



DIXON SAND

MINUTES OF THE BI-ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2023 GLENORIE RSL CLUB

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Hunny Churcher (HC)	Environmental Officer, Dixon Sand
	Mark Dixon (MD)	Dixon Sand
	Melissa Mass (MM)	Dixon Sand - Ecologist
	Pat Schwartz (PS)	Community Representative
	Kristine McKenzie (KM)	The Hills Shire Council Representative
	Timothy Baker (TB)	Bush Regeneration Contractor (Bush-It)
APOLOGIES	Jemma Roberts (JR)	Community Representative (alternate)
	Farley Roberts (FR)	Community Representative
	Lisa Aylward (LAy)	Maroota Public School Representative
	David Dixon (DD)	General Manager, Dixon Sand

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	LA opened the meeting at 12.54pm following a light luncheon. All members were welcomed.	
APOLOGIES	As listed above.	
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	LA declared that she is approved by the Department of Planning and Environment to chair the meeting and engaged by Dixon Sand.	No changes to previous declarations.
BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (3/5/23)	Nil.	
CORRESPONDENCE (as emailed with Meeting Notice on 10/10/23 with 1 additional item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/5/23- Draft minutes sent to members for review 19/5/23 – Email to members with the finalised minutes 3/10/23 – Email from HC with advice that DPE regarding Modification 6 for DA 165-7-2005 for Haerses Road Quarry has been approved and submission of the 2022-2023 Annual Review. 10/10/23 – Email to members with meeting notice & agenda for 8/11/23. 6/11/23 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting. 	
PROJECT REPORT, INCLUDING PRODUCTION/SALES	HC (on behalf of DD). There have been a few changes at ONR. The quarry is producing speciality sand for all the NSW Racecourses. The Australian Turf Club tested 14 different sands from different suppliers and Dixon Sand's product was the best performing and most suited to the requirements of racetracks.	Questions asked and answered throughout the presentation.

	<p>Dixon Sand continue to provide sand for Golf Courses, the SCG, Brookvale Oval, etc.</p> <p>Extraction on Lots 1 & 2. There has been minimal extraction from Cons Hill. The silt ponds are being capped and will bake over summer in preparation for rehabilitation. Hopefully weather conditions will be stable for this purpose.</p> <p>Stockpiled materials containing seeds of native flora is going to be transferred on to the silt pond area to continue the Native Vegetation Corridor.</p> <p>KM sought clarification on the aerial map regarding water storage. It was confirmed as contained run-off from the floods 2 years ago. MD advised that because it is deep and cold, that it doesn't evaporate very quickly. However, this is likely to occur this summer.</p> <p>HC stated that the sediment pond on Lots 1 & 2 will progress towards the school. Construction of the 250m noise bund to the school has commenced and will continue.</p> <p>HC stated that extraction at ONR is restricted to the same areas and increasing in depth. Extraction at Haerses Road currently occur in Stages 1 and 2 (Tertiary sand, original DA) and Cells 1A, 1B, 2B, 3B and parts of 1A (Friable sandstone, Mod 1 extraction area) Dixon Sand has purchased enough biodiversity credits for the whole project.</p>	
Haerses Rd Quarry – Proposed Mod 6.	<p>MOD 6 was approved by DPE on 7 September 2023. This involves the relocation of the sand stone cutting shed and the maintenance shed – 90m to the north. The Construction Certificate for both sheds has been issued. Pre-commencement conditions have been completed. Construction will commence in 2 weeks.</p>	Slides: 8
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>Extraction within existing cells to maximise resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 17 January 2023 - Scoping letter lodged with DPE ○ 21 March 2023 - DPE confirms pathway of modifying consent under section 4.56 of the EP&A Act. 	Sides: 9 & 10

	<p>DPE requests in addition to the matters identified in the scoping letter for the Modification Report to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A traffic assessment that considers the growth in background traffic over the period of the proposed extension; and ○ An updated rehabilitation and final landform assessment that takes into account the proposed increase in extraction depth. ○ September 2023 – Consultation with Agencies ○ Current Status – Finalisation of Modification Report and 'soft' lodgement of the Modification Report to the DPE <p>MD advised that half the staff have moved over to this site with the main production being white sand and brickies sand.</p> <p>Sales and demand for Sandstone blocks are doing very well. Larger blocks are being sold for commercial sites (such as the development site in Camden) and small blocks for the residential market.</p> <p>Production overall is down 25%, due to the down turn in the market from interest rate rises which are affecting the building of homes.</p>	
BIODIVERSITY OFF SET CREDITS	Discussions on biodiversity off set credits. MD advised that Dixon Sand has purchased enough biodiversity credits to cover the whole project.	
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RESULTS	<p>HC commenced by explaining the locations of all the monitoring points and the schedule for conducting the monitoring.</p> <p>HC advised that DPI Water has requested that an additional bore be installed to replace bores that were decommissioned. The new bore is located in the south west corner of cell 1A.</p>	Slides: 12-16
TEOM DATA	<p>HC 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 	Slides: 17-18

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 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													
DEPOSITIONAL DUST DATA	<p>Dust data for this monitoring period: Dec 2022 – Oct 2023</p> <table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Dust Gauge</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">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>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></table>	Location	Dust Gauge	Old Northern Road	D1A Access road	D4 Rehab area	D5 Bundwall	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: 19-28 (maps)</p>
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NOISE MONITORING	<p>ONR & Haerses Rd:</p> <p>Tables of noise monitoring locations indicating: Receivers, property addresses, descriptions and extrapolated monitoring results.</p>	<p>See Slides 29-33 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 19 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>Graphs explained - See Slides 34-48 (maps)</p>												
SURFACE WATER MONITORING	<p>ONR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW19 = Surface water monitoring at creek on Lot 196• LDP1 = EPL 3916 Licenced Discharge Point at Weir of Main Water Channel <p>HR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SW1 = Surface water monitoring at creek east of extraction Stage 2 East (inside the Biodiversity Offset Area)• SW2 = Surface water monitoring at creek west of extraction Cell 1A (Mod 1)• Basin 1. <p>No discharges have been carried out. All within criteria.</p>	<p>Graphs/Tables explained - See Slides 49-52</p>												

	<p>ONR – Licensed Discharge Point on the EPL 3916 (Main Water Channel)</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">EPL 3916 water quality criteria</th></tr><tr><td>pH</td><td>TSS (mg/L)</td></tr><tr><td>4.5 – 6.5</td><td>50</td></tr></table> <p>No planned discharge of water during period: May 2023 – November 2023.</p>	EPL 3916 water quality criteria		pH	TSS (mg/L)	4.5 – 6.5	50	
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<p>BUSH REGENERATION WORKS</p>	<p>Presented by TB</p> <p><u>Old Northern Rd Works Areas: Rehabilitation of Lot 196</u></p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Machinery-compacted soils on North-facing aspect• Missing all native vegetation strata and microbial activity. <p>Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recent Melaleuca deanei plantings have struggled in hot/dry conditions experience in September in particular.• Direct seeded enrichment nodes where slashing is no longer being undertaken where there are natives shrubs recruiting ie mostly Kunzea ambigua. <p>Future Works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued revegetation with locally endemic trees, shrubs and grasses (creating dense enrichment nodes) in April-May 2023.• Seed collection currently being undertaken. <p><u>Assisted Regeneration - Native Vegetation Corridor (NVC)</u></p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal microbial and mycorrhizal fungi• Very minor Infestation of exotic grasses <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment of exotic grass has prevented seed-set and spread, in particular Pampas Grass.• Re-growth of mother Melaleuca deanei. <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to cull assertive shrub species to promote diversity• Monitor the impact of dry conditions. <p><u>Assisted Regeneration - Native Vegetation Corridor</u></p> <p>The 6 months to November has seen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unprecedented hot and drier conditions.	<p>See photographs in Slides 53-61</p> <p>TB spoke further about the Melaleuca deanei plantings. 11 of the 32 remain. Consideration of interfering vs not interfering.</p> <p>Discussions about climate proofing some species, ie bringing them from northern NSW as they are accustomed to the heat.</p>						

	<p><u>Rehabilitation of Lot 2</u></p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive surface water flows and waterlogged soils are drying out. Extensive infestation of woody weeds. <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of Lantana to evict Bell Miners and promote tree health. Recovery of native species by in-situ resilience only at this stage. <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued revegetation of disturbed grassy areas with canopy species. Follow-up work on Lantana needed to finish off. <p>Haerses Rd – New Work Areas (discussions on what to name this new area, Barry's Bush?)</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense Lantana thicket Runoff from surrounding fields <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of Lantana over the last few months <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up work on Lantana needed. <p>Assisted Regeneration - Haerses Road Biodiversity Offset</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encroachment of invasive species along an extended edge and along drainage lines <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of Crofton Weed to prevent seed-set and spread. Manual treatment and minimal herbicide use has resulted in a dense buffer of native shrubs and canopy species. <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued monitoring for incursions along the leading edge <p>Haerses Rd - Translocation</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominance of assertive native canopy species – Kunzea, Melaleuca and Acacia spp. Infestation by invasive exotic grasses (Common Couch in particular). <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of exotic grass to prevent seed-set and spread. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select thinning of assertive native canopy species has promoted understorey natives. <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued treatment of grasses Thinning of assertive native canopy. <p>Haerses Rd – Visual buffer along Wisemans Ferry Road</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed to surrounding impacts and fairly degraded soil Weed density relatively low now. <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment of Pellaea vridis and Asparagus Fern mostly. Control of Common Couch on sandstone capped area. Plantings mostly successful. <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued monitoring and maintenance weed control works. Supplementary planting required in April-May 2024. 	
BIODIVERSITY AND REHABILITATION (Threatened Species Update)	<p>MM provided the following presentation:</p> <p>Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Annual Report 2023</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 2023 Biodiversity and Rehabilitation Annual Report was completed in September and submitted with the Annual Review on the 30th of September. 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 3 years has improved the overall biodiversity of all rehabilitation and monitoring sites. Survey work for the preparation of the 2024 report will begin in January 2024. <p>Rehabilitation process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three stage process: Extraction operations completed and silt ponds created Silt ponds filled, dried and capped Rehabilitation of biodiversity begins. 	See Slides 62 – 75 (see photographs)

	<p>BCT Reporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Management Report for year 4 was completed in March - Passive Management at Haerses Road and Porters Road sites was completed in March 2023. Passive management continues at both locations. PS enquired that when a site is cleared, do you have to comply with certain requirements. MM responded yes, a pre-clearing survey has to be undertaken, threatened species are mapped out, habitat (hollow) trees are marked and felling of potential habitat trees are undertaken in multi-stages to ensure maximum chance of fauna relocation. PS asked if sound records were used as she has had great success. MM advised that she has been recording bat species. Commenting that a lot of fauna have moved away from the quarry. 	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TB asked MD if Dixon Sand have excess bio diversity credits. MD responded yes and explained passive vs active management options. Stating that he is currently going through the government buy back system. TB commented that the native garden at Dixon Sand is looking great. MM advised that a few weeks ago, there were some comments made on a local Maroota Face Book page, following an enquiry about the impact of quarry activities on dust, noise, water quality, etc in the area. The original query came from someone looking at moving to the area. There were some negative responses/comments made. MM provided a positive response to the page, but suggested that CCC community members could make themselves available to the broader community to bring any issues to the CCC. PS commented that the Progress Association often receives questions as well. 	
REVISED CCC GUIDELINES	<p>LA confirmed that DPE have released its revised CCC Guidelines released in June 2023 (which are now available on the Department's website) and referred to the Briefing Sheet provided to members with the meeting notice. LA provided an overview of the key changes, including the requirements for a specific Terms of Reference for the CCC. LA discussed potential recruitment, raising that there is availability on the committee for additional members.</p> <p>LA noted a new CCC member recruitment method means that it is now acceptable to refer potential new members via word of mouth. LA asked if the CCC knew of anyone that would like to join this forum to</p>	<p>Printed CCC guideline handed to PS.</p>

	<p>please provide them with LA's contact details and vice versa.</p> <p>LA stated that she would send out the draft Terms of Reference for members' review, as well as the new Code of Conduct and Pecuniary/Interest Forms for completion and return. Advising that these documents would be reviewed on an annual basis.</p>	
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2024	<p>It was agreed to continue with the bi-annual meetings, May & November 2024. Accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 12.30pm (on site at quarry, Maroota – details to be confirmed). • Wednesday 6 November 2024. 	Agreed.

The meeting was closed at 3:08pm with the chair thanking all members for their attendance.

ACTION ITEM:

NO.	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Send out draft Terms of Reference for comment and governance forms for members' completion and return.	LA