

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Cleary Bros Gerroa Sand Resource Community Consultative Committee
Held at the Gerroa Fishermans Club, Gerroa
Thursday 26 July 2018 at 10:37 am

Present:

Chairperson	Brian Weir (BW)
Community Representative	Kel Sekulic (KS)
Kiama Municipal Council Representative	Cr Andrew Sloan (AS)
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.

Item 1: Apologies

Chris Rowland submitted his apologies for the meeting.
Terry Barrett submitted his apologies for the meeting.

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 Ashley Mathie indicated they are employees of Cleary Bros.

Item 3: Business arising from previous minutes

No matters arising.

In reply to a question from AS, BW advised that he is in the pool for Chairs for the Illawarra area. No additional correspondence has been received from the DPE since the last meeting regarding operation of CCC's. CCC is to continue to run as it currently runs. BW advised that the key is for the Chair to be accepted by all members and to ensure the running of effective meetings. There is a greater governance responsibility on Chairs to ensure that CCC meetings operate within the Guidelines.

Item 4: Correspondence

MH reported that Chris Rowland has advised him that he will be resigning from CCC as he is moving away from the area. MH requested that he send formal notice to the Chairperson, so that a replacement can be sought.

Item 5: Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

The following report was provided to all members prior to the meeting, and read out by MH:

i) Progress of the project

Sand production from the Gerroa resource has steadied in the past 6 months, with total production for FY18 of 48,206 tonnes (approximate figure only at this stage). 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 return closer to maximum permissible extraction levels in the short to medium term.

ii) Issues arising from site visits

No site visit is planned for this CCC meeting. There have been no significant changes to site operation since the last site visit in December 2016.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Meteorology

Automatic weather station continues to operate well.

Dust

Deposited dust levels in two of the three gauges has reduced slightly in FY18, despite the dry conditions. Dust gauges 1A and 2A have reduced to an average of 1.4g/m²/month and 1.2g/m²/month respectively, while dust gauge 3A has averaged 3.4g/m²/month for FY18, skewed by a single anomalous result of 28.2g/m²/month in May 2018. Excluding this result, gauge 3A averaged 1.2g/m²/month for FY18.

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 continuing to decline in recent months due to the ongoing rainfall deficit. Total Oxidisable Sulphur of sand extracted has returned to traditional levels in the past few months, with all results recorded since February 2018 in the range of 0.02-0.03%.

Boreholes

Borehole water levels have continued to fluctuate following rainfall patterns with most bores continuing to decline in recent months due to the extended rainfall deficit. Despite the general decline in 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 with the exception of bore MW1. Bore MW1 continues to exhibit a saline influence, while all other bores appear unaffected.

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.

An information session was held on the 14th February 2018 in relation to the proposed modification to the Gerroa Sand Resource. This provided the opportunity for two-way discussion with various stakeholders regarding the proposed modification.

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

Signed: Mark Hammond (Environmental Officer) 4/7/2018

Verbal report to the meeting

MH provided further updates as follows:

FY18 production updated to 49,128 tonnes.

Borehole water levels generally increased in July 2018, following the approximately average rainfall recorded in June 2018.

Discussion

AS mentioned that water quality has shown expected trends, with short term spikes in some bores eg MW04 had a phosphorus spike which has since returned to normal, however is unlikely related to dredging activities.

Resolved: Report be received and noted

Item 6: Other Agenda Items

i) Proposed Modification to the Gerroa Sand Quarry

MH advised that as per the information session held on 14th February 2018, Cleary Bros have applied to the Department of Planning and Environment to modify the Conditions of Consent for the Gerroa Sand Quarry. The intention of this modification is to permit extraction from currently undeveloped areas of the property. These areas have been cleared or significantly altered in the past for agricultural activities, and would support the continued extraction of sand from the property for the next 20 years.

The period of public exhibition for the project has now closed, and Cleary Bros are currently reviewing the submissions, prior to providing a response to the Department of Planning and Environment. Cleary Bros has not yet considered the submissions in detail, and as such are not in a position to comment specifically on these. For more information, refer to the major projects website of the Department of Planning and Environment.

AS asked how long the review by Cleary Bros is likely to take.

MH replied that it was hard to say at this stage, given that the submissions have not yet been reviewed in detail, but expected it to take a few months.

BW asked who will assess Cleary Bros response to the submissions.

MH explained that the Department of Planning and Environment were the consent authority in this case, and they would assess Cleary Bros response, as well as any conditions of the consent.

KS asked what the key issues raised in the submissions were.

MH explained that Cleary Bros had not yet had time to review the submissions in detail, so weren't sure at this stage.

KS suggested Cleary Bros must have an idea at this stage what the key issues related to.

MH explained that the submissions were only received from the Department of Planning and Environment via the consultant last week, and MH personally had only reviewed 2 submissions at this stage, so could not provide any further advice regarding the key themes of the submissions.

MH advised that Cleary Bros will now review the submissions in detail and provide a formal response to the Department of Planning and Environment. This response will consider the matters raised in the submissions and may require further assessment.

AS asked about the role of the Department of Planning and Environment and whether there is further community input.

MH explained that from previous experience, the Department would review Cleary Bros response, and take into consideration the matters raised in all submissions. MH stated that he is unsure exactly how the Department will proceed.

AS asked if Cleary Bros response would be made public on the major projects website.

MH acknowledged that this would be the case, and it would likely be uploaded by the Department once they have received it.

AS asked about the life left in the existing operation.

AM stated that there was about 2 years left.

BW acknowledged that this was consistent with previous meetings.

KS asked whether demand from the construction industry was likely to change and its impact on production from the site.

MH clarified that current demand was currently driven by the availability of third party supplies of sand, more so than construction industry activity at present.

AM clarified that Cleary Bros regularly sources sand from third parties where possible.

BW advised the meeting that it was not the role of the CCC to become involved in the DA process, except with respect to information sharing regarding the progress of the proposal.

ii) Other Matters

No further matters raised

Item 7: General Business

BW checked that all persons had received the 2017-18 Annual Environmental Management Report for Gerroa.

MH stated that all committee members except Terry Barratt had now received a copy of the report. MH explained he would mail this report to Terry tomorrow.

Meeting Closed 11:11 am

Next meeting proposed for Thursday 13th December 2018 10:30am.

An agenda will be issued prior to the meeting to confirm meeting time and date.