

MT SHAMROCK QUARRY

ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary - Wednesday 20 May 2026 4pm to 6pm

Committee Members Present:

Holcim Australia	Nathan Thomas Leigh Elliott Matt Dodd
Local Community Representatives	Don Petty Neville Bassett Joy Carberry Rosemary Buczak
Cardinia Shire Council	Mayor, Cr Brett Owen Marcelle Bell
Chair	Leanne Mulcahy Independent Chairperson
Apologies:	
Resources Victoria	Barry Strong

1.0 Welcome

Committee members were welcomed and Leanne provided an Acknowledgement of Country. Leanne introduced herself as the new Independent Chairperson of the ERC and thanked members for their attendance and participation.

2.0 Update on actions agreed at previous meetings

Technical noise report Nathan advised that EPA feedback had now been received in relation to the technical noise assessment. The requested amendments were described as relatively minor administrative matters and Holcim had responded to EPA comments. The updated report was circulated to ERC members shortly prior to the meeting.	Holcim
Overburden Stripping and Development Phase Clarification Nathan confirmed Holcim continues to prepare information outlining expected stripping durations and staging. Nathan reiterated that overburden stripping is not considered part of a development phase under the EPA Noise Protocol Publication 1826.5.	Holcim
Acoustic Screening / Visual Barrier Considerations Holcim advised that acoustic fencing and visual screening concepts remain under review as part of the broader quarry expansion project.	Holcim

Huxtable Road Reserve Committee (HRRC) Noise Monitoring Nathan confirmed that additional monitoring at the Huxtable Road Reserve Committee (HRRC) main arena location had now been incorporated into the monitoring program and would continue to be reported as monitoring location N8 within future EMP reporting.	Holcim
Height Marker Installation Nathan advised that the installation of height markers demonstrating the proposed bund height at the extraction limit adjacent to the reserve was completed. Correspondence explaining the purpose of the markers had also been provided to HRRC representatives.	Holcim
Community Update Nathan advised Holcim was preparing a further community update aligned with upcoming work plan variation submission processes.	Holcim
EMP Review Members noted that the revised Environmental Management Plan (Version 4) had now been approved by Cardinia Shire Council on 30 April 2026.	All
Roadside Weed Management Council advised that roadside weed and invasive species management remains under consideration and ongoing.	Council
Planning Scheme/Sensitive Receptor Discussion Marcelle Bell provided an update regarding recent Council planning scheme changes in March 2026. Marcelle explained that revised planning provisions relating to environmental risks, amenity and land use compatibility now specifically refer to sensitive land uses in the context of noise impacts. Marcelle outlined that the planning provisions identify sensitive land uses as including: • Residential uses • Childcare centres • Schools • Hospitals • Residential aged care facilities • Places of assembly. Marcelle further noted that Practice Note 92 (<i>Managing Buffers for Land Use Compatibility</i>) identifies places of assembly as potential sensitive uses depending on context and assessment.	Council & All

Discussion then focused on whether the HRRC Clubhouse may potentially be considered a sensitive receptor within future planning processes.

Marcelle advised that the reserve had historically received planning approval as an equestrian/sporting facility and that formal determination of sensitive receptor status would ultimately occur through a planning permit assessment process and EPA referral considerations.

Community representatives emphasised the significance of the issue, noting that:

- The clubhouse and reserve are regularly occupied.
- The facility hosts meetings, competitions and public gatherings.
- Horses attending the reserve are not permanently habituated to quarry-related noise.
- Any future noise impacts could create safety concerns for riders and horses.

Discussion occurred regarding:

- Freeway acoustic barrier standards.
- Potential future acoustic wall design requirements.
- EPA referral pathways.
- Whether the current noise assessment adequately considered the reserve as a potential sensitive receptor.

Holcim representatives advised that:

- The noise assessment had been reviewed by the EPA.
- The reserve zoning and land use context had been included within the assessment material.
- Any future planning process would involve additional referral and review opportunities through the Council, EPA and Earth Resources Regulator processes.

Members discussed the importance of ensuring the issue is formally documented and considered early in the approval pathway rather than at a later planning stage.

Action:

Marcelle Bell to circulate the updated planning scheme and Practice Note references discussed at the meeting to ERC members and Holcim representatives for further consideration regarding sensitive receptor assessment.

3.0 Quarterly EMP Report - January to March 2026

Leigh Elliott presented the Quarterly EMP Report and summarised updates arising from the recent annual EMP audit.

Leigh advised there had been one community complaint relating to blasting vibration during the reporting period. An investigation was undertaken by external blasting consultant Terrock. Monitoring confirmed vibration levels remained below the applicable licence limit of 5 mm/s, with recorded vibration approximately 2.09 mm/s. Leigh advised no further complaints had been received following a subsequent blast in the same area.

Leigh also outlined several changes introduced following recommendations from the annual EMP audit including:

- Inclusion of 24-hour average PM10 reactive dust monitoring data.
- Incorporation of monitoring location N8 at HRRC.
- Updated graphing of bore water levels alongside north and south pond levels.

Discussion occurred regarding truck movements associated with quarry operations. Holcim advised that:

- Typical operations historically generated approximately 120 truck movements in and out per day.
- Movements can increase depending on product demand and truck configurations.
- Different truck types substantially affect movement numbers.

Community representatives raised concerns regarding truck queuing on surrounding roads and the Princes Highway. Holcim acknowledged the issue and advised it works to respond quickly when identified.

4.0 Groundwater and Spring Monitoring Report

Leigh Elliott invited questions regarding the 2025 Groundwater and Spring Monitoring Report prepared by GHD.

Neville Bassett raised concerns regarding long-term groundwater trends and the interpretation of monitoring data. Neville noted his continuing concerns including that:

- Long-term groundwater bore levels have declined substantially over time.
- Recovery trends identified in previous peer review discussions have not occurred.
- Quarry operations may therefore be contributing to long-term groundwater impacts.

Neville referred specifically to:

- Long-term declines in monitoring bore levels.
- Conclusions from the earlier GHD peer review.
- The absence of groundwater recovery trends despite monitoring recommendations made in 2023.

Nathan Thomas responded that:

- Holcim has relied upon advice from multiple hydrogeological consultants over many years including URS, AECOM, GHD and MSH.
- The consultants have generally reached consistent conclusions regarding rainfall as the primary influence on groundwater trends.
- Holcim had previously commissioned an independent peer review process specifically to improve confidence and transparency regarding groundwater monitoring.
- Additional monitoring infrastructure including data loggers, flow meters and state observation bore data was incorporated following the peer review.
- Ongoing monitoring continues in accordance with consultant recommendations.

Discussion then focused on differing interpretations of groundwater data, particularly:

- State Observation Bore 804032.
- Rainfall trends.
- Whether observed declines indicate quarry impacts or broader climatic influences.

Members noted differing views remained regarding interpretation of the groundwater data and the implications of ongoing monitoring results. It was concluded that Neville is able to make a submission when the planning application is made and that this written communication remains on record.

5.0 Annual EMP Audit

Leigh Elliott presented the findings of the 2026 Annual EMP Audit undertaken by EnviroRisk.

Leigh advised the audit result was generally positive with many favourable observations regarding environmental performance and management systems. Most opportunities for improvement were described as administrative in nature.

Leigh outlined several proposed changes arising from the audit process including:

- Incorporation of updated PM10 monitoring standards.
- Revised greenhouse gas target methodology.
- Inclusion of monitoring changes within a new EMP change appendix process.
- Updates to monitoring schedules and procedures.

Discussion occurred regarding greenhouse gas reduction targets and the influence of changing market demand for finer aggregate products on electricity and fuel consumption.

Nathan advised that while annual greenhouse gas outcomes fluctuate depending on operational requirements, the quarry's long-term average reduction performance remains close to the target trajectory.

Leigh further advised that Holcim intends to circulate proposed wording changes regarding greenhouse gas target normalisation and updated EMP change management processes for consideration prior to the next ERC meeting.

6.0 Quarry Expansion Project Update

Matt Dodd provided an update regarding the proposed quarry expansion project.

Matt advised that:

- EPA feedback on the technical noise report had recently been received with requested changes that were predominantly administrative. This updated report has now been issued to ERC members.
- Part B of the Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment has now been completed and additional information has been incorporated regarding HRRC impacts, visual screening and mitigation concepts.
- Holcim is finalising documentation for submission of a Work Plan Variation application to Earth Resources Regulator within coming weeks.

Matt outlined the anticipated approval pathway including:

- Earth Resources Regulator review.
- Referral to co-regulator agencies including EPA, Southern Rural Water and DEECA.
- Possible requests for additional information.
- Eventual planning approval processes.

Discussion then focused on:

- Planning approval pathways.
- Forthcoming decision to be made regarding Ministerial versus Council planning assessment processes.
- Community consultation opportunities exist for either option.

Community representatives reiterated concerns regarding:

- Noise impacts, horse safety, blasting impacts, visual amenity and whether existing consultant reports appropriately reflected conditions at HRRC including the currently unresolved question of whether the HRRC Clubhouse may be determined to be a sensitive receptor.
- References within consultant reports suggesting horses may become habituated to quarry and traffic noise, stating they considered these assumptions as inaccurate and potentially unsafe in the context of visiting horses and inexperienced riders.

Holcim acknowledged the concerns and noted that:

- All concerns raised by HRRC and ERC members would form part of the planning and regulatory review pathway.
- Ongoing consultation with HRRC representatives continues and future mitigation measures remain under consideration.

Discussion also occurred regarding:

- Communication requirements for drone activity near horse riding areas.

- Future acoustic fencing concepts.
- Visual screening design.
- Opportunities for further community engagement.

Actions

- Marcelle Bell to provide written planning scheme references regarding sensitive receptor considerations.
- Holcim to internally review whether further clarification with EPA is required regarding HRRC sensitive receptor considerations.
- ERC members to provide any written questions regarding the technical noise report directly to Holcim for response.
- Holcim to provide a summary presentation regarding the technical noise report at the next ERC meeting.
- Holcim to ensure effective communication regarding drone operations near HRRC activities where reasonably practicable.

7.0 Other Business

Green Wedge Management Plan

Marcelle Bell advised that Council is commencing preparation of a Green Wedge Management Plan for non-urban land within the northern part of the municipality. Marcelle indicated consultation opportunities would occur as the project progresses.

Net Gain Offset Requirements

Nathan advised that legislative changes have impacted opportunities for local offset arrangements. Holcim continues to investigate opportunities to retain offsets within the local area or municipality where possible.

Community Support Opportunities

Nathan invited suggestions for local community projects or initiatives that Holcim may be able to assist with through financial or practical support.

Topsoil Importation Plan

Nathan advised Holcim is preparing a document regarding importation of topsoil for rehabilitation purposes and this would be circulated prior to the next meeting.

Visual Amenity Assessment

Discussion occurred regarding visual impact assessment viewpoints and the locations selected within the report. Community members expressed concern that some viewpoints did not fully reflect likely visual impacts experienced from HRRC and nearby locations.

8.0 Next Meeting

Wednesday 19 August 2026, 4pm to 6pm, Cardinia Shire Council Offices

9.0 Meeting Close

Leanne thanked members for their participation and discussion and closed the meeting at 6pm.