

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Cleary Bros Gerroa Sand Resource Community Consultative Committee
Held at the Gerroa Fishermans Club, Gerroa
Thursday 5 December 2019 at 10:43 am

Present:

Chairperson	Brian Weir (BW)
Kiama Municipal Council Representative	Cr Andrew Sloan (AS)
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	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.

Item 1: Apologies

Cleary Bros Representative Ashley Mathie

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 25/7/2019. No matters arising.

Item 4: Correspondence

BW referred to having circulated the Chairperson's Annual Report of the CCC's activities for the past year to the CCC members for their information prior to sending to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment. KS advised that he did not receive a copy of this report. Other members advised they had received the report.

ACTION: MH to send KS a copy of the annual report.

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 the 4 months to 31 October 2019 was 22,554t. This equates to an annualised production rate of 67,662 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

No site visit is planned for this CCC meeting. A site visit was held at the previous CCC meeting on 25/7/19.

iii) Monitoring and environmental performance

Meteorology

Automatic weather station continues to operate well. Rainfall in the 2nd half of 2019 to date continues to run below average, with 164mm falling since 1st July 2019.

Dust

Deposited dust levels in two of the three gauges have decreased since the last report in July 2019, with the third gauge increasing slightly. Dust gauges 1A, 2A, and 3A are averaging (as at 14 November 2019) 1.9g/m²/month, 2.6g/m²/month, and 1.4g/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 remained at a relatively low level in the past few months, consistent with the rainfall pattern. Total Oxidisable Sulphur of sand extracted has remained low in the range of <0.02-0.02%.

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 brackish influence which is consistent with historical results.

Revegetation and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation works are now in the maintenance phase. Infill planting has continued in Zone 2C.1 since the last CCC meeting. Weed control in the past quarter has focused on continued suppression of lantana in the existing forest. 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): *FY20 production of sand from the site to 30th November was 28,356 tonnes.*

Item (v): Independent Environmental Audit – *3 yearly independent environmental audit commissioned and completed since last CCC meeting. Audit report and proposed corrective actions have been provided to all CCC members, as well as placed on the Cleary Bros website.*

Discussion

WH asked about vegetation along the Blue Angle Creek corridor and whether plantings had been completed.

MH explained that all plantings had been completed in Zone 2C.1, with only maintenance plantings required in the future.

SB asked why plantings had not been completed earlier.

MH referred to the discussion and response provided at the previous meeting.

SB asked about other planting areas that had not been planted, as appeared on google maps.

MH stated that all areas had been planted, and that Google maps aerial photos should not be relied upon, as the imagery is old and at a poor resolution.

BW suggested that perhaps a site visit at the next CCC meeting could show the progress of revegetation in areas other than Zone 2C.1

All agreed that this would be worthwhile.

AS enquired about the potential for Kiama Council to extract water from the dredge pond if drought conditions continue.

MH explained that while the site is not subject to the current water restrictions of the Sydney Water network, there is currently no provision in the conditions for the extraction of water for use off the site. Approval from the Department would likely be required prior to any extraction by Council. However in the event of an emergency, Cleary Bros would work with Council to access water.

SB asked what level of dust would be concerning or whether there were any guidelines on acceptable levels of dust, and the rationale for any guideline.

MH noted that current dust levels were relatively stable, however the Government Guideline level for deposited dust is a 12-month average of 4g/m²/month. MH noted that this guideline is related to community amenity only and is not health related.

ACTION: Next CCC meeting to include a site visit of revegetation areas.

Item 6: Other Agenda Items

i) Proposed Modification to the Gerroa Sand Quarry

MH advised that Cleary Bros last week provided further requested information to the Department of Planning Infrastructure and the Environment. This response provided further information on flooding, the extraction process, and water licencing arrangements. Furthermore, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been submitted to the Department, following consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties. Cleary Bros are waiting to hear back from the Department as to whether any further information is required, otherwise it is expected the modification application will be forwarded to the Minister for Determination.

Discussion

KS asked about the updated flood study, specifically what the modelled scenarios mean as this will impact him.

MH replied that the northern and southern flood areas are modelled together for the purpose of simplicity, as they operate relatively independently of each other. MH explained that the proposal as submitted to the Department would involve extraction undertaken progressively in a cell framework, to minimize disruption of the surrounding floodplain throughout the development. Scenario A was shown to have the greatest, albeit still not-significant impact, and so was included in the tables of the flood study.

KS asked about the location of the swale drains and queried the impact these would have on flooding to the north of the site as he was concerned regarding the impact on his adjacent grazing land.

MH explained that the swale drains were designed to prevent runoff from the adjacent hill from flowing into the dredge pond, and that while runoff would be directed into the floodplains, this would not cause any significant changes to flooding in any offset areas. MH undertook for CB to review the design of the northern drainage swale, to examine if it could be redesigned to direct runoff water that collects on the eastern side of the hill to the eastern side of the northern paddock, away from properties to the north of the site.

KS asked how CB intended to extract through the existing roadway between the northern and southern areas.

MH explained that a temporary diversion would be installed while extracting through the roadway.

ii) Other Matters

Nil other matters.

Item 7: General Business

Nil general business.

There being no further General Business, the Chairperson closed the meeting. In doing so he thanked the Members for the spirit in which the committee had deliberated during the year and extended the Complements of the Season to all.

Meeting Closed 11:50 am

Next meeting planned for Thursday 23 July 2019 at 9:30am, commencing with a site visit.