

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

Minutes - 10 May 2021 2:00pm

Attendance

Kristine McKenzie – The Hills Shire Council (THSC) – Chairperson
Daniel Giffney– The Hills Shire Council (THSC) John Graham – PF Formation (PF)
Joshua Graham – PF Formation (PF)
Luke Graham – PF Formation (PF)
Dianna Rea – PF Formation (PF)
Shaunagh Hitchcock - Resident

Apologies

Lisa Aylward – Resident
Marianne Sheumack – Resident
Melissa Mass – South East Environmental

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Last meeting in November 2020.

- Accepted

Matters Arising from Minutes

- None

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

- Sales are still up and our products are in high demand. Government projects and residential construction are still going strong. We have found there is a big demand for natural products for electrical, gas and pipe bedding backfill due to issues with contaminated recycled material and strict requirements on civil sites to only allow VENM or Natural quarry materials onto site.
- No complaints relating to the quarry operations have been received in the past six months however we have received some complaints in relation to truck driver behaviour on public roads.
- Extraction has continued into Pit 8 (Jurds, and Deans old place) We have found some really hard seams of laterite in some areas but overall, the pit is yielding good quality material. There is a buffer around the properties. The operational life of the quarry is expected to be extended to 2039.
- Kristine asked if we had any problems with the large amount of rain, Josh commented that Melissa noticed there was a wall slumping but not concerning. Our dams coped well with all the rainwater.
- The tailing ponds are being raised on Por 214. We have a contractor coming this week to place sediment fencing along the southern boundary before the walls are raised any further.

- We still do not have an answer for the MOD we submitted early last year. We have been told the application has been recommended for approval by the assessing officer and is now with a Director who will send the draft conditions before giving approval.

Reporting

- The LMP, WMP, AQMP, NMP, EMS, Pit shell plan and Rehabilitation bond review letter were submitted to DPIE in December 2020. DPIE then requested tracked copies of all the plans. The documents are only now being reviewed by DPIE and no further responses have been received.

Environmental Matters

- Ground water has responded to the recent rainfall. The shallow aquifer responded to the rain received in March immediately while the deeper aquifer took a little while before some recharge occurred, as can be seen on the graphs supplied.

New wells within Pit 8 have not been dipped since the March rainfall as the site is somewhat still underwater and too muddy to access. I expect they will be accessible for the May monitoring cycle.

Maps depicting the location of the monitoring wells to be supplied at the next meeting.

- Surface water testing was undertaken following the March rain event. There were no exceedances which required referral to the EPA.
- Air quality remains within the allowable limits.
- Rehabilitation work has been focused on treating annual weeds which have had a fantastic growing season over summer. Weeds of National Significance have been the main priority although all other weeds are also being controlled.

General

- The main issue of Shaunagh is the trucks and asked if we have a 3 system strike in place and we do and it is in conjunction with the other quarries in the area.
- Shaunagh asked about the Deerubin project and Josh will email the DA documents.

Site Visit

- Site inspection was conducted with Kristine.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on the 9th November 2021 at 2.00 pm