

MT SHAMROCK QUARRY

ENVIRONMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday 19 August 2026, Cardinia Shire Council Offices, Officer

Committee Members Present

Organisation/role	Attendees
Holcim Australia	Nathan Thomas Leigh Elliott Matt Dodd
Local Community Representatives	Don Petty Neville Bassett Joy Carberry
Cardinia Shire Council	Mayor, Cr Brett Owen Marcelle Bell
Resources Victoria	Barry Strong, Deputy Chief Inspector, East Region
Independent Chairperson	Leanne Mulcahy
Invitee	Daniela Du, Holcim graduate

Apology

Rosemary Buczak, Community Representative

1 Welcome

The meeting commenced at approximately 4.10pm. The Chair welcomed members and provided an Acknowledgement of Country. Members were introduced, including Daniela Du, a Holcim graduate attending as an invitee. The Chair outlined meeting guidelines intended to support a constructive, efficient discussion and ensure that all views and agreed actions were captured.

2 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary of 20 May 2026 was confirmed as an accurate record. Members noted that future draft summaries would be circulated with a specified review deadline, after which they would be treated as final if no amendments were received.

3 Actions Update

Drone Operations near Huxtable Road Reserve

Holcim clarified that the earlier concern related to a drone used for slope-stability monitoring passing over the Huxtable Road Reserve while surveying markers on an adjoining property. Holcim agreed to notify the reserve the day before

relevant drone operations to avoid disruption to horses and reserve activities. The Committee agreed that the action could be closed.

The remaining actions were addressed under the relevant agenda items below.

4 Quarterly EMP Report, April to June 2026

Leigh Elliott presented the Quarterly Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Report.

A new peregrine falcon breeding box has been installed at the former observation deck area in consultation with Dr Victor Hurley of Peregrine Falcons Victoria. The earlier box on the quarry cliff face had been removed before the breeding season, and Holcim was considering whether a camera could be installed to allow remote observation of the new box.

Holcim advised that its annual Permissioning Information and Performance Statement had reported an annual median electrical conductivity result of 1,031 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ against the applicable annual median criterion of 1,000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. The result had been reported to EPA. No other non-conformances and no complaints were recorded for the quarter.

Reactive PM10 monitoring recorded a number of one-hour and 24-hour results above the relevant trigger levels. Holcim explained that Blue Atmosphere had reviewed these results against wind direction and surrounding activities and concluded that the identified events were most probably attributable to sources outside the quarry. The reactive monitor at the Petty residence had been unavailable for the quarter following electrical-storm damage and difficulties completing repairs; it was now operating again.

Members were advised of changes to dust-monitoring service arrangements following the retirement of the longstanding monitoring consultant. Holcim confirmed that monitoring and laboratory analysis would continue through suitably qualified providers and that access protocols with affected landowners would be observed.

Discussion occurred about the readability of the noise-monitoring graph, particularly when printed or reproduced in greyscale. Members found several blue data series difficult to distinguish.

Action - Revise the colour, labelling or patterning of future noise monitoring graphs so monitoring locations can be distinguished clearly in colour and greyscale copies. [Holcim]

5 Landscape and Rehabilitation Management Plan Report, January to June 2026

The Committee noted the six-monthly Landscape and Rehabilitation Management Plan report. Holcim advised that approximately 2,600 plants were scheduled for planting during 2026. Rehabilitation and weed-control activities were continuing across the extraction, landscape and net-gain offset areas.

Members discussed ongoing monitoring and control of Chilean needle grass. Holcim confirmed that Tussock herbicide was being used within the quarry boundary in accordance with the previously supported approach.

6 Imported Materials Management Plan

Holcim presented the revised Imported Materials Management Plan for bringing topsoil and mature compost onto the site solely for progressive rehabilitation. The plan had been amended following feedback from Resources Victoria to include validation testing for contamination that may not be detected by visual inspection.

Holcim explained that each compliance sample would comprise multiple grab samples, with one composite sample tested for each 500 m^3 of imported material in accordance with the relevant EPA soil-sampling guidance. Incoming materials would also be subject to source approval, tracking, inspection, weighbridge and recordkeeping requirements. Mixed or visibly unsuitable loads would be rejected.

The proposed rehabilitation medium would blend imported topsoil and compost with suitable quarry scalps. Material under consideration had been tested with advice from soil scientist Dr Peter Somerville. The initial trial would involve approximately 1,000 m^3 for the south-western slope. If successful, the approach would be extended to other prepared rehabilitation batters.

Members asked about the maturity and standard of the compost and were advised that it would be purchased as mature compost complying with the applicable Australian Standard. No objections or additional concerns were raised. The Committee noted the plan and agreed that the related action could be closed.

7 EMP Changes and Outstanding Recommendations

Appendix 15, EMP Change Register

Holcim outlined proposed EMP changes arising from the 2026 EnviroRisk audit and subsequent discussions. These included updated wording for reactive PM10 monitoring, inclusion of the 24-hour PM10 criterion from the Environment Reference Standard, and formal inclusion of attended noise-monitoring location N8 at the Huxtable Road Reserve arena.

The principal change concerned the greenhouse-gas reduction target. Holcim explained that reported emissions intensity is materially affected by market demand for coarse or fine aggregate products and by non-production activities such as stripping and rehabilitation. The proposed methodology would normalise the calculation for production mode and remove fuel and explosive use unrelated to production, while retaining the 3 per cent reduction objective. Holcim considered this would provide a more meaningful measure of operational improvement and retain an incentive to adopt cleaner technology.

The Committee discussed the rationale for the revised methodology and Holcim's continuing use and investigation of energy-efficient and lower-emission technologies. No objections were raised, and the Committee expressed general support for the proposed Appendix 15 changes, including the greenhouse-gas target normalisation and inclusion of monitoring location N8.

Status of Consultant and Audit Recommendations

Holcim advised that work was progressing with Engeny to review the consequence category of Donnazzan's Dam. Detailed topographical and inundation modelling, including LiDAR survey information, indicated that the basin would retain most water in the event of a dam failure and that the potential inundation risk to Pakenham Road may be lower than previously assessed. The consultant's final findings will be reported in the next update.

Holcim noted completion of further monitoring-related actions including routine recording of dam water levels. Completed recommendations have been removed from the outstanding action report. No further questions were raised.

8 Quarry Expansion Project and Work Plan Variation

Submission and Regulatory Review

Matt Dodd provided an update on the quarry expansion project. Holcim lodged the Work Plan Variation with Resources Victoria on 1 June 2026. The application was referred to EPA and Southern Rural Water. EPA advised that the noise assessment and proposed mitigation were appropriate and requested 12 months of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) monitoring if the project is approved. The monitoring location has not yet been determined. Southern Rural Water did not provide a response during the referral period.

Holcim and Resources Victoria explained that basalt at the quarry has a very low crystalline silica content but that the requested RCS monitoring reflects a standard precaution applied to quarry proposals and is intended to provide assurance regarding potential community exposure.

Resources Victoria subsequently requested amendments and additional information, including minor changes to the geotechnical assessment, greater detail on rehabilitation monitoring and milestones, clarification of the final pit-lake level and drainage arrangements and a summary of community feedback. Holcim expected to resubmit the information in late August or early September, with further regulatory advice anticipated approximately 28 days after resubmission.

Community Feedback Submitted with the Application

Holcim advised that community feedback was being tabulated under themes such as noise, blasting, air quality, visual amenity and other environmental matters. Personal information would be redacted, while the source category of feedback such as an individual community member, the ERC or a community organisation would be identified.

Community representatives asked to see how their feedback had been interpreted and summarised before it was submitted. They emphasised that access to Holcim's summary was important because they had not seen the current Work Plan Variation application and remained concerned that some technical material did not accurately reflect their views or the impacts on the Huxtable Road Reserve.

Action - Consider the request for ERC/community representatives to see the summary of community feedback supplied to Resources Victoria and advise the Committee of the outcome. [Holcim]

Proposed Planning Pathway

Holcim advised that, if the Work Plan Variation is endorsed by Resources Victoria and the project qualifies, its preferred planning route is the Development Facilitation Program. Under that pathway the Minister for Planning would be the responsible authority. Holcim emphasised that the pathway does not remove environmental assessment or community consultation requirements. The planning application would be publicly exhibited, submissions could be made through the Department of Transport and Planning, referral authorities and Council would be consulted and the Minister would make the final planning decision. A Ministerial decision would not be subject to VCAT merits review.

Resources Victoria clarified that endorsement of the Work Plan Variation is not final project approval. If endorsed, the project would proceed to the applicable planning process. Conditions or amendments arising from the planning assessment would then need to be incorporated before the work plan could receive final approval. If the planning application were refused, that process would end and a new application would be required for any revised proposal.

Community representatives expressed concern that residents and reserve users might be excluded from the process. Holcim committed to issuing a community update with relevant public links when the planning application becomes available, using its established distribution network, including nearby residents, the Huxtable Road Reserve Committee and relevant community organisations. Members were invited to identify any additional groups that should receive the update.

Action - Issue a community update, including the relevant public links, when the planning application is placed on public exhibition and consider any additional community groups suggested by ERC members. [Holcim]

Resources Victoria Update

Barry Strong explained that Resources Victoria's statutory Work Plan Variation process does not include public exhibition. It requires the regulator to assess the application and obtain advice from relevant referral authorities. Requests for further information must be addressed before the application can progress.

The applicant is expected to undertake meaningful community engagement. Barry provided guidance describing expectations including ongoing engagement, understanding the affected community, providing sufficient information, allowing reasonable time for questions and demonstrating how feedback has been considered. Resources Victoria would assess Holcim's application against those expectations. Community members would later be able to make formal submissions through the planning process including expressing a view that engagement or the applicant's response to particular concerns had been insufficient.

Noise Assessment and Huxtable Road Reserve

Holcim summarised the technical noise assessment, including changes following EPA review. The applicable daytime noise objective for the Huxtable Road Reserve is 50 dB(A), based on the zoning and use of the land. This differs from the criteria applying to dwellings. Holcim and Resources Victoria stated that the assessment had accurately identified the reserve and its use and that EPA had accepted the classification and applicable noise criteria.

Holcim clarified that the higher limit of 68 dB(A) applies only to discrete final rehabilitation activities. It does not apply to overburden stripping or pit backfilling. The modelling had considered concurrent activities at each project stage, historical noise data, attended measurements and a 2 dB tonality adjustment. Following EPA feedback, Holcim had also committed to low-frequency noise monitoring if the extension is approved.

Holcim advised that extraction would be staged to work below the crest line as much as practicable, using the landform to provide acoustic shielding. They estimated that work at the upper crest line during Stage 3 would total approximately 50

days, undertaken intermittently. Holcim also committed not to undertake stripping or overburden removal activities on Saturdays during Stage 3, when use of the Huxtable Road Reserve is higher.

Community representatives remained concerned that removal of the existing bund would expose the Huxtable Road Reserve to unacceptable noise, particularly when stripping occurs close to the boundary. In support of this they referred to previous experience of stripping noise, the substantial difference observed when standing behind the existing bund, and the potential safety implications for visiting horses and riders. Holcim responded that the proposed staging, temporary shielding, monitoring and compliance requirements differed from earlier stripping campaigns. Holcim stated that retaining the existing bund would make the proposed expansion commercially unviable while community representatives sought greater compromise.

Community representatives stated that noise limits had been exceeded during previous stripping on the northern face and that operations had been stopped on several occasions. They considered that this history increased concern about proposed activities occurring approximately 20 metres from the Huxtable Road Reserve. Holcim did not confirm that the earlier events constituted noise-limit exceedances. Holcim stated that the earlier stripping involved machinery operating on the surface, whereas the proposed works would be staged to operate below the crest line as much as practicable, with the landform providing acoustic shielding and some activities occurring approximately 15 to 20 metres below the crest. Holcim stated that the noise limits must still be met. An AI-generated indicative image was shown to demonstrate the proposed staging and relative ground levels. Community representatives remained concerned about the likely noise impact given the proximity of the proposed works to the reserve.

Horses, Blasting and Reserve Activities

Community representatives reiterated that visiting horses are not necessarily habituated to quarry noise or blasting and questioned whether Holcim's technical material adequately reflected the associated safety risk. Research prepared for a mining proposal in New South Wales was referred to which assesses the effects of blasting and industrial noise on horses and it was indicated that this material appeared inconsistent with assumptions in Holcim's assessment.

Holcim advised that the technical assessments supplied to ERC members were the material supporting the application and had been reviewed by the relevant agencies. Resources Victoria noted that community members could identify any perceived deficiencies and supporting evidence through the planning submission process, when the application would be publicly available and subject to further consideration by agencies and the decision-maker.

At the end of the meeting, community representatives questioned a statement in earlier referral material indicating that the pony club supported the project and did not expect extraction to interfere with recreational activities. It was stated that, based on community representatives' discussions with the club president, this did not reflect the club's current position and that the club had raised objections. Holcim representatives referred to constructive discussions with the club but maintained their position regarding the earlier statement. These differing views are noted for the record.

Acoustic and Visual Screening

Holcim presented an indicative image of a four-metre high screening fence near the Huxtable Road Reserve. The design was illustrative only and its final appearance and acoustic properties remain under consideration. Holcim indicated they are discussing possible relocation of yards, seating, disability access and earlier planting with the Huxtable Road Reserve Committee. Community representatives reiterated that the observed acoustic benefit of the existing earthen bund was a central concern.

Holcim agreed to circulate its presentation and re-circulate the technical noise report, noting that detailed noise-contour maps would remain in the report rather than the presentation because they were difficult to read at presentation scale.

Action - Circulate the quarry expansion presentation and re-circulate the technical noise report, including the applicable legislation, protocols and detailed noise-contour information. **[Holcim]**

9 Cardinia Shire Council Updates

Council Role in the Planning Process

Marcelle Bell advised that, if the proposal proceeds through the Development Facilitation Program, it would be published on Engage Victoria. Council would participate as a stakeholder rather than a determining referral authority. Council officers would assess the proposal from economic, community and environmental perspectives and brief Councillors. Council may provide a formal position to the Minister for Planning and could retain enforcement responsibilities after approval if identified as the responsible authority.

Roadside Weed Control

Council advised that initial flax-leaf broom control works had commenced along Mt Shamrock Road. The first stage involved cutting plants and treating stumps in areas where mechanical treatment was unsuitable because of nearby infrastructure. A contractor site meeting would inform mechanical treatment of the main infestation, followed by targeted herbicide treatment of regrowth and remaining plants. Community representatives welcomed the update and noted the visible extent of the infestation.

Green Wedge Management Plan

Council outlined its statutory work to prepare Green Wedge Management Plans for rural land within metropolitan Melbourne. The Mt Shamrock area falls within the Southern Ranges Green Wedge. The plan will identify non-urban values and uses to be protected and include strategies to protect, enhance and manage those values. Background studies and initial engagement with Traditional Owners and government agencies had occurred, with the first phase of broader community engagement, including local drop-in sessions, planned for September 2026.

Action - Circulate details of the September 2026 Green Wedge Management Plan community-engagement opportunities to ERC members when available. **[Cardinia Shire Council]**

10 Other Business and Future Agenda Items

Timing and Access to Meeting Papers

Members requested that meeting papers be distributed two weeks before meetings to provide sufficient reading time. Holcim advised that this would generally be achievable for regular reports although occasional annual or time dependent reports might need to be provided later. The current Terms of Reference require papers to be distributed five working days before a meeting.

Action - Update the Terms of Reference to change the normal circulation period for meeting papers from five to 10 working days and arrange future agendas and regular papers accordingly. **[Chair/Holcim]**

Members also discussed difficulties accessing large files through the shared online folder. It was indicated that the earlier circulation date would provide time to resolve access problems and that members should contact the Chair promptly if they could not open a paper. Individual files could be emailed separately where necessary.

Community Support Opportunities

Holcim reiterated its interest in volunteering opportunities and local initiatives that it might support. Community representatives were invited to provide suggestions.

11.0 Meeting Feedback

Members acknowledged the volume and complexity of the agenda. The Chair invited members to provide feedback about meeting arrangements and to submit proposed agenda items in advance so adequate time could be allocated to them.

12.0 Next Meeting

Wednesday 18 November 2026, Mt Shamrock Quarry

- ERC site tour: 2.30pm
- ERC meeting: 4pm to 6pm

Action – Members were invited to advise in advance, any particular areas they wish to include as part of the site tour. [All]

13 Meeting Close

The Chair thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting shortly after 6.10 pm.