

MT. SHAMROCK QUARRY
ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE
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Meeting Summary

24th May 2023 (4.10 – 5.45pm)

Committee Members

Present:

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

Apologies:

Stewart Burton	Holcim Australia
Neville Bassett	Local Community Representative
Rachael Blandthorn Anita Ransom	Cardinia Shire Council

Chairperson:

Lisa Barrand	Possibilities Pty Ltd
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Welcome

Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting, conveyed apologies from Neville and Rachael, and on behalf of the broader Committee thanked Holcim for conducting a very successful site tour for both the committee and local residents. The site tour was well attended, with about 8 local residents joining ERC members, with everyone clearly enjoying the tour and finding it very informative. It was great to see the extent and success of the rehabilitation works.

The newly appointed Council representative (Flora Lau) was welcomed to the Committee, and it was explained that Flora, along with Anita Ransom will share attendance from Council in the future. Flora has a background in quarry rehabilitation / landscape architecture and the Committee noted the value of this experience in the context of the ERC's work.

Update on actions agreed at previous meetings

Person
Responsible

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

Leigh advised that GHD had attended the site in early March and that their report was imminent but had not been received as yet. It was agreed that the report would be shared with the ERC prior to the next meeting and that GHD would be invited to attend. Lisa will facilitate

Leigh
Elliott

a process to bring forward any particular questions from Committee members that emerge from the report well prior to the meeting.

Background:

The Committee has been discussing data interpretation questions about groundwater monitoring results and the reported conditions of the springs for several years. Questions were first raised by community representatives in 2019 about the conclusions that Aecom had made from collected data whereby they concluded that the quarry operations were not having any impact on the state and functioning of springs and the levels/trends for groundwater.

There have been many meetings since then where this 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.

As a way to bring some conclusion to the matter, and as an act of goodwill, Holcim recently appointed GHD to undertake a technical peer review of AECOM's ground water and spring data analysis, modelling, interpretation and outcomes. The intention and hope is that, by undertaking this peer review, all committee members will have greater 'technical trust' in the reporting on groundwater and springs moving forward.

Action 65.1 Ideas for enhancing the work of the Committee

The Committee considered ways for further enhancing their work in accordance with the Terms of Reference

Lisa had invited members of the Committee to bring forward any ideas they may have for further improving the outcomes of the Committee in accordance with the Terms of Reference. One suggestion has already been acted upon, namely the reinstatement of the community site tour with NatureLinks representatives attending to discuss rehabilitation.

At this meeting, having reviewed the success of today's site tour, the committee discussed arrangements for this activity into the future and agreed that a site tour for community representatives will take place immediately prior to each May meeting and that the process for invitation will be enhanced next year to ensure residents from all sides of the quarry site are invited.

Another suggestion for improvement was to promote greater access to information about the work of the Committee. As such, a follow up email will be sent to today's attendees (Lisa to provide draft for Joy) that provides a link to the information about the ERC, including past reports, meeting summaries etc that are available on the [Possibilities website](#). Lisa will also discuss a link to this site from the Cardinia Shire Council website.

No other specific ideas were brought forward and so this item is now considered closed however members are encouraged to continue to seek and bring forward opportunities for improvement when identified.

**Environment Management Quarterly Report
(including consultant recommendations)**

There were a significant number of reports considered by the Committee at this meeting and so, on this occasion, the quarterly report was reviewed by exception.

Leigh noted the following key points:

- A spring has been identified that is not currently on the register. This spring will be noted and monitored. (Note: There was some conversation about the location of this new spring in relation to spring 3.)
- A significant clean up of the 'graveyard' had taken place removing substantial amounts of old equipment and conveyor belt.
- Actions that were identified from the annual audit (four minor non conformances) have been added to the quarterly report and will be reported on, noting that one action has already been completed. Having so few audit actions was noted as a very positive audit outcome for Holcim.

- The ‘EMP Consultant recommendations’ table has been updated to include the ‘opportunities for improvement’ also identified from the 2022 audit report. These opportunities are yet to be reviewed by Holcim management to determine which will be acted upon and a revised action list will be included for the next meeting.

Nathan also alerted the Committee to the current high number of truck movements, with many smaller trucks coming to and leaving the site. This prompted another discussion about the speed limits/vegetation and line of sight risks at the intersection of Pakenham Road and Mt Shamrock Road that had been previously raised and communicated to the VicRoads but without response or without action. Lisa will provide copies of correspondence to Brett for possible follow up.

There were no specific questions raised.

Other business

Operational life of quarry

During the site tour questions were asked about the life of the quarry and at the Committee meeting itself, this was also discussed. Nathan shared that on the current level of demand, the quarry had approximately 5 -6 years of material remaining. There was a general discussion about this information and how the interests of the community will increasingly turn to how the progressive rehabilitation is taking place and what will happen to the quarry site after quarrying finishes. There were some general discussions about the various regulatory regimes in place for rehabilitation of quarry sites designed to give confidence to communities that sites are and will be properly rehabilitated. In summary these include:

- The provision of financial bonds to the ERR from the quarry operator to ensure that there are sufficient funds for proper rehabilitation to take place at market rates and in accordance with the agreed LRMP should the operator not be able to fulfil this work themselves.
- The independent auditing of the sufficiency of these bonds.
- The regular review and compliance monitoring of the implementation of the LRMP by the regulator.
- That the Work Authority Holder has an ongoing obligation for rehabilitation, regardless of land ownership.

A related question was asked as to who held liability for any issues that may have arisen prior to the permit extension in 2007. This question was not able to be answered as it was very general in nature however the Chairperson also noted that the question itself related to a timeframe that was outside the terms of reference for this committee to discuss.

Annual EMP Audit Report

This report was also discussed by exception and no particular questions were raised. It was noted that there were very few non conformances identified which is a great outcome.

Spring and Groundwater Report

This report was also discussed by exception as follows:

- The Committee noted that the frequency of spring surveys will now be annual during late spring/summer, as this is the best time to undertake an assessment.
- The Committee noted that although there was a recommendation to remove SP10 from the monitoring regime however Holcim restated that they would continue (as previously agreed) to monitor the site and also other SP sites that AECOM are considering seeps rather than springs.
- A number of technical points and conclusions in this report were noted as being similar to previous reports and therefore problematic for community representatives however these were not discussed as, in general, they have been raised already and it is hoped that the GHD report will provide additional clarity and assurance.
- The Committee reaffirmed its understanding that this annual report, and indeed all EMP compliance requirements relate to the impact of the quarry operations during the time period since the extension that was approved in 2007, and not operations prior to that time.
- Holcim confirmed that the signage and observation locations for springs had been checked and confirmed as correct.

2022 Rehabilitation Report

This report was also discussed by exception and no particular questions were raised other than it was great to see the substantial rehabilitation work that has been undertaken and that the report itself was very informative. There was some discussion about the negative impact of deer versus kangaroos on plantings; this will continue to be monitored.

Slope Stability Report

This report was also discussed by exception and no particular questions were raised. Leigh noted that the actions had been distilled and reduced when compared to the previous report.

Noise

The Committee discussed an increase in noise during the recent stripping campaign which Don had noticed and raised at today's meeting. Leigh and Nathan outlined the process that they had undertaken during this time in accordance with their regulatory requirements. This included three weeks of daily monitoring with all results being under the compliance limit and also noted that the future operations would now be below the height of the rim which should reduce the noise.

Actions arising

**Person
Responsible**

There were no specific actions arising.

Meeting Dates for 2023

The following Committee meeting dates are now confirmed for the remainder of 2023:

- Wednesday 23rd August (at Council offices)
- Wednesday 22nd November (including site tour)

Items for consideration at next revision of EMP

There are currently no items identified.