

Meeting Notes

Holcim – Lynwood Quarry Community Consultative Group

Project	Lynwood Quarry Community Consultative Group	Date	7 November 2025
	12:00 pm – 1.45 pm		
Chair	Brendan Blakeley	Recorder	Brendan Blakeley
Attendees	Councillor Bob Kirk, Goulburn Mulwaree Council (GMC) Susan Pearson, Cockbundoon Heritage Association Annette Ohlback and Phillip Ohlback, Towrang Progress Association John Nicastri, Life Member Mark Fenton Jones, Marulan Progress Association (by phone) Kurt Bridges, Holcim Wayne Beattie, Holcim	Apologies	Celin Joshy, Holcim Scott Gallacher, General Manager, GMC

Item	Discussion
1.	Welcome and introductions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting commenced at 12:00 pm.Brendan Blakeley welcomed participants. He acknowledged Country and thanked CCG members for taking the time to participate in the meeting.Brendan welcomed new members: Annette Ohlback, Phillip Ohlback (observer) and Mark Fenton Jones.
2.	Quarry update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wayne Beattie, Holcim, provided an update on operational matters arising over the past few months. Discussion items included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">There have been seven reportable incidents in the year to date. These are matters that Holcim must report to the regulator.The most recent of these related to dust exceedances in work areas.This is measured by wearable monitoring equipment that measures a worker's actual exposure and time spent within higher risk environments where a respirator is required.The limits are lower and set as thresholds to ensure there is minimal risk of overexposure. That said the incidents were reportable and Holcim worked with staff to investigate how these occurred.In response Holcim has made changes to some procedures to ensure staff follow protocols around time spent within these environments.So far this year 181 hazard reports have been made across different aspects of quarry operations. These are not reportable to the regulator, but are part of Holcim's approach to encourage a safety-first culture and ensure that all staff are on the lookout for potential risks before they arise.<i>Susan Pearson noted that the number of hazard reports seems high.</i>Wayne emphasised that reporting hazards is a proactive measure and Holcim wants all hazards reported, no matter how small, so these can be addressed before they become a problem. Given there is workforce of around 50 people on site this equates to each staff member

reporting 3-4 hazards throughout the year. Hazards can be anything from a rock on the road or a tool left unattended.

- Kurt Bridges added that reporting hazards was an important part of building a culture of looking out for threats to safety and being proactive in detection and prevention.
- *Phillip Ohlbach asked if the Take 5 Minutes program was still in operation.*
- Wayne responded that this program was a key risk prevention strategy and at the start of each day, every team member is asked to spend 5 minutes to check the safety of their work area.
- Wayne noted since the last meeting Lynwood had had two unplanned assessments by the regulator. This is consistent with previous patterns of visitation and those experienced by most Tier 1 operators. The regulator provided feedback on certain aspects of operations for Holcim to consider.
- Holcim is also implementing a company wide Health By Design program that provides mental health and resilience training. The program is currently focused on sleep and diet and has received good take up from staff. As part of the program a dietician will be onsite every few weeks.
- Staff also attended the Mining Regulator's "Safety trends and Innovation Summit" where more than 300 people from across the quarrying and mining sector get together to share ideas and catch up on the latest thinking and practices around mine safety.

Site operations and performance

- Wayne noted that:
 - Celin Joshy is now looking after all environmental matters on site. This includes implementing management plans and monitoring and reporting obligations.
 - Over the past few months three quarry operations positions and one maintenance supervisor position have been filled.
 - Lynwood has experienced a high rate of staff retention.
 - Replacement equipment includes a new C160 jaw crusher. The current crusher has processed over 23 million tonnes of rock and worked for 39,000 hours. The replacement crusher is on route from WA and will be installed over Christmas.
 - Quarry throughput has been consistent, with 1.8 million tonnes production year to date, and a total of 2.1 million tonnes anticipated by Christmas.
 - The extraction pit is progressing as per the five-year plan. The team is starting to cut into real level (RL) 595 metres and the pit is now close to 100 metres deep. By the end of 2026 the pit will reach RL 580 metres.
 - Activities will stay at this level, and the pit will then be expanded laterally. A contractor is currently bench-stripping overburden from the western edge of the pit in preparation of the pit's expansion to the west.

Community

- Holcim is currently supporting a number of community activities as part of its community benefits program, including loaning out the BBQ trailer for community use and sponsoring community BBQs.
 - Visits to the mine have been conducted for groups including Norwest Christian College and St Nicks Men Group.
 - Holcim was also pleased to host 15 engineering students from the University of Wollongong.
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- A family day was also held to celebrate 10 years of operation, with 360 people attending and enjoying a range of family activities.

Environmental monitoring and reporting

- There have been four reportable incidents so far this year.
- As of November, the quarry will have had no complaints since late 2021 (ie close to four years).
- Holcim has received a few calls enquiring about dust, however the quarry was not the source.
- Holcim welcome all calls / queries regarding the quarry. The sooner we hear from people the easier it is to ascertain the source of the issue.
- The team is very proactive about managing dust. We also cease operations if winds get above a certain level.
- The Box Gum Woodland Management Plan has been finalised and approved. Rehabilitation activities need to be completed by 2036.
- Holcim is seeking quotes to continue environmental works from qualified regeneration specialists.
- The conservation area plan is in draft form, currently awaiting approval
- In terms of environmental monitoring, Holcim is pleased with recent results which demonstrate compliance in most areas except for some anomalies around noise and surface water.
- Dust levels have been satisfactory at PM 10 and PM 2.5. PM 2.5 is an important measure of very fine particulates that could be breathed in and impact health.
- The noise related incidents are anomalous and investigation has shown that these are likely to be due to measurement procedures for night time noise in the Dorset Road area.
- Groundwater measurement showed one high level exceedance.
- GPZ01 PH exceedance was due to farming activities on neighbouring properties.
- Surface water samples have shown signs of eucalyptus tannins. This is a natural process but is still reportable.

Land management

- The weed control program continues:
 - The current focus is on serrated tussock. Treatments have occurred by helicopter and drone using granular flupropanate on priority areas.
 - Holcim is starting to see fireweed which is not particularly common. We are using hand picking, bagging and disposing of weeds at the waste centre.
 - St Johns Wort has been challenging to date as the spray used also damages the hoary sunray which is a protected plant on site.
 - We have released some native beetles that eat St Johns Wort and will evaluate this biological control method over autumn and winter to test its success.
 - Blackberry treatment continues using high volume spraying.
- Eastern Gray Kangaroo control:
 - Holcim is working with NPWS and has identified over 1800 roos onsite.
 - This number is unsustainable, and NPWS is advising on a removal program, with two rounds of 150 roos to be removed each year.
 - We are also monitoring and where necessary getting rid of foxes, rabbits, deer and goats.

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- On the northwest edge of Dorset Road we have pegged out the area for a 2 megalitre (ML) above ground reservoir to be built for Council. This is a Council project to provide water to the new estate and will increase overall water storage capacity.
 - We have involved the University of Wollongong (UoW), Western Sydney University (WSU) and Charles Sturt University (CSU) to study wombats on site. They have come back to us with a proposal for a two year study of wombat sarcoptic mange.
 - Holcim also undertook a winter ecology survey. The established nesting boxes are working well and nests are in good condition. They are home to sugar gliders, possums, microbats and various bird species. We will continue to study the boxes twice a year.

Aboriginal heritage management

- Holcim is being advised by both the Pejar and Gundungurra Land Councils on the management of 75 Aboriginal heritage areas.
- Representatives of the Land Councils visit the site regularly to do Aboriginal heritage management work. The latest activities have been oiling the scar trees, repairing fencing around heritage areas and weed control.
- Construction of the cultural heritage centre / keeping place is imminent and is expected to commence before 2026. A contractor has been appointed, and the area will soon be fenced off in preparation for onsite work.
- In addition to artefact storage, the keeping place will be a place for Aboriginal people to meet and share cultural knowledge. Holcim is considering being able to take school groups through the cultural centre.
- Holcim is providing seed funding for the centre, with a view to the keeping place becoming self sustaining over time. The cultural centre will not be open to the general public but will be opened for arranged visits.

Other matters

- *Annette asked if visitors are welcome at the quarry.*
 - Wayne noted that they will take groups of visitors through the site subject to prior arrangements and where this can be done safely. Groups will be appropriately sized with around 6 to 8 people. Details are on the website and Holcim those who are interested in a quarry visit to get in touch.
 - Councillor Kirk noted that he would like the new General Manager to tour the site.
 - *Annette asked if Holcim could assist in replacing the community noticeboard.* Wayne encouraged Annette to put in a request.
 - *John Nicatsri asked about the flag pole for the Anzac Park. John stated that a seven metre pole would be adequate.*
 - *Philip commented that another quarry is looking at pit crushing and moving rock via a conveyor. Kurt noted that longer term Holcim is investigating this. It would be quieter and more environmentally efficient, and while costly to set up, would also be more cost effective long term. This would involve preparation of a business case and would also require an updated site approval before proceeding.*
 - *Annette asked if Holcim could sponsor the BBQ at the forthcoming Towrang Day.* Wayne asked Annette to contact him in relation to this. In addition to arranging the supply of food, he would also provide Annette with Holcim banners and flags.
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- Wayne asked members to help spread the word about the community grants support program within the community. A maximum of \$5,000 per grant is available. The program is open at all times, but applications should be made well in advance as the Holcim approval process can take some time.
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3. **General Discussion**

- *Members agreed the next meeting would be conducted in March or April 2026.*
 - Draft minutes will be distributed for review within two-three weeks.
 - If there are any immediate operational related matters, members are encouraged to contact the quarry directly.
 - Brendan can be reached by email at Brendan@elumni.au and phone **0412 686 026**.
 - Brendan thanked members for their involvement and contribution to the group and wished them well for the holidays and new year.
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4. **Meeting close – 1.15 pm**

5. **Site tour**

- Members went on a tour of the pit and amenity bund. Matters discussed included:
 - The location of the amenity bund.
 - Success of tree growth occurring on the bund.
 - The potential locations for a conveyor from the pit to the crushing plant.
 - Traffic management of trucks working the pit.
 - The final size of the completed pit.
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