

Albion Park Quarry Community Consultative Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Albion Park Quarry CCC

Held on: 22/8/2024 – 1:00pm to 2:00pm

At: Shellharbour Civic Centre

Chaired by: Mr Brian Weir PSM

Attended

Mr John Murray, Community Representative

Ms Susan Dunster, Figtree Hill Representative

Mr Mark Miller, Shellharbour City Council Representative

Mr Todd Kalajzich, Cleary Bros Representative

Mr Mark Hammond, Cleary Bros Representative

Mr Brian Weir PSM (Chairperson, via phone link)

Apologies

Nil

Declarations of interest

The usual interests being Messrs Hammond and Kalajzich being employees of Cleary Bros, the Chairperson being paid a meeting fee and Ms Dunster being an adjoining land owner, were declared.

Agenda item discussion

Item 1. Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:07pm and welcomed all members and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Land on which the meeting was being held and paid his respects to Elders Past, Present and Emerging.

The Chairperson acknowledged the usual declarations of interest being Messrs Hammond and Kalajzich as employees of Cleary Bros., the Chairman as paid a meeting fee and Ms Dunster as an adjoining land owner.

Item 2. Apologies

Nil

Item 3. Business Arising from previous Minutes dated 11 April 2024

The Chairperson referred to the item regarding the appointment of an additional community member, and stated that this matter would be dealt with later in the meeting (Item 6).

Item 4. Correspondence

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The Chairperson advised that he had written to the Department of Planning regarding an additional community representative, and stated that this matter would be dealt with later in the meeting (Item 6).

Item 5. Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

The Chair invited Mr Hammond to speak to the report, and invited comment and feedback from committee members on each item in turn.

In regards to the Progress of the Project, and specifically the section on upcoming works, Mr Hammond advised the expected timelines as follows:

- Infill planting of north screen, fencing and planting of Stage 7a screen – to be completed in Spring over coming months.
- Completed of the Stage 7a amenity bund – underway now, expect completion in about a fortnight followed by hydromulching.
- Eastern ridge vegetation screen – 1st half 2025.
- Rehabilitation of first western bench – next few months.
- Weed control for biodiversity stewardship site – commencing next week.
- Finalisation of Archival Report – expect by end of 2024.

In regards to Biodiversity and Visibility, Mr Hammond reiterated the difficulties encountered with grazing from kangaroos and wallabies, and the fencing that, once erected, appears to have been successful in keeping them out.

In regards to the section on Air Quality, Mr Hammond reiterated that the dust depositional gauges have been decommissioned and that the real time particulate monitors continue to present reliability issues around communications whereby alerts are not always received at the time of the trigger event – Cleary Bros are working with the supplier to resolve this issue.

In regards to Blasting, Mr Hammond and Mr Kalajzich provided further detail on the blasting non-compliance, including the causes of the high blast noise emissions, the learnings gained from blasting in the new area and new orientation, and the changes implemented to address this non-compliance. Ms Dunster noted that the latter of the two blasts contributing to the non-compliance was noted as a being felt more than that of a normal blast at the nearby residence.

In regards to Cultural Heritage, Mr Hammond summarised the activities described in the report.

In regards to Noise, Mr Hammond commented that the monitoring has demonstrated the impact of wind on noise levels at nearby receivers, and the need to review site activities when there is a southerly or southwesterly wind blowing.

In regards to the section on Community Complaints, Mr Miller advised that Council had recently received 2 complaints related to dust build up on the road outside of the quarry. Mr Kalajzich advised that CB sweep the road daily from the Holcim intersection to the East West Link roundabout. Mr Kalajzich noted that it appeared to increase in the days following rainfall, and he usually instructed the sweeper to undertake a double sweep at these times. Mr Hammond encouraged any details that could be shared to be provided to Cleary Bros to assist identifying any opportunities for improvement.

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No further queries were raised by members in relation to the Cleary Bros report.

Item 6. Other Agenda Items

The Chairperson raised the following governance matters:

1. Additional community representative – The Department advised that as there are less than 7 members, the Chairperson can consider appointing representatives without publicly advertising, and who will then be reviewed for appointment by NSW Planning. The Chairperson said that he would write to the members inviting them to nominate any persons they believe may be suitable for his consideration.
2. CCC Annual Report effectiveness of the committee – The Annual Report requires a discussion on the effectiveness of the committee. The Chairperson will invite all members to advise on their impressions on the effectiveness of the committee, which will be considered by the Chairperson for inclusion in the draft annual report.
3. CCC Annual Report – The Chairperson stated that he will circulate the draft annual report on the CCC to all members for comment. Once comments are received, the Chairperson will consider the comments, finalise and send it to the Department for endorsement and publication.

There were no other agenda items.

Item 7. General Business

No general business was raised by any members.

Item 8. Next Meeting

Mr Hammond suggested that the next meeting be held on Thursday December 5, 2024 at 12:45pm meeting at the Quarry weighbridge to allow for a site visit prior to the meeting.

Meeting concluded 1.36pm

Action Items

Action	Responsible	Status
Chairperson to write to representatives seeking nominations for new community representative.	Chairperson	
Chairperson to write to members inviting comment on the effectiveness of the committee.	Chairperson	
Chairperson to complete draft Annual Report following consultation with members.	Chairperson	

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Other comments

Nil

Upcoming meetings

December 5 2024 12:45pm meeting at Albion Park Quarry weighbridge. Please wear enclosed shoes, long sleeve shirt and long pants.

Item 5 – Albion Park Quarry CCC Meeting 22nd August 2024

Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

Progress of the project

Currently extracting rock from Stage 7a. In FY24, 668,428 tonnes of hard rock products were extracted and transported from the site, including approximately 434,638 tonnes of blue basalt products and 233,790 tonnes of red agglomerate. Production going forward is expected to increase as Stage 7 continues to come on line. Site-won production has been supplemented with purchases of raw and processed material from other quarries in recent months to meet customer demands and to ensure suitable quality of material during the establishment of Stage 7a.

Stage 7 update

Since the last meeting in April 2024 the following works have been undertaken:

- Purchase and retirement of biodiversity credits for the Stage 7a area.
- Installation of sediment fence around eastern and southern boundaries (downslope sides) of Stage 7a.
- Clearing of vegetation required to permit extraction for the next 12 months.
- Completion and publication of the Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Belmont.
- Recovery of items of interest from the Belmont.
- Archaeological investigations during the demolition of the Belmont.
- Commencement of northern boundary vegetation screen, including mulching, fencing, and initial planting (refer Figure 4).
- Commencement of Stage 7a vegetation screen, including mulching and initial planting.
- Topsoil and overburden stripping from initial cut areas of Stage 7a.
- Commencement of amenity bund construction along northern boundary of Stage 7a.
- Drilling, blasting, and extraction of the hard rock resource from Stage 7a.
- Biodiversity Stewardship Site scoping report completed.

Upcoming works associated with Stage 7 include:

- Infill planting of the northern vegetation screen.
- Fencing of the Stage 7a vegetation screen and follow up planting.
- Completion of the Stage 7a amenity bund and planting.
- Commencement of the eastern ridge vegetation screen.
- Rehabilitation of the first part of the uppermost western bench of Stage 7a.
- Targeted weed control and ecological surveys to establish the Biodiversity Stewardship site.
- Finalisation of Archival Report for the Belmont.

Site visit

A site visit was held last meeting and is not planned for this meeting.

Monitoring and environmental performance

Air Quality

Since the last report, an updated Air Quality Monitoring Program was implemented. This involved the decommissioning of the dust deposition gauges, and the relocation of the High Volume Air Sample (HVAS) and real time particulate monitors.

Depositional dust, which consists of larger dust particles that can settle out on surfaces, have varied across the site (12-month average), with the gauge closest to the site entrance averaging 4.3g/m²/month (down from 4.7g/m²/month at the time of the last meeting), while all other gauges recorded between 1.5 and 2.0g/m²/month (from 1.7 – 1.8 g/m²/month at the time of the last meeting). The depositional dust gauges were decommissioned in June 2024, and are no longer used on the site.

The HVAS records dust particles that are suspended in the air and are smaller than 10 micrometers, which is referred to as particulate matter (PM₁₀). The rolling annual average has reduced slightly from the last report, from 11.3 µg/m³ to 10.8 µg/m³ at the end of June 2024, which is below the criteria of 25 µg/m³. There were no exceedances of the incremental criteria since the last meeting, with the highest total measurement of 18.4 µg/m³ below the incremental criteria of 50 µg/m³. The HVAS was relocated to the new location closer to the Figtree Hill residences since the last CCC meeting.

All measurements of air quality are within the criteria of the Development Consent and Environment Protection Licence for the Quarry.

Cleary Bros has deployed the three real time particulate dust monitors around the site. These monitors report average dust readings at 10 minute intervals and send these measurements to an online platform. In the event any monitor detects elevated dust levels above the trigger values, they are configured to send an email alert to the Quarry Supervisor, Quarry Manager, and Environmental Officer. Most alerts received to date are short term (once-off) spikes rather than sustained elevated dust levels. However the monitor closest to the processing plant has identified elevated dust on two occasions which were able to be corrected. Cleary Bros are having some reliability issues with communicating with these monitors which we are currently trying to resolve.

Biodiversity and Visibility

Vegetation clearing was conducted during June in the initial cut area. An ecologist was present on site for these clearing works, with all large habitat trees tapped repeatedly to encourage any resident fauna to leave. No fauna was detected, with the clearing timed for winter to reduce potential impacts to native fauna. Cleared trees were left on the ground for at least a week to allow any remaining fauna to move on. No further clearing will be required until next winter. The trees and shrubs running north-south along the dry stone wall within the Stage 7a area continue to provide excellent screening to the majority of the quarry activities within Stage 7, and will be retained in the short term until the Stage 7a screen begins to take hold.

An additional 5 biodiversity plots were established in June 2024 to monitor for any indirect impacts associated with Stage 7.

The vegetation screens along the northern boundary and eastern boundary of Stage 7a have been affected by grazing animals since plantings were undertaken in June 2024. After noticing plant losses soon after planting, a trail camera was set up to see what was impacting the seedlings. Kangaroos and wallabies were regularly recorded on the southern end of the Stage 7a screen (refer Figure 5). An electric fence was subsequently erected around the northern screen (refer Figure 3), and this appears to have been effective in keeping grazers out of this screen. An electric fence will be established in the Stage 7a screen area shortly, with replanting to be undertaken once the fence is in place. Cleary Bros are also considering the potential for hydromulching this area with target seeds to improve establishment.

Blasting

Cleary Bros recorded two blasts with airblast overpressure (noise) between 115 and 120 dBL at the nearest receiver during FY24, meaning that 6% of blasts in FY24 were above 115 dBL. This is above the Development Consent limit of no more than 5% of blasts above 115 dBL. Investigations into this non-compliance has identified different causes for these two blasts, with one caused by rifling in a shallow hole, and the other caused by the orientation of the blast and noise-enhancing conditions present on the day. Cleary Bros have reported this exceedance to the Department of Planning, and are currently updating the Blast Management Plan to prevent future non-compliances. No blasts exceeded the maximum airblast overpressure criteria of 120 dBL. The vibration recorded for each of these blasts was less than 1 mm/s, which is very low.

All blast results have complied with vibration limits of the Development Consent and Environmental Protection Licence limits. FY24 average and maximum blast overpressure (noise) at the nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 104.6 dB(L) and 119.1 dB(L) respectively. FY24 average and maximum blast vibration at the nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 1.27 mm/s and 2.55 mm/s respectively.

Cultural Heritage

Since the last meeting, Cleary Bros has finalised the Heritage Interpretation Plan for the Belmont, and published this on our website for members of the public to explore (available at <http://www.clearybros.com.au/belmont/>). It has also been provided to the Shellharbour Museum and Shellharbour City Council for their use.

During the demolition of the Belmont, Cleary Bros undertook an archaeological excavation that focused on the areas around the house, as well as the site of the former Dairy and Bails (refer Figure 1). Of greatest interest were certain materials uncovered during the demolition of the house, including a piece of architrave that identified the original builder (T W Whitfield), and various items recovered from beneath the floorboards, including a branding iron (refer Figure 2). These small items have been provided to Shellharbour Museum. Cleary Bros encouraged those with a connection to the Belmont to identify materials they may wish to retain as part of the demolition. From this process, 9 stakeholder groups registered interest for various items of building fabric. Cleary Bros engaged a specialist environmental firm to oversee the demolition, with the aim to recover as much of the requested materials as possible. While some material, such as most of the wall lining,

weatherboard, and floorboards, were in a poor condition and not suitable for salvage, Cleary Bros were able to recover much of the remaining fabric. Items recovered include:

- Various structural timbers
- Roof sheeting
- Doors, door framing, hardware, and front door highlight
- Windows and window framing
- Some floorboards and external weatherboards
- Majority of the architraves, picture rails, skirting boards
- Lime mortared bricks
- Various other unique items such as the finial, chimney pots, small water tank, wall and underfloor vents, light switches, parts of the stone foundations

A full list of recovered fabric will be included in the Archival Report.

Noise

Cleary Bros has undertaken monthly noise monitoring of surface activities since April 2024. On each occasion, the noise levels at the nearest sensitive receiver were measured for 2 x 15 minute intervals. Noise levels were significantly influenced by wind direction, with the quarry generally inaudible in light northerly winds. During light southerly winds the surface activities were audible, and at times co-dominant amongst a background of bird noise and traffic noise from the Princes Highway. For each of these monitoring periods, noise generated from the quarry has averaged less than 43 dBA, with an occasional spike of up to 48 dBA, which is consistent with the modelling undertaken for this work and meets Development Consent requirements.

A real time noise monitor has been in place on the northern boundary of Stage 7 since April 2024. This monitor is set up to provide alerts when average 15-min noise levels exceed a site specific trigger level. This monitor has identified that quarry-related noise rarely exceeds the trigger level with the exception of periods of southerly and southwesterly winds. The capture of audio at this monitor has also allowed Cleary Bros to identify the source of any exceedances, and adjust operations accordingly.

Cleary Bros undertook the biannual attended noise compliance monitoring in June 2024. This was undertaken during noise enhancing conditions at the closest receiver. Noise levels associated with quarrying activities were measured at 48-50 dBA (15-min average). These noise levels are consistent with what was modelled for surface activities within Stage 7a once adjusted for the noise enhancing conditions, and meet the requirements of the Development Consent.

The quarry was mostly inaudible at the other eastern receiver surveyed and within the noise limits for this site.

Water Management

Cleary Bros have commenced the revised groundwater monitoring program in line with the current Water Management Plan. During FY24, all bores were sampled for the analytes required in the Water Management Plan, including the newly installed bores monitoring spring-fed dam inflows. The data from these bores is yet to be reviewed in detail, however this will be included in the Annual Review for 2024.

Groundwater management and monitoring is in compliance with the Development Consent for the Quarry.

Independent Environmental Audit

Cleary Bros engaged ERM Consulting to undertake the 3-yearly Independent Environmental Audit of the Albion Park Quarry, which included a site inspection on 7 November 2023. The audit identified 3 administrative non-compliances and 2 observations which have since been closed out.

The next independent environmental audit is scheduled for late 2024.

Community Complaints

Cleary Bros have received one anonymous community complaint since the last meeting in relation to dust build up and dust in the air. The revised Air Quality Monitoring Program has been implemented since this time.

Community Engagement

Following the approval of the Stage 7 extension, Cleary Bros suggest that is a timely opportunity for a routine review of the makeup and operation of the Community Consultative Committee to ensure it is still in line with the requirements and objectives of the current Guidelines.

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.

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

Signed:

Mark Hammond (Environmental Officer)

14/8/2024

Figures



Figure 1
Archaeological survey in
the area of the former
Dairy and Bails



Figure 2
Branding iron and other
materials recovered from
under the kitchen floor –
donated to Shellharbour
Museum



Figure 3
Northern vegetation screen after electric fencing installed

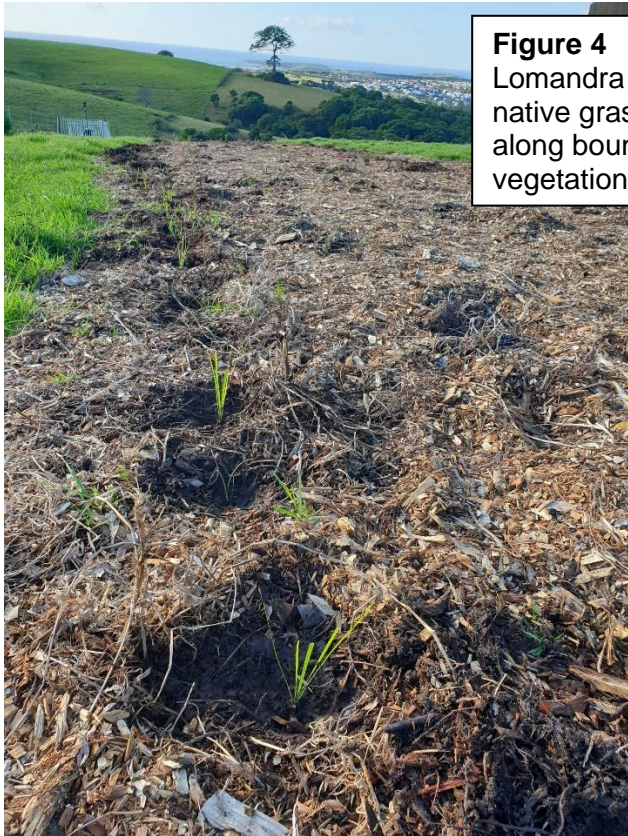


Figure 4
Lomandra and dianella native grasses planted along boundary of vegetation screens.

Figure 5
Kangaroos browsing new plantings in Stage 7a vegetation screen

