

MINUTES OF BRANDY HILL QUARRY

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday 11th August 2021

Venue: Microsoft Teams online

Apologies: Pre McGee, Rob Adams, Cr Paul Le Mottee & Scott Whittaker

Present:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Belinda Pignone (BP)	Environmental Planning & Compliance Coordinator
Andrew Driver (AD)	Eastern Region Development Manager
Nicole Stanfield (NS)	Compliance Officer (Minute Secretary)
Brad Nelson (BN)	Quarry Manager
Shaun Boland (SB)	Production Supervisor
Neil Richie (NR)	Community Representative (VOWW & BHSAG)
Margarete Richie (MR)	Community Representative (VOWW & BHSAG)
James Moore (JM)	Community Representative
Chantal Parslow Redman (CPR)	Community Representative

- 1 Opening & Welcome** – LA opened the meeting at 10:04am and welcomed all attendees. LA acknowledged all members attending the meeting via Microsoft Teams and thanked them for participating in this forum.
- 2 Apologies** – As above.
- 3 Declarations** - LA declared that she is an approved Independent Chairperson by the Department of Planning & Environment, engaged by Hanson to chair the meeting. No changes to members' previous declarations.
- 4 Business arising from previous meeting minutes**

The minutes from 17 March 2021 were finalised and sent out to members on 13 April 2021.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Investigate installation of speed hump at end of quarry driveway. BN advised that following a trial of truck movements over the speed bump at the weighbridge that the installation of a speed hump at the end of the quarry driveway would cause excessive noise to the surrounding area. BN therefore sought direction from the CCC. Following	BN

	discussions it was felt that the stop sign already installed should provide the correct safety measure and that the extra noise that a speed bump would generate if installed would not be acceptable to the community. Drivers are reminded to ensure they abide with the existing stop sign. NFA - Complete.	
2	Change sign at quarry entry to include "complaints". Complete (photograph of sign to be sent to CCC members with minutes).	BN
3	Blast monitor at CPR for next blast. Complete. Blast monitor on site 20/4/21 with nil trigger.	DT
4	Advise CCC members when Management Plans are approved and placed on project website. Awaiting DPIE approval - Ongoing.	BP/LA

LA read out an email from JM regarding the previous minutes:

"I would like a correction re lighting raised at the last meeting.

My recommendation was to use wide area industrial lighting that is designed to shine down. These lights give high visibility within the designated work area with negligible spill, if at all any.

A second point I wish tabled relates to noise and its travel. On a previous occasion I made a statement that a particular noise heard during the night was probably "Agriculture" noise. I now believe that was incorrect.

In the last four to six weeks or so we have experienced a few incredibly still days, and on at least three occasions there was a distinct sound very similar to the same night time noise previously reported. My residence is located some five kilometre almost due south of the primary crushing plant

I went looking more intently for the source. At a location approximately 1km east of the Clarence Town Rd and Brandy Hill intersection it was possible to clearly identify the sound as emanating north of Clarence Town Road, that is from Hanson's Quarry, and I firmly believe the source was from the primary crushing plant.

To this end, given the right weather conditions, the residents of Giles Rd, Seaham and surrounds and Brandy Hill will be exposed to certain noise generated within the quarry.

As a footnote, in times of high winds in the trees, all other noises can be drowned out."

Noted, no further discussions on this matter and no other business arising.

5 Correspondence – as sent out on 4/8/21 with 3 additional items.

- 29/3/21 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 29/3/21 – Email from Cr PLM regarding truck safety concerns in school zones along Nelson Plains Road. Acknowledged and forwarded on to Hanson for investigation/action.
- 22/4/21 – Email to DPIE with chair's annual report on the operations of the CCC from 2020-2021.
- 13/4/21 - Email to members with the finalised minutes'
- 18/6/21 - Email to 19/6/21 – Email to members with a change in start time for this meeting.
- 28/6/21 - Email to members postponing the CCC due to COVID restrictions.
- 23/7/21 - Email to members proposing that the CCC be held via video-conferencing.
- 27/7/21 – Email to members proposing the CCC be held on Monday 9/8/21 at 10am.
- 28/7/21 – Email to members proposing the new date of Wednesday 11/8/21 at 10am.
- 4/8/21 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting.

- 9/8/21 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting.
- 9/8/21 – Email from PLM to LA advising of information previously received from PSC regarding the current situation with the proposed pathway. This item was read out to members and moved to the Project Update for discussion.
- 10/8/21 – Email from JM to LA with questions/information for this meeting regarding spread of lighting and noise. This correspondence was read and tabled. NFA.

6 Reports & Updates

- BP advised the CCC that Management Plan are yet to be approved by DPIE, however, appear to be in their final stages. Hanson are currently reviewing fee proposals for proposed rehabilitation works in the southern section. A final decision will be made by the company in the next week.
- CPR enquired whether Newcastle University has been involved in relation to the Koala Management Plan. AD responded that he has been speaking with representatives from the Uni, who are limited with their work skills for the assessment part of this project, however, will be able to assist with monitoring when the Management Plan is approved.
- AD advised that the existing consent will be surrendered when all approvals are in place.
- Discussions commenced on the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) between Hanson and Port Stephens Council, especially in relation to the funding, design and construction on the pathway. LA read out the email from PLM that had been received that morning:

"The only thing I know that is worth mentioning at the meeting is a message I received from Council staff some weeks ago:

The significant damage caused to Port Stephens Roads in the March and April rain events is costing millions to repair

- *These repairs are Councils absolute priority at the moment*
 - *This has obviously delayed design and construction of the pathway (but I believe design has now resumed?)*
 - *Council offered to let Hanson fund the design and construction of the pathway and then recoup the costs by not paying haulage fees*
 - *I am unaware of Hanson's response to this."*
- AD stated that the funding of the pathway is a big issue and that Hanson has been trying to progress this matter with Council. CCC members expressed their disappointment on the delays of this important safety issue. Whilst CCC members agreed that the damage from the rain events were substantial, they were of the opinion that the construction of the pathway was coming from the developer contribution funds and that this shouldn't affect the road repairs, which would come from the general works funds. MR & JM advised that they had spoken with a Council staff member 4-6 weeks previous and were advised that they had "flown" the pathway route for a drone survey. MR & JM reiterated to Council that they wanted local involvement in the design process, which Council agreed to. MR & JM were also advised that Council was awaiting the outcome of a grant application for the pathway.
 - LA advised that she would email PLM with the CCC members' concerns and seek clarification. **Action.**

- AD advised that he would update DPIE on this matter and report back to the CCC, further that Council staff had previously advised that they had secured funding to complete the detailed design and costing for the pathway.
- BN commented that PLM is the Deputy Mayor, so hopefully he may be able to progress the cause through Council.

Site Operations

- BN advised that the quarry operations are “business as usual” and that complaints have been received around blasting. BN has been speaking with the wider community in relation to complaints from Saturday night, advising that this was not from Brandy Hill.
- CPR advised that she posts the blasting notification on the Giles Road Facebook page when she receives it. BN thanked CPR for this and invited members of the community to contact BHQ if they wished to be placed on the blasting notification distribution list.
- CRP enquired whether the signage at the entry to the quarry had been changed to include “complaints”, so the public could ring the hotline. NS confirmed that it had been updated. LA asked NS to send a photograph of the sign. **Action.**
- BN also confirmed that the plant lighting was on a timer and the lights were switched off from 8:00pm to 5:00am.

7 General Business

- CPR advised that she had received an enquiry from a neighbour advising that the Giles Rd/Croft Road gate was open. BN confirmed that AusGrid had accessed the site for power line maintenance.
- NR & MR enquired about early morning trucks before 6am. BN advised that Hanson trucks leave the site from 5:00am (outbound), these trucks are already on site overnight and that sub-contractors are allowed inbound from 6:30am onwards, in compliance with the conditions of consent.
- JM commented that two white trucks were noticed between 5:15am and 5:30am heading north tailgating one another and racing along Seaham Road. JM recommended that tracking devices be placed on all contractor trucks. BN responded that all contractors sign Hanson’s Code of Conduct, agreeing to its regulations and rules. Confirming that Hanson trucks are tracked. JM advised that other companies mandate that contractors are tracked and reiterated that Hanson should require this.
- AD advised that Hanson trucks have tracking devices and was cautious about mandating contractors due to trade practices concerns.
- LA asked if Hanson conduct random audits of contractors coming to and from the site. AD advised that all trucks are registered in and out of the quarry through the weighbridge.
- MR informed the CCC of a bad car accident at the corner of Hinton & Seaham Rd, where the speed limit had been changed from 100km to 80km. Stating that a number of people were traumatised by the incident. MR advised of another incident when resident slipped off the nature strip, falling onto the road and could have been hit by a car. Further that a footpath is a priority for this area.
- NR enquired about the timing for approval of the Management Plan and new consent. AD advised that they have taken longer than anticipated. Hanson are at the mercy of DPIE and will advise the CCC as soon as they are approved.
- CPR asked how the community could apply for sponsorship and/or donations. BN advised that he is happy to receive any enquiries from the community and to inform them to email him direct.

- LA informed the CCC that local Council elections have been extended from September to 4 December 2021 due to COVID restrictions.
- BN informed the CCC that there will be night loads to Williamstown RAAF base. SW to email CCC with details.

Action.

8 Next Meeting

LA advised that the next CCC was scheduled for Wednesday 29 September 2021, however given this meeting was pushed back to August, due to COVID restrictions, recommended that the Q3 meeting be cancelled with the next CCC scheduled for Wednesday 17 November 2021 to go ahead.

All in agreement.

Meeting closed 10:53am with LA thanking all attendees for their contribution.

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Provide feedback on pathway to PLM for follow-up	LA
2	Send photograph of quarry entry sign to CCC showing "complaints"	NS/LA
3	Information on night loads for RAAF contract to be provided to CCC members	SW/LA