

MT. SHAMROCK QUARRY
ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE
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Meeting Summary

22nd May 2024 (4.30pm – 5.55pm)

Committee Members

Present:

Leigh Elliott	Holcim Australia
Nathan Thomas	
Matt Dodd	
Joy Carberry	Local Community Representatives
Don Petty	
Neville Bassett	
Barry Strong	Earth Resources Regulation
Marcelle Bell	Cardinia Shire Council
Cr Brett Owen	

Apologies:

Stewart Burton

Chairperson:

Lisa Barrand Possibilities Pty Ltd

Guests:

Sue Petty

Welcome

Committee members were welcomed to the meeting. After an acknowledgement of country the Committee reflected on the success of the site tour for residents that occurred immediately prior to the meeting. There were 16 residents in attendance plus the Committee. Reflections included the importance of the opportunity for face-to-face conversations, the ability to ask and answer questions of concern on the spot, how informative it was for participants, the importance of accommodating the most local and impacted residents and also how it provided a rare opportunity for the Holcim team to show people the work they are doing and to take pride in the rehabilitation efforts that the company is making.

Update on actions agreed at previous meetings

Person Responsible

Action 69.1 Land Rehabilitation Management Plan – Annual review

As part of the EMP requirements, an annual review of the LRMP is required. This annual review includes the step of consulting with the ERC regarding any proposed changes. The last annual audit noted that this had not happened, and a process is being in place to address this.

After some discussion by the Committee to better clarify the intention of this action, it was agreed that Leigh will come back to the Committee in August with a proposed process for dealing with the consideration and agreement of minor changes to the EMP that need to be take place outside the normal 5 yearly review.

This is necessary, in part, so that a number of proposed LRMP changes that Holcim would like to see made can be considered and reviewed by the ERC. Leigh will also bring these particular LRMP changes to the Committee in August. As discussed in February, Committee members are

Leigh Elliott
All committee
members

also welcome to consider and bring forward for discussion any other LRMP changes considered important.

Action 69.2 Resource Investigation Project

Holcim will be undertaking a drilling program in the northeast area of the quarry site over February/March 2024. Holcim is conducting the drilling to better understand the quantity, quality and viability of material in the area, including the depth of overburden. The drilling area will be inside the approved work authority boundary and outside the approved extraction limit. It is expected that the drilling will take approximately 2 weeks to complete and be followed by a technical assessment of the extracted cores. Holcim hopes to have a high-level understanding of the results by May. Depending upon the findings from the drilling process, Holcim may decide to proceed with undertaking technical investigations to assess the various impacts (groundwater, noise, dust and so forth) of potentially quarrying this resource with a view to, if considered viable, making an application to the Minister to permit extraction. Nathan will update the Committee at the May meeting.

At the February 2024 meeting, Nathan talked through the Holcim communication plan for the drilling project including: Direct contact with close neighbours, an information letter drop to properties within a 1km radius of the quarry (“Community Update” is attached to this summary), making this same document available on the ERC website, and ongoing and transparent communication with the ERC. Matt Dodd, the former quarry manager for Mt Shamrock is managing this project.

At this meeting, Nathan confirmed that, based on the results of these resource drilling investigations, Holcim was of the view that there was a commercial case for progressing with the process and that Holcim will be proceeding to now undertake technical studies and assessments and would be ‘self referring’ to the Minister for Planning regarding an Environmental Effects Statement (EES).

Holcim will be updating the community via a further community update (sent to local residents) and also on their website.

There was some discussion about the results of the drilling tests, whether the holes might be used for ground water monitoring and also the challenges of any operation that was in close proximity to the Pony Club (as an example of one potential impact). The majority of the Committees discussions however focused on hearing the early thoughts from both Holcim and the regulators in the room (Cardinia Shire Council and Earth Resources) as to what a possible approval process might look like and what opportunity there would be for the community and others potentially impacted by any proposal to put forward their own views.

The information below is not definitive as no actual proposal has been brought forward at this time and therefore what will actually happen in relation to this proposed project will depend upon the nature of the application and how it is viewed by the regulators. Links below have been provided by the relevant authorities for broad guidance. Some possible planning approvals pathways include:

- Resources Victoria would need to consider all the technical components and feasibility of any workplan variation proposal (technical aspects only, no community consultation)
- The project proposal [may be determined](#) as requiring an [EES](#) in which case there would be a stage in the EES whereby the proposed project would be put on exhibition for one month to allow for community and other feedback.
- The project proposal may meet the criteria of the [Development Facilitation Program](#) for accelerated assessment.
- The project proposal may be determined as not requiring an EES but might be ‘called in’ for consideration by the Minister for Planning.
- The project proposal may be determined as not requiring an EES and is instead considered by the Shire of Cardinia as either an amendment to the current planning permit or a new planning permit process in which case there is a minimum 2-week consultation phase.

Holcim will provide an update at the next meeting.

Nathan
Thomas

Environment Management Quarterly Report (including consultant recommendations)

Leigh talked to the key highlights in the quarterly report from the period covering January – March 2024. Priority points and discussion included the following:

- There were two non- conformance regarding water discharge from Donnazan’s Dam. Both of these were due to a heavy rain event. The EPA was informed and investigated and are happy with the approach taken by Holcim. Notwithstanding this, Holcim is also looking into an engineering solution to deal with high volume rain events that would require a new pump. This has been captured in the audit report (Key actions are captured in Appendix 3 of the quarterly report).
- There were no formal complaints recorded, however Leigh shared information regarding two calls received from members of the community about truck drivers (not Holcim employees).
- Leigh advised that AECOM would not be continuing with the monitoring and reporting work regarding Slope stability and Groundwater/Springs monitoring due to local capacity constraints. Leigh is currently talking with other potential providers and has interim monitoring solutions in place.
- The three V-notch readings that are not showing on the alkalinity, turbidity and conductivity results is because the V-notch was dry at that time.

Other business

Lisa foreshadowed that the three-year appointment process for Community Representatives was coming up later in the year.

Consideration of the reports listed below were deferred to the August meeting.

- Rehabilitation Report
- Groundwater and Springs Report
- Slope Stability Report
- Annual Audit Report

Actions arising

**Person
Responsible**

There were no specific actions arising.

Meeting dates for 2024

The following Committee meeting dates remain for 2024 with meetings commencing at 4pm.

- Wednesday 21st August 2024 (at Council Offices in Officer)
- Wednesday 20th November 2024 (including Committee site tour from 2.30pm)

Items for consideration at next revision of EMP

There are currently no items identified.