

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

Minutes – 02 May 2023 - 2:00 pm

Attendance

Robert Buckham – The Hills Shire Council (THSC) – Chairperson
Joshua Graham – PF Formation (PF)
Luke Graham – PF Formation (PF)
Melissa Mass – South East Environmental (SEE)
Marianne Sheumack – Resident
Lisa Aylward - Resident

Apologies

Kristine McKenzie – The Hills Shire Council (THSC)
Shaunagh Hitchcock - Resident

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Last meeting on 08 November 2022

- Accepted

Matters Arising from Minutes

- None

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

- Sand extraction and overburden removal has continued on Trig Hill and also in Pit 8, which is the area to the south of the site behind the fire shed.
- Backfilling operations are underway in Pit 6, Josh explains this area is the large quarry void directly south of Trig Hill. The haul road running from the front gate to the quarry void has been upgraded using recycled bitumen clippings to allow road truck access to the tipping face.
- The allocation for importing material is 250,000 tonnes per calendar year, Josh explained that this allocation is likely to be fully utilized. Marianne asked what types of material are being used to fill the hole, Josh explains that VENM, ENM and Resource Recovery material are used.
- Marianne asked if clay material from the site is being used to backfill the void also, Josh explains that clay material is not currently being used for backfilling the Pit 6 void and is being used to raise dam walls and cap tailing ponds.
- We are seeing increased demand for coarse sand in the market, there are limited suppliers of the product and most deposits are located a long way from Sydney.
- Rainfall has been very persistent over the past 6 months and has made it difficult to operate the site.
- No material was imported from Maroota Lodge Quarry as the site is currently not operational.
- No complaints were received since our last meeting.

Reporting

- A rehabilitation plan was prepared and submitted to Crown Lands for approval, the plan was in relation to the disturbed areas along Patricia Fay Drive. The plan was approved by Crown Lands on 19th April 2023.
- We have an Independent Environmental Audit due this year, we will ask the same consultant (RPS) that did our last audit to give us a proposal and if acceptable request approval from the Planning Secretary for RPS to undertake the audit.
- We do not intend to make any changes to the approved offset strategy for the site, Melissa asks what type of rehabilitation will occur in the area that is being backfilled behind Trig Hill, Josh explains that the area will most likely be used for the remaining SHTW revegetation.

Report on Environmental Matters by Melissa Mass (SEE)

- Groundwater monitoring results were presented and continue to show elevated groundwater levels across the site. Rainfall has been persistent over the last 6 months and has restricted access to some of the monitoring wells.
- Deposited dust monitoring results were presented and discussed; dust levels are below the threshold criteria for the approval. No spikes in levels have occurred since August 2021 Site 1, which was attributed to slashing of paddocks in preparation for the Maroota Muster.
- Lisa explained that her father is the new groundskeeper for Maroota School and they are planning a few pile burns in preparation for the Maroota Muster this year, Lisa advises she will notify us when they are happening so we can cover the dust monitor to avoid a false reading.
- Noise monitoring results were presented and discussed, Location 2 which is located on the corner of Wisemans Ferry and Old Northern Roads is very noisy as it is heavily impacted by road traffic due to the operation of the intersection. All sites are below the quarry noise criteria.
- The bush regeneration crews have been actively undertaking weed management over the last 6 months, no other rehabilitation actions have occurred.

General

- Works have been carried out at the bus shelter on the corner of Wisemans Ferry and Old Northern Roads, a concrete slab has been placed under the shelter.
- Marianne reiterated general concerns about heavy vehicle driver conduct in the area and increasing truck and vehicle movements due to more development.
- The condition of Wisemans Ferry and Old Northern Roads in general is quite poor, the edges are washed away in sections and is quite dangerous.
- Other projects in the area and surrounding areas were discussed.

Site Visit

- A site inspection was carried out with Robert and Lisa.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on the 14th November 2023 at 2:00pm.