

Albion Park Quarry Community Consultative Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Albion Park Quarry CCC

Held on: 5/12/2024 – 12:45pm to 2:00pm

At: Albion Park Quarry

Chaired by: Mr Brian Weir PSM

Attended

Mr John Murray, Community Representative

Ms Susan Dunster, Figtree Hill Representative

Ms Maree Filmer, substitute Shellharbour City Council Representative

Mr Todd Kalajzich, Cleary Bros Representative

Mr Mark Hammond, Cleary Bros Representative

Mr Brian Weir PSM, Chairperson

Apologies

Mr Mark Miller, Shellharbour City Council Representative

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. Site Visit

All members met at the Albion Park Quarry weighbridge at 12:45pm, where PPE was provided and safety protocols outlined. Members were signed in to the site as visitors, and then assembled into Cleary Bros cars for the site visit. Members passed through the Sales Area, where they were shown the material stockpiles as well as the fixed processing plant, which was manufacturing aggregates at the time of the inspection. Members also observed various trucks being loaded and the production of manufactured sand. The pugmill, used to stabilise roadbase and to produce sealing aggregates, was also observed, however it was not in operation at the time of the inspection. Various questions were asked regarding the production processes, which were answered at the time by Cleary Bros.

The party then proceeded along the haul road up to the top of the cutting, where they stopped and disembarked for 10 minutes to view site activities within the extraction area. Activities observed included hauling of quarry materials from the extraction area to the main processing plant, road watering for dust suppression, operation of the mobile primary crushing plant on the quarry pit floor, and other ancillary activities associated with the quarry. Various questions were asked regarding site activities, which were answered at the time by Cleary Bros.

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The party then proceeded to the active dig face within the Stage 7 area, where haul trucks were being loaded by an excavator. Members remained in the vehicles, however observed the rock armouring and overburden placed for the first western bench rehabilitation, Stage 7 limit pegs, and preparations for the next blast. Various questions were asked regarding site activities, which were answered at the time by Cleary Bros.

The party then returned via the cutting to the Pit 1 fill area, where Cleary Bros were receiving fill material for the rehabilitation of the quarry. Members observed the tipping of fill in the area, and the reshaping of this material by a dozer. Various questions were asked regarding the source of the fill material, what the area would look like once completed, and how long Cleary Bros had been bringing the material in, which were all answered at the time by Cleary Bros. There being no further questions, the party then returned to the Quarry Managers office for the scheduled meeting.

Item 2. Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:51pm 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 Kalajich as employees of Cleary Bros., the Chairman as paid a meeting fee and Ms Dunster as an adjoining land owner.

Item 3. Apologies

Mark Miller, Shellharbour City Council representative

Item 4. Business Arising from previous Minutes dated 22 August 2024

The Chairperson referred to the item regarding the nomination of an additional community member. No potential members have been put forward as yet. The Chairperson will continue to invite nominations for potential candidates to the position and will discuss further with Mr Miller on his return, leaning on his experience of potential candidates from other community consultative committees. Mr Murray also stated that he would give this matter further consideration.

Item 5. Correspondence

Nil correspondence sent or received relating to the CCC, noting Cleary Bros sent the FY24 Annual Review to all members since the last meeting.

Item 6. 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 relation to the update to the management strategies and plans, Mr Hammond added that the Department of Planning has subsequently approved the Rehabilitation Management Plan and Environmental Management Strategy this week.

In regards to the section on Air Quality, Mr Hammond added that the real time particulate dust monitoring data is now available on Cleary Bros website.

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In regards to the section on Noise, Mr Hammond added that the report from the external biannual noise monitoring has been received, and shows activities comply with the noise criteria of the development consent.

In regards to the section on Water Management, Ms Dunster asked whether the spring-fed monitoring bores had been sampled recently. Mr Hammond responded that he wasn't sure, and would review and provide an update to Ms Dunster after the meeting.

In relation to the Independent Environmental Audit, Mr Hammond confirmed that the audit was scheduled to be undertaken in late January 2025.

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

Item 7. Other Agenda Items

Nil

Item 8. General Business

Sale of Cleary Bros to Maas Group

Mr Hammond acknowledged the sale of various Cleary Bros assets including the Albion Park Quarry to Maas Group, was announced last Thursday 29/11/24. Mr Hammond and Mr Kalajzich confirmed that this sale would not likely change the current operations or branding, there would just be a different owner, with the majority of the people involved in the operation of the quarry unlikely to change. The changeover is to be made on 31st January 2025. Mr Hammond and Mr Kalajzich reiterated that they expect it to be business as usual following the changeover.

No further general business was raised by any members.

Item 9. Next Meeting

Mr Hammond suggested that the next meeting be held on Thursday April 10, 2024 at 1:00pm at the Shellharbour Civic Centre.

Meeting concluded 2:20pm

Action Items

| Action | Responsible | Status |
|---|-------------|--------|
| Chairperson to discuss with Mr Miller potential candidates for vacant community representative position | Chairperson | |
| MH to confirm whether any groundwater monitoring has been undertaken since last meeting and advise SD | M Hammond | |

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Other comments

Nil

Upcoming meetings

April 10 2024 1:00pm meeting at Shellharbour Civic Centre.

Item 6 – Albion Park Quarry CCC Meeting 5th December 2024

Cleary Bros reports and overview of activities

Progress of the project

Cleary Bros are currently extracting rock from Stage 7a. To the 31st October 2024, 228,571 tonnes of hard rock products were extracted and transported from the extraction area for FY25 (representing an annualised rate of 685,714t), including approximately 115,098 tonnes of higher quality latite products and 113,474 tonnes of products manufactured from weathered material and red agglomerate. In addition, 17,101 tonnes of clean fill material has been imported to the Pit 1 area (Storage Area) for rehabilitation of the quarry void. Production going forward is expected to increase to an annualised rate of approximately 800,000t as the site continues into the higher quality resource. Site-won production has been supplemented with purchases of raw and processed material from other quarries at times to meet customer demands and to ensure suitable quality of material while we continue to establish in Stage 7a. These imports have reduced in recent months and are expected to remain at lower levels going forward.

Stage 7 update

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

- Infill planting of the northern vegetation screen (with mostly fast-growing casuarinas).
- Fencing of the Stage 7a vegetation screen.
- Completion of the construction of the Stage 7a amenity bund.
- Hydromulch application to the Stage 7a amenity bund.
- Hydromulching a section of the Stage 7a vegetation screen to test the effectiveness of this method.
- Completion of the excavation profile of the first western bench of Stage 7a in preparation for rehabilitation.
- Topsoil and overburden stripping from continuation of surface disturbance within Stage 7a.
- Drilling, blasting, and extraction of the hard rock resource from Stage 7a.

Upcoming works associated with Stage 7 include:

- Infill planting of the northern vegetation screen.
- Tubestock planting of the Stage 7a amenity bund if required.
- Commencement of the eastern ridge vegetation screen.
- Overburden and topsoil placement, and revegetation of the first western bench of Stage 7a.
- Weed control prior to establishment of the Biodiversity Stewardship site.
- Finalisation of Archival Report for the Belmont.

The following management strategies and plans have been updated and submitted to the Department of Planning for approval:

- Blast Management Plan (updated plan approved by Planning Secretary on 31/10/2024) relates to additional controls to minimise air overpressure emissions when blasting near the surface.
- Rehabilitation Management Plan (submitted for approval 8/11/2024) includes minor amendments to revegetation methods and trials aimed to improve success of rehabilitation efforts based on site knowledge.
- Air Quality Monitoring Program updated (29/10/2024) to include minor improvements to Trigger Action Response Plan.
- Noise Monitoring Program updated (30/10/2024) to include noise trigger level at site boundary, as well as other minor amendments following initial noise compliance monitoring.
- Environmental Management Strategy (submitted for approval 8/11/2024) updated to align with the above amendments.

Site visit

A site visit is planned for this meeting.

Monitoring and environmental performance

Air Quality

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 increased slightly from the last report,

from 10.8 µg/m³ to 12.9 µg/m³ at the end of October 2024, which is below the criteria of 25 µg/m³. There was one exceedance of the incremental criteria since the last meeting, with an incremental result of 99.5 µg/m³, which is above the criteria of 50 µg/m³. An investigation into the non-compliance identified that extreme weather contributed to the non-compliance, however additional controls are currently being implemented to better identify and manage particulate matter levels during extreme weather events.

Cleary Bros has operated the three real time particulate dust monitors in line with the Air Quality Monitoring Program. The reliability of these monitors was poor during September, however has since improved and through October and the first half of November have been beneficial in identifying and responding to emerging dust issues. The monitors are currently going through their annual calibration offsite – this involves sending the monitors one at a time to the manufacturer for servicing and calibration, a process that takes up to a month for each monitor. This means that we only have 2 of the monitors in operation on the site – we have prioritised those monitors near Figtree Hill and the Albion Park Rail communities at these times, and as such do not have the monitor established at the eastern monitoring site for the duration of the calibration process.

All measurements of air quality are within the criteria of the Development Consent and Environment Protection Licence for the Quarry with the exception of the one non-conformance identified above.

Biodiversity and Visibility

No vegetation clearing has been undertaken since the last meeting. No further clearing will be required until next winter.

Since the last meeting, the amenity bund has been constructed along the northern boundary of Stage 7a, and hydromulched with a cover crop of millet and fast-growing local shrub species. The success of the hydromulching will be monitored over coming months, with follow up planting undertaken if required to improve plant establishment.

The vegetation screen along the northern boundary is now in a maintenance phase. An additional 300 plants including 200 faster growing casuarinas and 100 eucalypts were planted since the last meeting. The electric fence in this area has been beneficial, with minimal plant losses since installation, and visible growth of seedlings. Ongoing maintenance involves continued monitoring of plant survival and growth, and control of weeds within the screen zone.

The vegetation screen along the eastern boundary of Stage 7a has been fenced since the last meeting, with a section of the screen hydromulched with the same native seed mix as for the amenity bund. Further planting of tubestock is planned for this zone in the coming months.

Blasting

At the previous meeting, Cleary Bros reported a non-compliance of the air overpressure limit for FY24. DPHI have since approved an updated Blast Management Plan which includes additional measures to prevent future non-compliances.

All blast results since the last meeting have complied with vibration and air overpressure limits of the Development Consent and Environmental Protection Licence limits. FY25 average and maximum blast overpressure (noise) at the nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 107.1 dB(L) and 113.3 dB(L) respectively. FY25 average and maximum blast vibration at the nearest sensitive receptor were recorded as 0.90 mm/s and 2.89 mm/s respectively.

Cultural Heritage

Cleary Bros have engaged Bosis to prepare an Archival Report for the Belmont, which is currently being prepared, and will be made available to Shellharbour City Council and the Shellharbour Museum on finalisation.

No other activities related to cultural heritage have been undertaken since the last meeting.

Noise

Since the last meeting, Cleary Bros has undertaken monthly noise monitoring of surface activities on 23/8, 23/9, and 10/10. 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 inaudible in light northerly winds on the 23/8. On the 23/9, light to moderate westerly winds meant the surface activities of the quarry were faintly audible at times in one of the 15-minute periods, albeit comprising a minor part of the background noise environment. During light easterly winds on the 10/10, the quarry surface activities were faintly audible at times in one of the 15-minute periods, albeit comprising a minor part of the background noise environment. For each of these monitoring periods, noise generated from the quarry has averaged less than the background (which was between 38 and 48 dBA), which is consistent with the modelling undertaken for this work and meets Development Consent requirements. None of these surface monitoring periods since

the last meeting was during periods of light southerly winds, which are likely to enhance noise levels at the nearest sensitive receiver.

The real time noise monitor continues to record noise levels at the northern boundary of Stage 7. With quarrying activity becoming progressively more shielded within the extraction area, almost all triggers at this site now relate to external noise sources, such as from wind and birds. Nevertheless, it will continue to be used to assess quarry noise contributions, and will be particularly beneficial during surface activities such as drilling and soil stripping.

Cleary Bros undertook the biannual attended noise compliance monitoring in November 2024. This was undertaken during standard weather conditions. Cleary Bros is yet to receive the report for this monitoring from SLR Consulting, the consultants engaged to undertake it.

Water Management

Cleary Bros have implemented the surface water and groundwater monitoring programs in line with the approved Water Management Plan. There are no current or emerging issues associated with water management.

Independent Environmental Audit

Cleary Bros have engaged James Hart Consulting to undertake an Independent Environmental Audit of the Albion Park Quarry, which will be carried out prior to March 2025 in line with the conditions of the Development Consent.

Community Complaints

Cleary Bros have received 5 community complaints since the last meeting, with two related to material tracking on to public roads and 3 related to dust emissions from the quarry. Cleary Bros has responded to each complaint, and gathered additional information on the nature of the complaint where possible. In light of these complaints, Cleary Bros have reviewed our current street sweeping strategies to ensure we are sweeping the area of the East West Link daily, and continue to operate the real time dust monitoring network to respond quickly to any emerging dust emissions on the site.

Community Engagement

Cleary Bros suggests the committee include an additional community representative to ensure effective communication with the local communities.

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)

25/11/2024