, 2A, and 3A are averaging (as at 16 June 2021) 1.6g/m²/month, 0.9g/m²/month, and 1.8g/m²/month for the previous 12-month period.

Nothing further raised.

Dredge Pond

Dredge pond water quality is generally stable and consistent with historical level results. The water level has risen over the past 12 months in response to improved rainfall over this period, with considerable fluctuation consistent with rainfall. Total Oxidisable Sulphur of sand extracted has remained low in the range of <0.02-0.03%.

Nothing further raised.

Boreholes

Borehole water levels have remained relatively stable over the previous 6 months with variations consistent with rainfall patterns. This has followed considerable rises seen in the preceding 6-month period as a result of significant

rainfall in mid-2020. Water levels during the last 6 months have been generally consistent with the longer term averages for the respective bores. Water quality of the bores has remained largely stable with all measurements within or close to the historical range of recorded measurements for each bore. Bore MW1 continues to exhibit a brackish influence however the salinity has shown a general downward trend since a peak 2 years ago.

AS asked whether there were any changes or trends observed in groundwater and surface water recently.

MH explained that there has been a general reduction in major ion concentrations and increases in water levels in groundwater and the dredge pond.

WH asked about the cause of the salinity

MH explained that it was likely related to some saline water from downstream mixing with the groundwater, and less rainfall entering the aquifer.

AS explained that there would be less mounding of groundwater due to these low groundwater levels which would normally push the saline water back.

Revegetation and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation works are now in the maintenance phase. Infill planting has been undertaken in Zones 2C.1, 2C.2, and 2D since the last CCC meeting. Most areas have recorded growth over the past 6 months with the favourable growing conditions. Weed control has focused on Giant Arundo Grass, Morning Glory, Wild Tobacco, Bitou Bush, Lantana, African Lovegrass, Blackberry. Ongoing management of all areas continues based on the advice provided in the quarterly internal inspections and annual inspections by an ecologist. Further details will be provided in the Annual Environmental Management Report which is expected to be finalised prior to the committee meeting.

MH tabled a response to the questions raised by SB prior to the meeting. The response is included as Attachment 1 to the minutes.

WH asked whether any mulching had been undertaken around plantings.

TK explained that regular mowing around seedlings has led to mulch around plants and that no mulch had needed to be imported. He added that the plants were doing well due to the excellent weather conditions.

In regards to the greenhouse, TK stated that Cleary Bros had also recently started propagating from seeds, and that there shouldn't be any further difficulties with obtaining supplies going forward.

WH said that he would like to see the specific species listed in the AEMR, rather than just the generic names of the plants utilised.

MH explained species composition in tabled report in response to SB's listed questions. MH stated that a similar summary can be included in next year's AEMR.

WH requested Eucalyptus pillularis (blackbutt) to be included in the planting list.

MH explained that there had not been any availability of this species locally, however CB would focus on sourcing this species.

iv) Community engagement

Cleary Bros have been proud to support the following community programs and events over the past 12 months:

- Kiama Rugby 7's – Tournament Sponsor over a number of years, providing integral support to one of Kiama's pinnacle annual events.
- South Coast Blaze – Franchise Partner supporting the team in the NSW Premier League netball competition, fostering the best current and emerging netball talent from the local area.
- Partnering with the Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Council to support ongoing education and development of the local indigenous community.
- Illawarra Convoy – Long term supporter of the Illawarra Convoy, providing much needed support to families affected by life threatening medical conditions and local charities.
- Group 7 Referees – Major sponsor over more than 35 years, continuing the development of rugby league referees on the South Coast.

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

Nothing further raised.

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.

Nothing further raised.

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

Resolved: Report received and noted.

Item 6: Other Agenda Items

i) Proposed Modification to the Gerroa Sand Quarry

MH tabled a presentation on the progress of the proposed Modification including the current status and potential activities that may be undertaken in the following 6 months. The presentation is included as Attachment 2 to the minutes.

Discussion

AS asked about the proposed heritage area and what this related to.

MH explained that it was related to an area of high density artefacts with minimal disturbance near the southern end of Zone 2C.1 that would be fenced off from the proposed project area.

AS asked whether Cleary Bros were aware of the expected conditions of consent for the modification should it be approved.

MH explained that Cleary Bros had not yet received any indication of any draft conditions should the modification be approved.

WH asked about how the proposed modification area would be extracted.

MH explained that Cleary Bros would be starting at the northern end in the vicinity of the cricket pitch and head south alongside and outside of zone 2C.1, before proceeding west.

ii) FY21 Gerroa Annual Environmental Management Report

MH stated that the Annual Environmental Monitoring Report had been distributed to all members and summarised the key findings as follows:

- Good rainfall experienced over previous 12-18 months have led to improvements in groundwater and surface water availability and quality, as well as providing a big boost to revegetation efforts with excellent growth of native and non-native vegetation observed in many areas.
- No non-compliances with the conditions of the Development Consent or Environmental Protection Licence in the reporting period.

Discussion

AS advised that he had not received AEMR as yet due to Kiama Council IT protocols.

MH stated that he will provide direction to AS on where it can be accessed on the Cleary Bros website.

The Chair suggested that once AS has reviewed, he could provide any further queries for discussion at the next CCC meeting.

Item 7: General Business

AS stated that he will no longer be the Council representative on the CCC following the local council elections. He confirmed Council would hold a meeting shortly after the elections to appoint representation to all committees, and that the nominated person would represent Council on future CCC meetings.

BW thanked AS for his continued participation and engagement with the CCC over several years, and wished him all the best for the future.

AS requested that minutes be emailed directly to General Manager going forward, to ensure they were not lost.

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

Next meeting planned for Thursday 2 December 2021 at 10:30am, and will confirm as the preferred date once Council confirms new delegate, commencing with a site visit if possible.

Meeting Closed 11:16 am

Attachment 1

Questions tabled by Stephen Brazier Gerroa Sand Quarry CCC Meeting – 22 July 2021

1. Could a report be given on the progress of all the newly planted areas? For example, survival rates, watering regime, whether guards have been installed (as these were not installed on our last site inspection), etc.

Excellent growing conditions over the past year have seen good growth in all areas. There has been minimal loss of plantings, with those lost replaced with new tubestock throughout the year. Tubestock planted in the 2nd half of 2020 were watered weekly throughout Spring (on weeks without rain), with minimal additional watering required through and beyond Summer due to consistent rain and good soil moisture. A tree guard has been installed with any new tubestock planted outside of the Zone 2C.1 animal-proof fence in the past year.

2. Has the southern end of 2C1 been planted? This was the area to the west of the road where we visited on our last inspection in December.

Tubestock are in place to the west of the access road in Zone 2C.1. Additional maintenance of this area in the 1st half of 2021 has replaced some plantings that did not survive.

3. At our last meeting Mark mentioned the construction of an on site nursery for the rehabilitation zones. Has there been any progress on this as yet?

Greenhouse is in use. Cleary Bros have sourced various tubestock from local nurseries which have been re-potted and are growing well in the greenhouse. These plants will be used to support infill planting as required to replace lost plants.

4. Is it possible to provide a species list and approx. numbers of each species that have recently been planted?

Estimated numbers of additional plants installed in various zones in FY21 are summarised in the table below. All species are tubestock unless otherwise stated. This does not include minor replacement of lost plants, which are additional to the numbers in the table.

Species	2B.1	2C.1	2D
Acacia implexa		15	
Acacia maidenii		150	
Acacia suaveolens	50		50
Banksia integrifolia		240	100
Casuarina glauca	50	350	250
Eucalyptus botryoides	50 (advanced)	Minor	
Eucalyptus robusta	100	100	50
Melaleuca stypheloides	50		50
Pittosporum revolutum		150	

Attachment 2 – Gerroa Sand Quarry Modification Update

Gerroa Modification Update – July 2021

- * No changes to proposed footprint as provided at the previous CCC meeting in December 2020
- * Currently with the Dept. of Planning, Industry and Environment for Assessment and Determination
- * Expect Determination of the Modification by the DPIE shortly
- * In the event Approval is given by DPIE, the following activities will be undertaken prior to dredging:
 - Quarry Environmental Management Plan to be updated and approved by the DPIE
 - Acid Sulphate Soil preparations (sampling, establish treatment area etc.)
 - Installation of transfer pipelines
 - Installation of new water monitoring equipment
 - Fencing of heritage Conservation Area
 - Excavation of sump for dredge – plan to start in northeast extent (cricket pitch area) and work south