

Community Consultative Committee Hitchcock Road and Lot 198 Maroota Sand Extraction and Rehabilitation Projects

Minutes - 10 November 2019 2:00pm

Attendance

Kristine McKenzie – The Hills Shire Council (THSC) – Chairperson

Robert Buckham – The Hills Shire Council (THSC)

Melissa Mass – South East Environmental

John Graham – PF Formation (PF)

Joshua Graham – PF Formation (PF)

Luke Graham – PF Formation (PF)

Dianna Rea – PF Formation (PF)

Shaunagh Hitchcock - Resident

Marianne Sheumack – Resident

Apologies

Lisa Aylward – Resident

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Last meeting in May was an electronic meeting and no issues were raised.

- Accepted

Matters Arising from Minutes

- None

Report on Current Status of Operations by Joshua Graham (PF)

- Business has continued to be busy. The local economy appears to have spiked due to border closures. There is a shortage of high-quality concrete sand in the Sydney Market, Anna Bay extraction limits are nearing their maximum. We have had to put on extra staff.
- No complaints have been received since our last meeting
- The 3-year Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) was carried out by a firm called RPS and completed on 14 August 2020. The audit found 4 non compliances. The full IEA & 2020 annual review (AEMR) are up on the PF website. The non-compliances can be summarized as follows:
 1. The first non compliance is related to the other non compliances.
 2. Extraction boundary markers were absent in certain areas where rehabilitation is taking place.
 3. Damaged sediment fences were observed along the southern boundary.
 4. The offset strategy has not been implemented and agreed by the Director – General.

We have developed an action plan in response to the audit, this has been submitted to DPIE and is on the website along with the audit report.

- Sand extraction has commenced on Lot 2 DP 555184 and all material is processed through the trig plant. Shaunagh asked if the water levels in Maroota spring will be affected and Josh advised her that we drilled 5 shallow wells in the new area, all supervised by a hydro to ensure the 2 m buffer rule is adhered to. A revised pit shell plan has been developed but has not been submitted for approval by the Director – General as yet however the existing pit shell plan will continue to guide extraction depths. Josh advised that a ground water study was conducted in 2018 by EMM Consulting (see attachment)
https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/283055/Fact-sheet-Maroota-groundwater-study.pdf
- VENM is received at the site regularly, validation certificates are always obtained, and regos of trucks are recorded. Shaunagh was concerned about the VENM being contaminated and Josh advised her that we have protocols in place and regos of all trucks are recorded and we are making products out of the VENM.
- The Deerubbin Aboriginal Land Council have applied for approval for sand extraction next door. A discussion on the approval process took place.

Reporting

- A copy of the 2020 AEMR was handed out and will be posted on the PF Formation website.
- Independent Environmental Audit by RPS results & Annual review are up on the website

Environmental Matters

- No Complaints have been received
- Melissa handed out some graphs about water levels and rainfall and the graphs were explained. Due to excessive rain at times some wells were not accessible. Surface water testing was conducted and no abnormalities.
- Dust – it has been dusty due two dust storms in the last 6 months although levels are below the threshold.
- Rehab has been slow due to drought and COVID (staffing difficulties). The rehab is not growing to plan and the plants are growing slower. We will be looking into other avenues to promote growth.
- Marianne asked if we are doing more truck movements. Joshua replied that we average about 40 per day which is a lot lower than we have approval for. There are more trucks on the road but not due to extra activities on our sites.

General

- Shaunagh thanked PF for funding the Community defibrillator located near our letterbox at the entrance. Josh commented there is another located in the weighbridge and at Pit 5.
- Traffic Management Policy was implemented last year between Dixons, Hodgson Quarries and PF and was discussed.

Site Visit

- No site inspection was conducted due to COVID

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on the 4th May 2021 at 2.00 pm