

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

Minutes – 14 November 2023 - 2:00 pm

Attendance

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

Joshua Graham – PF Formation (PF)

John Graham – PF Formation

Melissa Mass – South East Environmental (SEE)

Marianne Sheumack – Resident

Lisa Aylward – Resident

Shaunagh Hitchcock – Resident

Apologies

Luke Graham – PF Formation (PF)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Last meeting on 02 May 2023

- Accepted

Matters Arising from Minutes

- None

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

- Operations have continued as normal, there have been no major incidents or notifiable events.
- All extractive material has been sourced from Pit 8, which is the area behind the fire station.
- Overburden removal has continued in a southerly direction towards David Camilleri's place, the tertiary sand seam meets the sandstone deposit in this area.
- The pit is yielding good quality tertiary sand but has some very hard ironstone seams in some areas which has been difficult to extract, however we have been able to process the ironstone into a product. There is very friable pure white sandstone in areas also.
- Recovered Aggregate has been imported under a Resource Recovery Exemption issued by the EPA. The material has been used to construct an all-weather road into the void we are backfilling and to access Pit 8.
- No material was imported from Maroota Lodge Quarry as the site is currently not operational.
- No complaints were received since our last meeting.

Reporting

- The Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) was completed by RPS on 10th October 2023, the audit found no non-compliances and identified 7 Opportunities for Improvement, these were presented and discussed.
- PF Formation have submitted the IEA along with a response to recommendations via the planning portal. The Department has responded and requested the status of the recommendations be included in the next Annual Review.

- The Traffic Management Plan has been re submitted as REV C, along with a tracked changes copy.
- The Water Management Plan has been submitted and no response from the Department has been received thus far.

Report on Environmental Matters by Melissa Mass (SEE)

- Noise results were presented and discussed, levels have risen somewhat at Site 2, it is noted that traffic noise is the contributor to the rise in levels, and the readings are now taken near the road as the land owner has not approved access to the property to take the readings.
- Melissa notes that dust from the haul roads has reduced dramatically with the new road to Pit 8, the road has minimum dust even when dry, which will reduce the need to constantly water the road during the hotter months.
- Deposited dust results were presented and discussed, levels have been low and below the limits of the EPL, however there was a spike in dust results at Site 3 in March 2023, the paddock was turned over by the landowner during the month which is the likely cause of the elevated level.
- Ground water level monitoring results were presented and discussed, water levels are slowly dropping which is expected as levels have been elevated by the high rainfall periods and now it is drying out.
- The rehabilitation areas are progressing well, the bush regenerator teams have been removing weeds from the site and no other maintenance work is required, the site is almost self-sustained other than the occasional weed break out.

General

- Shaunagh thanks Kristine for following up on bus shelter works and notes the works has been completed.
- Marianne asked Kristine if heavy vehicles transporting materials to Maroota must pay contributions towards damage caused to the roads, Kristine advises that they do not pay contributions and only Extractive Industry within the The Hills Shire Council area pays contributions for road maintenance.
- Kristine asked if PF have started at 4567 Old Northern Road site, Josh advises the road upgrade on Old Telegraph Rd has started and is expected to be completed before Christmas and the quarry development has not yet commenced.
- Lisa asked Kristine who to report to if the school receives complaints about trucks, Kristine advises that traffic related truck issues, i.e. speeding and tailgating is a matter for the police.
- Shaunagh asks about the Deerubbin application, Josh advises that the applicant has submitted a submissions report and the status on the NSW Major Projects website is 'more information required'.

Site Visit

- A site inspection was carried out with Kristine, Shaunagh, Marianne and Lisa.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on the 7th May 2024 at 2:00pm.