

# **DIXON SAND (PENRITH) PTY LTD**

## **MINUTES OF THE BI-ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

4610 Old Northern Rd

1.00 – 3:15 pm, 15th November 2016.

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### **1 INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES:**

The meeting opened at 1.00pm.

#### **1.1 ATTENDEES**

David Dixon (DD) (*Dixon Sand – Director*)

Hunny Churcher (HC) (*Dixon Sand-Environmental Officer, PES*)

Kristine McKenzie (KM) (*THSC / Acting Chairperson*)

Robert Buckham (RB) (*THSC*)

Patrick Gregson (PG) (*Bush-It*)

Lisa Aylward (LA) (*Maroota Public School Representative*)

Patricia Schwartz (PS) (*Community Representative*)

#### **1.2 APOLOGIES**

Farley Roberts (FR) (*Community Representative*)

Jemma Roberts (JR) (*Observer*)

#### **1.3 INTRODUCTION**

KM opened the meeting with and acted as Chairperson for the meeting.

The Department of Planning and Environment approved the appointment for KM to act as the Chairperson for this CCC Meeting.

## 2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

KM went through business arising from previous minutes including action items:

### Advertisement for the Expression of Interest for new community members

- An EOI was placed in two separate local publications by HC in September and November 2016.

### Select the new site for dust gauge at the front gate and update in the management plan

- HC explained that 3 dust gauges have been relocated to ensure compliance with relevant Australian Standards and safe access for the dust consultant. The new dust gauge locations will be included in the revised management plan.

### Purchasing up-to-date aerial photographs from Council

- HC contacted the Council Officer responsible for spatial data who indicated that the flyover for the photos have been pushed back towards late 2016. HC contacted the Department of Land and Property and was informed that no new photos are available. HC will follow up with Council again in 2017.

### Investigate the use of the Industrial Noise Policy (EPA, 2000) instead of the Interim Construction Noise Guidelines (DECC, 2001)

- HC made an enquiry with Jeff Parnell who is the noise specialist in the Department of Planning and Environment. Jeff indicated that he sees no issue in the adopted methodology for noise monitoring and predicting noise impacts. The use of Setback calculation methodology from at-source monitoring of quarry operations to determine the predicted noise impact at the receivers is considered appropriate (ICNG Section 4.5).
- INP Section 3.2.1 states that *"practical ways of excluding transportation and community noise will depend on the situation"*. One possible technique is *"measuring at another location where industrial source noise levels are equivalent, but transportation noise is much lower"*.
- INP Section 11.1.2 states that *"when compliance is being measured it may be found that, in many cases, existing noise levels are higher than noise levels from the source, making it difficult to separate out the source of noise level. When this happens, it may not be feasible to measure compliance at the specified location, and other methods will be needed. In these cases, measurements may be taken closer to the source and then calculated back to the specified location."* To determine the noise contribution from a development, several techniques are available including *"measuring the noise emissions from each of the premises at reference locations and then calculating the noise-emission levels back to the receiver"*.

Investigate the opportunity to obtain more limit compression breaking signage on public roads.

- HC made an enquiry through Downer Mouchel for the right RMS contact but still waiting for confirmation. DD indicated that a sign already exists on the Old Northern Road as trucks approach the school and that a sign also exists on Wisemans Ferry Road although may have been removed during roadwork and may not yet reinstated.

Process of electing a new Independent Chairperson

- HC indicated that the nomination for a new Independent Chairperson will be made after this CCC Meeting.

### 3 WORK ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PERIOD

DD informed the CCC:

Old Northern Road

- The changes in Production Managers positions
- Current sales reaching the maximum capacity for the quarry
- HC is spending more time on site
- Independent Environmental Audit to commence on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- Review of Management Plans still in progress and comments being addressed
- Modification application for an extension of time and tidy up consent wording has been lodged with the Department of Planning.

Haerses Road

- Fencing and signage for the Biodiversity Offset Area have been erected.
- Fencing and signage for extraction areas have been erected.
- Rowan Russell is the new Safety Officer who is undertaking a systems review to comply with the new Mines Safety Act.
- A modification for quarry expansion has been lodged to extract additional material to the south-west of the approved extraction area. Community Flyer handed out to the CCC.
- RB indicated that The Hills Shire Council has some biodiversity offset land on Porters Road, Kenthurst.

### 4 MONITORING RESULTS

HC recapped the locations of TEOM, static dust gauges, groundwater bores, sensitive receivers and noise monitoring. Two new GW bores have been installed as a requirement for ONR Mod 4. HC explained that 3 depositional dust gauges have been relocated to ensure compliance with Australian Standards and ensure safety for dust consultants, and that the changes will be reflected in the management plan.

#### 4.1 TEOM MONITORING

HC explained how the TEOM station works, what is recorded and how the data is interpreted in particular the PM10 criteria.

HC presented data since July 2016 and explained that the EPL's 24 hour PM10 average criteria of 42 ug/m<sup>3</sup> was exceeded on two occasions; the first exceedance in April and the second exceedance in May. Both exceedances were due to scheduled RFS hazard reduction burns in the surrounding region such as the Blue Mountains, Western Sydney and the Hawkesbury. Air quality was observed to be poor on those recorded days.

#### 4.2 STATIC DUST MONITORING

HC provided details of the depositional static dust monitoring since July 2016 period which is the start of the annual monitoring period. HC informed that the front gate dust gauge has been relocated and monitoring commenced in September 2016.

The depositional dust results are all in compliance

#### 4.3 NOISE MONITORING

HC explained that noise monitoring is undertaken on a 6-monthly basis. The upcoming noise monitoring is scheduled to be carried out in December 2016.

HC informed that the DPE's noise specialist Jeff Parnell has been contacted with confirmation provided that the adopted setback calculations from the Interim Construction Noise Guidelines to predict noise levels at receivers from at-source noise monitoring is a suitable method.

HC presented the noise data and discussed that the predicted noise levels at sensitive receivers are compliant with the noise criteria. HC explained that monitoring for B. and M. Ramm is undertaken at the dam on Haerses Road site due to the property owner not permitting noise monitoring on their property. DD indicated that the property has since been sold and the new owner may agree to noise monitoring being undertaken at the property.

**Action - DD to contact the new property owner regarding noise monitoring at the property.**

#### 4.4 GROUNDWATER DEPTH & QUALITY MONITORING

HC explained that GW depths are measured monthly with consistent depths. Natural variation particularly the perched aquifer boreholes are responsive to wet and dry weather conditions. A new water depth sensor reel has been purchased and now used to monitor the GW level in BH1 with water level recorded at approximately 58.8 metres below ground level.

HC indicated that field pH is reported and laboratory pH is invalid as pH only has a holding time of 6 hours and it is not possible to dispatch the samples to the lab in time. The pH results have been relatively stable apart from H13 at Haerses Road where evidence suggests that groundwater quality was impacted by the application of organic fertiliser in 2015. This was observed as the water was dark in colour and the borehole recharged with dark water straight after the borehole was purged.

HC then presented the electrical conductivity results and explained that BH2, which is a voluntary monitoring borehole, was hit by another quarry truck and resulted in unusually high EC readings ever since. EC for H13 was observed to be high during the

December 2015 monitoring but has reduced back to the normal levels during the June 2016 monitoring.

#### 4.5 REHABILITATION WORKS

HC informed that two areas of rehabilitation at the Old Northern Road are in progress.

Lot 29 - rehabilitation forming the 6.86 hectares of native vegetation corridor (DA250-09-01 Mod 4 commitment) commenced in April 2016. The method of direct translocation of topsoil from the newly cleared area from Lot 2 was adopted. Hollow logs, tree branches and rocks have been retained to create fauna habitat corridor.

Lot 196 - final landform is near complete. The area is to be planted with cover crop for soil conditioning and structural improvement. Soil testing will then determine the requirement for soil amelioration before planting of native grasses, sedges, low shrubs and where soil condition permits, larger/canopy species may be planted.

HC explained that trial cuttings and plant propagation has been carried out for the two endangered species in preparation for the rehabilitation 1) *Melaleuca deanei* and 2) *Darwinia fascicularis* ssp. *oligantha*. Cuttings and specimens were taken by Bunya Native Nursery who is a native plant specialist in Dural. Some of the cuttings of both species have responded well to the treatment with root growth observed. HC indicated that these cuttings and specimens will be used for supplementary planting in the rehabilitation area when condition permits. The *Darwinia* has been translocated to the rehab area on Lot 29.

#### 4.6 BUSH REGNERATION WORKS

PG discussed the number of hours spent at Old Northern Road and at Haerses Road with significantly more hours spent on the latter location.

A total of 186 hours was spent at Haerses and 48 hours at the Mine Site (ONR).

PG informed that the 30 metre buffer screen planting to minimise the visibility of the quarry from Wisemans Ferry Road has been undertaken. Species utilised for screen planting are native to the area and include: *Banksia serrata*, *Kunzea ambigua* and *Casuarina glauca*.

PG presented photographs of the current status of the offset area which has been performing well over the years.

PG explained that noxious weed management and the species present on site being Blackberry, Lantana and Pampas grass. PG mentioned that the blackberry on the windrow adjacent to the 30m buffer screen planting has been treated during Bush-IT's November site visit. PG explained that Lantana is easy to treat. Pampas grass is present on PF's land at the back near the rehabilitation area on Lot 29. DD suggested he could contact PF to seek permission to enter their land for Bush-IT to manage the pampas grass.

**Action - DD to contact PF Formations and request permission for Bush-IT to enter their land adjacent to Lot 29 and treat Pampas grass.**

## 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

DD discussed the complaint received by a resident regarding a near miss accident between a truck heading west on Wisemans Ferry Road and the School bus parking outside the resident's house for school children pickup. DD suggested that the resident contact Council, RMS and the bus company to raise concerns regarding the road safety issue. LA indicated that the bus drop-off location in question is dangerous for school children to be dropped off due to limited vision around the bend and limited area for the bus to safely pull off the road. DD suggested that LA liaise with the school to raise the issue with RMS who have jurisdiction over Wisemans Ferry Road and alert the Bus company of the near miss.

## 6 SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection at the Rehabilitation area on Lot 29 was undertaken. HC showed the CCC where the *Darwinia* has been translocated.

## 7 NEXT CCC MEETING

The next CCC meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017.