

MT. SHAMROCK QUARRY  
ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
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## Meeting Summary

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 (4.05pm – 5.30pm)

### Committee Members

#### Present:

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

#### Apologies:

Stewart Burton Holcim Australia

#### Guests:

Jeff Morgan GHD

#### Chairperson:

Lisa Barrand Possibilities Pty Ltd

## Welcome

Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Jeff Morgan from GHD and thanked Council for providing the venue.

## 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*

Jeff Morgan from GHD, the author of the recent hydrogeological report, delivered a short presentation focusing on the three key objectives for the review; and then answered a range of questions from Committee members. Areas of interest from the Committee included; understanding how slug testing works, the various forms of spring monitoring techniques, the nature of the underground geological / aquifer contours at the site, priorities for improved monitoring of both ground water and springs, the concept of water balance, the use and location of a 'background bore', understanding the relevance of SON Bore 84302 in the report and evaporation rates within the quarry.

After Jeff's presentation, Nathan and Leigh shared Holcim's intention to work through the recommendations put forward by GHD, both internally and with AECOM, with a view to

Leigh  
Elliott

implementation where possible, noting that some recommendations would need a more thorough understanding of investment and relative priorities before any decision could be made. This will be discussed at the next meeting in November.

**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. This report was shared with the Committee in late July.

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

Leigh talked to the key highlights in the quarterly report from the period covering April – June 2023 incorporating elements from the 6 monthly LRMP report. Priority points included the following:

- A major stripping and reclamation program is underway and will continue for several months.
- A new revegetation area has been created, topsoiled and is now ready for hydroseeding and planting (3,400 plants are expected to be planted during Q3 and Q4).
- An additional 3000 plants were planted during the reporting period.
- There were no non-compliances or complaints during the reporting period.  
Note: Phone calls to the quarry from residents are logged, as are written complaints, using a formal communications register. As part of the requirements of the EMP, any additions to this register are brought forward to this Committee for review. Residents who have any concerns about the operations of the quarry can call the quarry directly and/or communicate via the Community Representatives. Contact details are available on the ERC [website](#), currently hosted by the Chairperson.
- The bushfire management plan for the site has been approved.
- Further consultation with the Committee will be needed in coming months regarding some of the actions arising from the annual audit. Leigh will provide further information on this at the next meeting.
- Another site visit for residents will take place immediately prior to the next meeting in November. Communication about this will be shared in October.

## **Other business**

### **Intersection of Mt Shamrock Road with Pakenham Road**

Brett shared that he had raised this ongoing issue at a Council meeting in July and that Council had resolved to write to the DOT seeking a safety review of the intersection. At this point, disappointingly, the DOT has not responded.

### **Actions arising**

**Person  
Responsible**

There were no specific actions arising.

### **Meeting dates for 2023**

The remaining Committee meeting dates for 2023:

- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (including site tour)

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

There are currently no items identified.