

MT. SHAMROCK QUARRY
ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE
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Meeting Summary

24th August 2022 (4.00 – 5.45pm)

Committee Members

Present:

Nathan Thomas	Holcim Australia
Leigh Elliott	
Joy Carberry	Local Community Representatives
Don Petty	
Neville Bassett	
Cr. Brett Owen	Cardinia Shire Council
Dean Haeusler	
Barry Strong	Earth Resources Regulation

Apologies:

Stewart Burton	Holcim Australia
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Chairperson:

Lisa Barrand	Possibilities Pty Ltd
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Welcome

Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was great to have such a high turnout and thanked Holcim for making the space available for the Committee once again. On this occasion we were not able to meet at the Council offices as planned due to covid restrictions.

Update on actions agreed at previous meetings

Person
Responsible

51.3 EMP 5-year review

The EMP is being reviewed and updated, as is required by the EMP itself. (Every 5 years).

Leigh and Dean confirmed that the revised EMP had now been endorsed by Council. This news means that this item will now be shown as completed and the website updated accordingly.

61.1 Pakenham Road – potential safety improvements

Potential visibility and speed limit/time access signage would improve safety at intersection of Pakenham and Mt Shamrock Roads.

Dean reported once again that the Council's traffic team had made enquiries to VicRoads regarding this matter but had not been able to make any progress on the issue. After discussion, it was agreed that this item will be removed from the agenda as although clearly important, it is not strictly within the brief of the ERC. However, to ensure the committee properly conveyed its concerns, Lisa will write to the Department of Transport and Councillor Owen will also consider what avenues could be pursued from a Council perspective to seek a review.

Lisa
Barrand
Cr. Dean
Haeusler

Background:

The Committee wished to clearly communicate to Council that the risk profile of the intersection has changed since the last review undertaken by VicRoads approximately 10 years ago (now Department of Transport). It is understood that there are now well in excess of 560 daily 'Holcim' truck movements in/out of Mt Shamrock road. (More information is available upon request from Holcim). This does not include the additional truck movements of other customers. There is also increased traffic from housing estates and the changing population demographics of towns such as Gembrook that has also increased traffic volumes.

The Committee was of the view that the changes described above pose an increased risk and respectfully requested that the situation be properly assessed by the responsible authority. As mentioned previously, mitigations that could be put in place include improving the visual line of sight, changing signage, and ideally reducing speed limits.

Action 50.2 Groundwater and Springs (Item brought forward from May – July 2021)

As part of the EMP requirements, an annual review of groundwater and springs is undertaken over summer. During discussion about the 2019 results, there were questions about the connection between the operations of the quarry and the changing flows of the springs. As there were no experts at the meeting to assist with clarifying and interpreting the data it was agreed that Matt seek further advice and report back to the Committee. The key question of interest relates to what the causes for changing flow rates of the springs might be

Productive progress was made on this item at this meeting. Firstly, Leigh was able to share a written response from Aecom (attached) to the original 2020 key points brought forward by community representatives.

- The content of Aecom's written response was discussed by the committee. Inconsistencies were noted when comparing some points in the documents to previous Aecom reports, although this may have been a case of unclear written communication. It was agreed by all present that there was not a great deal of value in the Committee discussing the technical content as these had already been discussed a number of times.
- Now that the written response has been received, this particular action will now be noted as complete.

Secondly; there has been some progress regarding a peer review of Aecom's work. In summary, the ERR shared that they will be identifying suggestions for Holcim's consideration as the company prepares a final project brief for potential consultants. The brief will also be shared with the Committee. Barry also indicated that once the review work had been completed, David Weston (ERR Hydrologist) may be available to assist the Committee with a presentation and discussion regarding the findings.

- There was a view that any review would not require new data to be collected but rather focused on the interpretation and implications of the existing data set.
- The discussion also talked to the fact that this work would be above the requirements of the EMP and that the scope of work would need to be effective in bringing resolution to this item in a way that is also cost efficient for Holcim.
- Holcim is also working to ensure the process rigor and accuracy of data / information collection regarding the springs is more sound into the future. This includes including mapping the GPS location of site points. Other information relating to the consistency of field observations will also be captured as it was noted that in one case, a report for a spring had recorded 'no flow' when in fact a pipe was taking the flow to another location. This issue will be discussed with Aecom to assure credibility in the data and its' interpretation.

Background:

The Committee has been discussing data interpretation questions about groundwater monitoring results and the reported conditions of the springs for some time. These questions were first raised by community representatives in 2019 and are focused on the conclusions Aecom (being the company who undertakes the monitoring for Holcim) draws from the collected data as they relate to the operations of the quarry and the impact these operations have or don't have on the state/functioning of springs and the levels/trends for groundwater.

There have been many meetings since then where the topic has been discussed. These include various meetings attended by ERR and SRW representatives and presentations by Aecom on the issue. Previous meeting summaries capture these discussions and readers are encouraged to review these for a more complete understanding.

Leigh
Elliott

62.1 Process for appointment of Independent Chairperson

The independent chairperson role is due for review (3 yearly appointment).

Dean had shared the Position Description and proposed recruitment process with the Committee prior to the meeting and there was a short discussion regarding the finer details. Council will discuss advertising channels with Holcim and the process commenced soon. The intention is to have the successful candidate appointed in readiness for the November 2022 meeting

Dean
Haeusler

Environment Management Quarterly Report (including consultant recommendations)

The April 2022– June 2022 Environmental Management Report was reviewed by the Committee

- There was a short discussion about the turbidity non-conformance (which was after a period of significant rainfall and required no action from the EPA) and the different method of calculation for the annual compliance limit.
- It was noted that Gang-gang birds have been sighted in one area
- The consistently ‘different’ results in bore water levels were noted for MB01 and MB06. This was explained by the locations for these bores being at either end of the quarry and also with one being in the basalt layer and the other in the Werribee formation.
- A full list of consultant recommendations was provided by Holcim. Future reports will show only open items for simplicity. There was a discussion regarding one item whereby a sign that had been identified in the annual audit as needing to be moved to a better location but when raised with the Department of Transport, the sign was required to be removed altogether. Leigh to discuss with Dean offline

Other business

Landscape and Rehabilitation Management Plan Report (Jan – June 22)

Leigh talked to the key activities that had been undertaken during the reporting period including a substantial number of plantings. These will continue into the second half of the year. The ‘area’ based graphics used in the report were noted as very helpful.

Actions arising

There were no actions arising

**Person
Responsible**

Meeting Dates for 2022

The remaining meeting date for 2022 is the 23rd November 2022
Site tour at 2.30 pm (if permitted), followed by meeting at site office at 4pm

Items for consideration at next revision of EMP

There are currently no items as a revised EMP has just been finalised that included all previous recommendations.