



**MINUTES OF THE BI-ANNUAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2024
HAERSES ROAD QUARRY, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

	NAME	ORGANISATION
PRESENT	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	David Dixon (DD)	Dixon Sand
	Jamie Baker (JB)	Dixon Sand – Business Development Manager
	Melissa Mass (MM)	Dixon Sand - Ecologist
	Farley Roberts (FR)	Community Representative
	Lisa Aylward (LAy)	Maroota Public School Representative
	Kristine McKenzie (KM)	The Hills Shire Council Representative
	Zoe Ridgeway (ZR)	Bush-It (alternate)
	Pat Schwartz (PS)	Community Representative
	Nathan McDonough (NM)	Dixon Firestone Business Partner (<i>observer</i>)
APOLOGIES	Hunny Churcher (HC)	Environmental Officer, Dixon Sand
	Timothy Baker (TB)	Bush Regeneration Contractor (Bush-It)
	Jemma Roberts (JR)	Community Representative (alternate)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	LA opened the meeting at 1.02pm following a light luncheon. All members were welcomed. Nathan McDonough was introduced by DD as Dixon Firestone business partner.	All members introduced themselves to NM.						
APOLOGIES	As listed above.							
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	LA declared that she is approved by the Department of Planning to chair the meeting and engaged by Dixon Sand.							
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (28/5/24)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>NO.</th> <th>ITEM</th> <th>RESPONSIBILITY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Send out finalised Terms of Reference. Complete – ratified at the previous meeting and finalised.</td> <td>LA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NO.	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	1	Send out finalised Terms of Reference. Complete – ratified at the previous meeting and finalised.	LA	No other business arising.
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1	Send out finalised Terms of Reference. Complete – ratified at the previous meeting and finalised.	LA						
CORRESPONDENCE (as emailed with Meeting Notice on 4/10/24 with 1 additional item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31/5/24 – Email from FR with his and JR’s signed governance forms. Acknowledged. • 5/6/24- Email to members with draft minutes for review • 12/6/24 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. • 3/10/24 – Email from HC advising that Old Northern Road and Haerses Road Quarries: 2023-2024 Annual Reviews have been submitted to DPHI • 4/10/24 – Email to members with meeting notice & agenda for 28/5/24. 							

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/11/24 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting. 																	
OPERATIONS & PROGRESS	<p>JB commenced the presentation, advising of the operations and progress with the Old Northern Road Quarry, followed by the Hearses Road Quarry.</p> <p>This included an updated aerial view of Lots 1 & 2 since May 2024.</p> <p>JB advised that the silt ponds have been capped.</p> <p>All biodiversity credits have been retired.</p>	<p>Questions asked and answered throughout the presentation.</p> <p>Slides 6 & 7</p>																
ONR – Proposed DA Mod 6 - Extraction within existing cells to maximise resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the depth of extraction within Lot 196 DP752025 to within 2m of the highest recorded regional wet weather groundwater level; Import up to 250,000 tonnes per annum of virgin excavated natural material (VENM) and excavated natural material (ENM) within existing incoming trucks; and Extend the quarry life by 11 years until 2053. <p>Timeline</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Milestone</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>January 2023</td> <td>Scoping Letter lodged with DPHI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 2023</td> <td>DPHI confirmed pathway and requests additional traffic assessment and rehabilitation and final landform assessment to be updated</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September 2023</td> <td>Consultation with Agencies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>November 2023</td> <td>Modification Report submitted to DPHI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>November 2023 – April 2024</td> <td>Public Exhibition, received submissions from the community and agencies, submissions report submitted to DPHI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2024</td> <td>Received further comments from DCCEEW-Water. Submission report being prepared.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2024</td> <td>DPHI issued an RFI</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Milestone	January 2023	Scoping Letter lodged with DPHI	March 2023	DPHI confirmed pathway and requests additional traffic assessment and rehabilitation and final landform assessment to be updated	September 2023	Consultation with Agencies	November 2023	Modification Report submitted to DPHI	November 2023 – April 2024	Public Exhibition, received submissions from the community and agencies, submissions report submitted to DPHI	May 2024	Received further comments from DCCEEW-Water. Submission report being prepared.	July 2024	DPHI issued an RFI	<p>Sides: 8 & 9</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE SITE AUDIT	<p>JB advised that following the submission of the Annual Review documents, DPHI undertook a site inspection at both quarries. There were no issues or items of concerns identified during the audit.</p> <p>The Department has reviewed the Annual Review and considers it to general satisfy the reporting requirements of the consent.</p>																	

	<p>KM asked if DPHI were going to provide Dixon Sand with an audit report. DD responded no. DPHI only notify if there is an issue. JB commented that an email had been received stating everything was okay. LA confirmed that the approved Annual Review is uploaded to the project website.</p>														
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS</p>	<p>JB commenced the environmental monitoring results, by showing the locations of devices.</p>	<p>Slides: 12 to 16</p>													
<p>TEOM DATA</p>	<p>JB explained the TEOM data and measurement criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TEOM and Meteorological station records PM10 levels and weather data such as rain, temperature, wind etc. ○ Monitoring Criteria – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term: Annual PM10 average (light blue line) should not exceed the annual average criteria (pink line – 30µg/m3) – • Short term: 24hr PM10 average (blue bars) should not exceed the 24hr PM10 NEPM Criteria (yellow line – 50µg/m3) – • Short term: If the 24hr PM10 EPL Criteria Level (green line – 42µg/m3) is exceeded by the 24hr PM10 average (blue bars), and the prevailing wind is from the specific quadrant Dixon Sand is required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify EPA • Take immediate action to reduce PM10 levels • Stop works if levels do not fall below 42µg/m3 within 1 hour ○ TEOM station represent the EPL Points 1 & 3 	<p>Slide: 18</p>													
<p>DEPOSITIONAL DUST DATA</p>	<p>Dust data for this monitoring period: June 2023 –May 2024:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 1341 1114 1859"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Milestone</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="5">Old Northern Road</td> <td>D1A Access road</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D4 Rehab area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D5 Bundwall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D6 School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D7 Mullock Heap</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Haerses Road</td> <td>D8 Olive Grove</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D10 Haerses Road (EPL Point 3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D11 Receiver R6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D12 Receiver R8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Dust exceedances reported to EPA & DPHI which was caused by nearby agricultural activities. Dixon Sand are still trying to get approval for some of the locations of</p>	Date	Milestone	Old Northern Road	D1A Access road	D4 Rehab area	D5 Bundwall	D6 School	D7 Mullock Heap	Haerses Road	D8 Olive Grove	D10 Haerses Road (EPL Point 3)	D11 Receiver R6	D12 Receiver R8	<p>See graphs for results. Slides: 20 - 28</p>
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	<p>monitors to be relocated to avoid reoccurrences of the spikes from agricultural activities.</p> <p>It was noted that the results at the school were below average.</p>	
NOISE MONITORING	<p>ONR & Haerses Rd:</p> <p>Tables of noise monitoring locations indicating: Receivers, property addresses, descriptions and extrapolated monitoring results.</p> <p>KM enquired about the corner of Wisemans Ferry Rd & Hitchcock Road. MM advised that it was a non-sensitive receiver and the location is noisy & dusty so agreed that it will be affected.</p>	<p>See Slides 30-36</p> <p>For location of monitoring sites and summary of data.</p>
GROUND WATER MONITORING	<p>GW Monitoring wells</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONR 11 x BH • HR 22 x BH <p>GW levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly + continuous data loggers <p>GW quality sampling & lab analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 monthly sampling and testing. <p>MM advised that it hasn't rained since March and that most bores are going down slowly.</p>	<p>Graphs explained -</p> <p>See Slides 38-49 (maps)</p>
BIODIVERSITY AND REHABILITATION (Threatened Species Update)	<p>MM commenced the presentation by advising that the site rehabilitation is progressing well and they are getting on top of weed management. Monitoring of fauna & flora on the site continues.</p> <p>Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Annual Report 2024 (AR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🚩 The Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Annual Report identifies native flora and fauna within the Native Vegetation Corridor and the Haerses Road Biodiversity Offset Area, it monitors the success of the rehabilitation area within the NVC and describes the current condition of threatened flora and fauna and their habitats within the Old Northern Road site and the HRBOA. 🚩 The 2024 Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Annual Report was completed in September 2024 and submitted with the Annual Review on the 30th of September 2024. 🚩 The results found the rehabilitation areas are thriving and increasing in diversity and density. Ideal growing conditions with favourable temperatures and regular rainfall over the past 4 years has improved the overall biodiversity of all rehabilitation and monitoring sites. <p>MM advised that the AR is now available on the website.</p> <p>Monitoring Fauna</p>	<p>See Slides 50 – 64 including photographs</p>

	<p>Fauna monitoring is undertaken in the summer months when activity is at the highest and more likely to be observed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fauna monitoring includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording bat calls via an Anabat sound recorder; The use of unbaited infra-red motion detection cameras on animal trails; Looking for scats, prints and other signs such as diggings, scratches, feed scars; Aural survey for birds; and Visual observation. <p>MM commented on the Dural Land Snail, stating that they only travel 1 metre around their home for their whole life. MM will bring a sample of the snail to the next meeting.</p> <p>Action.</p> <p>Discussions on the kunzia plant on the flat rock. KM asked if they are dug up and moved around. MM responded no, they are left where they are. DD explained that the plant thrives from the radiant heat from the rock.</p> <p>Monitoring flora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora monitoring is undertaken in the winter months as many of the threatened species are flowering or budding up preparing for early spring flowering • Vegetation quadrats are repeated annually in monitoring locations. Quadrats are 20m x 50m, 20m x 20m and 1m x 1m which record the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Species present and percentage of cover; ○ Stem class including recruitments present or absent; ○ Number of hollow bearing trees; ○ Total length of coarse woody debris; ○ Litter cover, rock surface area, bare ground 	
<p>BUSH REGENERATION WORKS</p>	<p>Summary of Assisted Bush Regeneration Work - May 2024 to November 2024- presented by ZR who advised that they have been able to get on top of the weeds.</p> <p><u>Old Northern Rd Works Areas:</u> <u>Rehabilitation of Lot 196</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works over this period focused exclusively on revegetating the Commander area. ○ In late September to early October approx. 150 viro-tube specimens were planted, watered with seasol mix and guarded into Commander, with regular watering follow-up sessions. The plantings covered the following species: Acacia falcata, Acacia longifolia, Acacia suaveolens, Angophora hispida, Banksia ericifolia, Hakea dactyloides, Hakea sericea, Ozothamnus diosmifolius. 	<p>See photographs in Slides: 65 - 79</p>

Assisted Regeneration - Native Vegetation Corridor (NVC)

- Have effectively maintained the translocation area from having additional weed incursions of exotic grasses.
- Had a new weed incursion of common couch encroaching from the bare mounds into the vegetated mounds bordering the translocation; this was treated with a selective herbicide (Fusilade forte) in October.
- Collected seed from *Acacia suaveolens* to be propagated at the nursery.

Rehabilitation of Lot 2

- Continued large push on lantana, now reduced down to a maintenance level and secondary in small bordering areas.
- Brush-cut large Crofton patches to prevent them going to seed
- In September planted approx. 150 viro-tube specimens of the following native shrub and canopy species: *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Acacia ulicifolia*, *Callitris* sp., *Corymbia gummifera*, *Hakea dactyloides*, *Hakea sericea*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Syncarpia glomulifera*, *Viminaria juncea*.
- Regular follow-up watering to mitigate dry conditions at the time. Applied seasol mix to one watering.
- We underestimated the rate of predation of the aforementioned plantings in Lot 2, and have responded with new strategies of larger guards and preserving annual invasive species to lower the impact of predation on current and future plantings.

Rehabilitation of Haerses Rd – Old Dam Area

Challenges

- Lantana is now at a low maintenance level.

Assisted Regeneration - Haerses Road Biodiversity

Offset

- Is in good condition.
- Have reduced scans for crofton and wild tobacco to a low maintenance level, plans on focusing targets to lantana follow up.

Haerses Rd - Translocation

- Minimal visits over this period
- Hand removed exotic grasses that were encroaching native ground covers
- Selectively culled *Kunzea ambigua* specimens that were growing above high-value Proteaceae

	<p>species, such as <i>Banksia serrata</i>, <i>Lambertia formosa</i> or <i>Persoonia linearis</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow-up works required. <p><u>Haerses Rd – Visual buffer along Wisemans Ferry Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In September planted 24 <i>Hakeas</i> (sp. <i>sericea</i> and <i>dactyloides</i>) and 25 <i>Acacia longifolia</i>s in the buffer to the east of Haerses road ○ In the same month we filled out the established planting area right of Haerses Rd along the swale edge with a border of approx. 20 <i>Angophora hispida</i> specimens and 2 <i>Synocarpia glomulifera</i> specimens. 	
<p>PROJECT REPORT, INCLUDING PRODUCTION/ SALES</p>	<p>DD advised that sales are good. Extraction is continuing. Haven't been able to bake the ponds. Weather conditions should be good coming into summer for backfilling over the ponds.</p> <p>MOD 6 is still up in the air as Dixon Sand try to go deeper instead of outwards. The water table is deeper than expected. Still hope to mine the same amount of material, however, over 2 sites, which will be easier to manage, then being full scale just on one side.</p> <p>The diversity of produce has enabled Dixon Sand to be steady with sales.</p> <p>The new operation (Dixon Firestone) is well underway. The sheds are up and following a trip to Northern Italy & USA, equipment has been purchased, installed and commissioned.</p> <p>NM advised that it is cutting edge technology, which doesn't exist elsewhere in the southern hemisphere. The equipment goes a long way to reducing noise and is best practice in terms of safety, including controlled cutting, full suppression, no visual or respiratory dust, use of recycled water, reuse of fines, etc. Fines are processed at the wash plant and sold to USA as product with remanent waste going to the silt pond.</p> <p>KM enquired how many staff were in this area. DD advised 5-6 full time plus contractors. Two men came from the USA to install and commission the equipment, which took 25 days.</p> <p>PS enquired whether many fossils have been found. NM advised that they are working in the Blue Mountains/Central Coast/Pymont part of the Narrabeen pre-Jurassic permian. There is not a lot of fossils.</p> <p>PS advised of a <i>Labyrinthodonts</i> (amphibian) fossil gifted to the Glenorie community, which is 400M years old and located is in the Hall.</p>	

GENERAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LAy asked KM regarding the speed signage associated with subdivision works in the area. Reduced speed limit signs are still showing when there are no works or workmen and sometimes stay there for months, impacting on motorists having to slow down for no reason. LAy acknowledged that it isn't a Dixon Sand CCC issue, but is frustrating for the community. ○ KM confirmed that the speed reductions are associated with the subdivision approval. If signs haven't been removed then contact Council to follow up. LAy will contact the Construction Engineers at Council herself. ○ JB advised that Dixon Sand's Salvation Army Christmas Appeal will be held again this year, following great success in the past. Local residents are invited to drop off any Christmas presents for distribution via the Salvation Army's Christmas appeal. ○ LAy thanked Dixon Sand for bringing the dozer to the school for its Maroota Muster event. ○ PS advised that there is now a breeding population of koalas back in the forest after the 2002 fires. 11 have been formally reported. Whilst there may be more, there needs to be confirmed sightings. ○ PS stated that the endangered Greater Glider has also been found, with the Eucalyptus deanei being their preferred habitat. ○ PS mentioned that there is a controlled burn planned for the gully. Trying to find a better way to undertake burning. Further discussions on cool/cultural burning between PS & NM. 	
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025	<p>LA sought consent for the meeting schedule remain as previous. Two meetings a year, one in May and one in November. Accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📅 Wednesday 7th May; and 📅 Wednesday 5th November 2025. <p>Commencing at 12.30pm with lunch prior to the 1pm start.</p> <p>It was suggested that a site inspection be undertaken at the May meeting to view the new Dixon Firestone facility.</p>	Agreed.

The meeting was closed at 2:19pm with the chair thanking all members for their attendance.

ACTION ITEM:

NO.	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Bring Dural Land Snail sample to next CCC	MM
2	Confirm site inspection requirements	LA