

MT. SHAMROCK QUARRY  
ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
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## Meeting Summary

27<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
(4.00pm - 5.20pm)

Via Zoom

### Committee Members

#### Present:

Matt Dodds	Holcim Australia
Nathan Thomas	
Don Petty	Local Community Representatives
Rosemary Buczak	
Joy Carberry	
Benny Asviratham	Earth Resources Regulation
Geoff Gilbert	
Melanie Wright	Shire of Cardinia

#### Apologies:

Stewart Burton	Holcim Australia
Cr Jeff Springfield	Shire of Cardinia

#### Chairperson:

Lisa Barrant (Chairperson)	Possibilities Pty Ltd
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### Welcome and apologies

Lisa welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and noted the challenging times currently faced with COVID-19. Apologies were conveyed from Councillor Jeff Springfield; and Melanie Wright was welcomed back to the Committee after extended leave. Benny Asviratham was also welcomed as an additional representative from Earth Resources Regulation.

***Action 50.1 Phase A plantings.***

During the site tour in May 2019 the Committee looked at some of the Phase A & B planting areas. There was significant tree loss in some areas, where mainly acacia species had died. During spring, Naturelinks planted approximately 500 new trees to infill the areas of highest loss. The species used were those specified in the agreed plan for that area but Naturelinks selected species from that list that were likely to have a higher success rate.

In November 2019, the Committee once again visited the area to see the replanting. After discussion, the Committee asked that more information be sought to better understand what might have caused such substantial losses so that any new replanting regime for the provision of visual screening should incorporate learnings from what has happened. Also, there was concern expressed that the density of replanting undertaken so far would not provide visual screening as required.

At this meeting, the Committee discussed the report “Phase A & B Planting - Dieback Report” produced by Naturelinks. It was noted that an additional 500 plants had now been planted (bringing the total to 1000) and that Holcim’s arrangements with Naturelinks would ensure the ongoing infill of plants in coming years if required. A number of actions had been taken to increase survival rates including changing the tree species selected from the approved list, plans for additional watering/weeding as needed and better access. The species list was reviewed in May by Council. Holcim will consider understory in future planting areas where it is not specified specifically as part of the program. The recommendations of the report will be included and monitored as part of the quarterly EMP reporting process.

This closes out this item.

***Action 50.2 Groundwater and Springs***

Following a comprehensive discussion in February 2020 (attended by technical specialists from the ERR and SRW), the following actions were agreed:

1. Holcim to discuss with AECOM some more in depth review/analysis of existing and additional information such as quarry depth, sequencing and activity; for example; extraction, overburden placement, rehabilitation/revegetation, etc. and consideration of other potential explanations (e.g. quarry operations, groundwater catchment changes due to land use changes including a review of other local springs where possible to ascertain comparative flow changes, etc.). This will build confidence in the conclusions of the report.
2. Holcim to consider flow rate monitoring for springs as a means of providing a more comprehensive picture of the spring functioning.
3. Holcim to consider what ‘good faith’ actions might be taken (irrespective of further analysis) to provide increased water supply at spring sites.
4. On the request of ERC members ERR are available to come and look at any relevant spring sites on private land in the next few weeks to better understand the context and any concerns.

At this meeting, Nathan and Matt reported that internal discussions had commenced on all three of the Holcim actions but that due to the significant challenges with site access etc. (brought about by COVID-19) they were not yet ready to bring to the Committee and therefore this item has been held over until August. There was also an intention to have an AECOM person come along to the August meeting to help the discussion, and an additional item has been added to that effect.

Matt Dodd

## Environment Management Quarterly Report

On this occasion both the October – December 2019 EMP Report and the January – March 2020 Report were accepted as having been read with no need for discussion. The only point mentioned for clarity was the significant dust exceedences caused by ash from the summer’s bushfires. Matt will report these through to the ERR.

### New business, discussions and actions arising from this meeting

### Person Responsible

#### EMP Audit Report

The Committee discussed this report and noted the low number of minor non conformances and also that there had been no complaints during the period. There was some discussion around capturing longer term trend information for understanding how variables and measures are changing over time, for example the GHG emissions which, although not meeting the specified annual target have been reducing year on year for some time. The actions / recommendations from the audit will be incorporated into the quarterly report for ongoing monitoring by the ERC.

This closes out this item.

#### Mt Shamrock Quarry Rehabilitation Report

The Committee discussed this report and some of the challenges with survival rates of grasses and plants. Holcim outlined some of the actions being taken to reduce mortality including more specific species selection and irrigation systems for targeted watering. The management recommendations from this report are to be incorporated into the quarterly report for ongoing monitoring by the ERC.

This closes out this item.

#### Slope Stability Report

The Committee reviewed this report covering the 2019 calendar year. Regarding the Toomuc Valley slopes there was discussion regarding the forecast high rainfall for this winter and the impact this might have on the known masses. Regarding the internal rehabilitated slopes there was discussion regarding the batter depths and compaction rates. The recommendations from this report are to be incorporated into the quarterly report.

This closes out this item.

#### End of quarry life update

The Council and Holcim reported that at this time there was no additional information or known change regarding the likely useful life of the quarry to report to the Committee. This item will be revisited again at the February 2021 meeting as a standing agenda item.

#### 51.1 Action: Consolidation of report recommendations into quarterly EMP report

Matt to include the recommendations from the reports discussed at this meeting; namely, Naturelinks Phase A & B Planting Report, LRMP Report and the Slope Inspection Report into a monitoring schedule within the quarterly EMP report for ongoing review by the ERC.

Matt Dodd

#### 51.2 Aecom to be invited to August meeting

Holcim to invite a relevant person to assist with groundwater discussions at the August meeting.

Nathan Thomas

#### 51.3 EMP 5-year review

Lisa noted that it has now been 5 years since the last review of the EMP itself and that this process should be initiated soon.

Melanie Wright and Matt Dodd

#### Feedback on recent works

Nathan was interested to hear any feedback regarding recent quarrying works as the latest blasting and quarrying operations included the area that will be the highest working point for the quarry. Don reported that there were no particular changes noted and that a lot was

dependent upon the wind direction and other weather conditions such as low cloud. Matt also reported that daily monitoring took place in all new blasting areas and that all results had been compliant.

**Donation to Wildlife Shelter**

Nathan reported that 200 tonne of material had recently been donated to repair parking areas at Locky’s Legacy Wildlife Shelter. Don expressed his and the shelter operator’s gratitude for this contribution.

**Meeting Dates**

The remaining meeting dates for 2020 are:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 26 <sup>th</sup> August   | Meeting at Council offices at 4pm (or via ZOOM if necessary)    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> November | Site tour at 2.30 pm, followed by meeting at site office at 4pm |

**Items for consideration at next revision of EMP**

**Understory Plantings**

Consider multi species plantings for understory areas where original revegetation / screening plantings only included a single species of tree. This should be done as soon as practicable after trees thin out to allow for successful planting.

**Quarterly reporting of LRMP activities and outcomes**

Should the LRMP report be quarterly, six monthly or annual?