

MINUTES OF NRQA COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 22 November 2019 – Goolmangar Hall – Goolmangar NSW – 4:00pm

Present: Chairperson, Director, Infrastructure Services, Compliance Coordinator, Quarry Production Supervisor, Administration

Community Committee Members: Neighbour 1, Neighbour 7, Neighbour W,

Apologies: Commercial Services Manager, Neighbour 2

Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 4.10pm and welcomed all members.

Previous Minutes

Overview of previous meeting and minutes were accepted as being true and correct.

Business arising from minutes of previous meeting:

Stray cattle and fencing

Neighbour W advised the committee that other peoples' stray cattle coming into her property through the back boundary of her property. This is causing issues as she is concerned with spread of cattle ticks. Neighbour W was also concerned about being quarantined in the future and having to go through the processes of impoundment of stray cattle. Neighbour W advises she would like fencing of Quarry boundaries to be a priority – especially now that during drought when cattle are looking for feed.

Quarry Production Supervisor advised the Committee no cattle or evidence of cattle have been sighted suggesting no cattle movements through the Quarry lands. Quarry Production Supervisor also confirmed the temporary electric fencing has been put in place along entrance road to prevent cattle movements from property owner Neighbour 2.

Neighbour 2 sent a message via Neighbour 1, that he also advised he would like to see a permanent fence up beside the road, (instead of the temporary electric fence currently there).

The Chairperson surmised that there are two issues to be looked into 1) the temporary electric fencing, and 2) check other quarry boundary fences.

Compliance Coordinator advised the committee that no cattle are kept by Council. Council happy to discuss boundary fences with landholders. However further discussions and negotiations would need to be had around funding if required, as Council are not running any livestock. Further should cattle be moving through the quarry lands unknowingly, landholders need to advise Council and provide information on where these incidences are occurring. As presently Council unable to comment on any other boundary fencing issues.

Additionally, Compliance Coordinator commented that regarding Neighbour 1 land, the fencing has been pegged and there is budget in place for this work to commence. Further fencing along Neighbour 3 land is being progressively fenced.

HVAS Testing

Compliance Coordinator informed the Committee that as part of the Air Quality Management required at the Quarry, a HVAS (High Volume Air Sampling) was undertaken last November. The monitor was placed on Neighbour 1 property. Results from the report came back that dust particles were well below NSW requirements which was a good outcome.

Annual Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR)

Compliance Coordinator informed the Committee that the 2018 AEMR was completed and submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for review. The DPE has responded to Council advising it did not have any issues regarding this report.

The report can be found on Council's website.

Neighbour W asked where on the website can it be located – and could Council send an email link for easy access.

The Annual Environmental Management Report 2018 can be found under the Business and Industry Tab, Environmental Reporting. Go to www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Compliance Coordinator informed the Committee that the Council's Quarry website page is also updated regularly with other environmental monitoring data and information.

Wild dog baiting

Neighbour W informed the committee that she thinks the wild dog baiting needs to be a combined issue between all neighbours and the Quarry.

Neighbour 7 has advised the Committee that whilst she undertook the baiting in previous years on the Council land, in conjunction with approval from the Local Land Services (LLS), she is unable to continue with this assistance due to an allergy issue with ticks.

Neighbour 7 agreed there are wild dogs around and commented it is better if everyone baits at same time. Also, her current baiting notices have expired, and the 6 monthly Local Land Service notices are a better option as this gives everyone a chance to get baiting done, and timeframes can overlap.

Neighbour W agreed that wild dogs have been sighted, however she wasn't sure if the LLS has the capacity either to deliver baits or if there are baits available at the moment due to recent fire impacts. She suggested Council check with LLS.

Quarry Production Coordinator confirmed that Council/ Quarry would organise to have someone to lay Quarry baits. Compliance Coordinator agreed that Council would follow up on the availability of baits with LLS and liaise with relevant stakeholders for a targeted approach.

Correspondence

Administration advises email correspondence regarding the wild dog baiting is the only correspondence since last meeting.

General Business.

Compliance Coordinator & Quarry Production Coordinator informed the Committee that the Quarry is not running at full capacity and at approximately 50% production.

Neighbour W asked if quarry running at a loss? Is this because of the offset land purchase?

Compliance Coordinator responded that compliance costs and acquirement/management of the offset land was expensive but not solely responsible, for example the recently requested Air sampling by the Department cost Council \$20,000. Council has been actively working on addressing imposed compliance requirements through thorough auditing which has resulted in significant increases to costs. Noting overheads remain the same regardless of production outcome. The Quarry being licenced as a State Significant Project means additional reporting and compliance requirements.

Compliance Coordinator continued advising auditing by Compliance has been undertaken since she commenced with Council last year including, licences, storm water testing, groundwater testing, development applications (DA's) and there have been numerous departmental compliance requests requiring additional budget.

Neighbour 7 asked will the Quarry be looking at more production or will Asphalt be shut down?

Compliance Coordinator & Quarry Production Coordinator advised Council's quarry material is perfect for asphalt - Council supplies the majority of product internally to Council and to the Asphalt plant.

Quarry Production Coordinator commented that when the new General Manager started, the true financials position came out. Council would be looking to where they can cut costs and liabilities.

Quarry Production Coordinator advised the Committee that at present a Consultant was auditing the quarry this week, looking at production and the sales market as it stands. The Quarry has a high-quality rock source but depth of overburden impacts upon the cost to get the rock out of the ground.

Amalgamation of Asphalt and Quarry Development Application

Compliance Coordinator informed the Committee that the DA for the Modification has been underway for over 12 months. Quarry and Asphalt plant DA is now with the Department for approval.

There were a couple of objections lodged for this DA, mainly traffic concerns regarding the quality of Nimbin Road. This is now subject to a traffic assessment. Further information requests have been received from RMS and Dept of Planning specifically around the traffic management report. Council has been working with a consultant to address this. More details are still being requested at this time.

Neighbour W expressed concerns about quality of Nimbin Road and Booree Creek hill. The road is in shocking condition and she feels this issue is due to the trucks from the Quarry. Neighbour W advises the design of the road in relation to the quarry trucks using the road is a serious concern and a danger.

Discussion was then held between Committee members regarding the traffic using Nimbin Road and problems with the cracks in the bitumen. The Committee expressed concerns about the road being

more dangerous after rain. Tourists who aren't familiar with the road, and that it's also contains areas that are dangerous to overtake on.

Compliance Coordinator advised the Quarry (Commercial Entity) pays (Sect 94) levy on outgoing quarry material. Council receives this payment and is responsible for Nimbin Road maintenance. Noting this meeting was being held by the commercial entity (Blakebrook Quarry) and could not speak for divisions of Council.

The Chairperson asked about the time frame for the Traffic assessment.

Compliance Coordinator advises it may be looking at January 2020 now, as the consultants need to relook at traffic assessments.

Neighbour W advises she feels Community feedback would be required at that point to ensure that it addresses the community's concerns.

The Chairperson advises as a state DA process, it would be posted on the Departments website, therefore it will be a public document.

LEP AMMENDMENT – E2 Conservation Zoning.

Compliance Coordinator informed the Committee this is waiting to be signed off by the Department. The E2 Conservation zoning is around the buffer area of the Quarry. This offers the highest protection of that land available and is considered to be the best option. The boundary fencing of the zone however comes with issues as it is difficult to obtain approvals to fence, or clear along fence lines, however the Compliance team is working on this at the moment. Also noting an old disused mine shaft was found in the area to the south and signage was being erected.

Neighbour 7 agrees that maintaining the fences would be an issue. Also asked about selling the quarry – what happens to the E2 land?

Compliance Coordinator responded this is a permanent security option for the offset land. If the quarry was sold this may go with the Quarry or alternatively remain with Council to manage the 12year strategy.

Rehabilitation Bond Submission

Compliance Coordinator advises The Department has changed the way the bond is calculated. Essentially, the bond is held as security to rehabilitate the Quarry lands if it were to be closed down and rehabilitated. Bond was successfully submitted, approved by the department and executed.

The Annual Environmental Monitoring Report

Compliance Coordinator advises there were no non-conformances that came back from the Department regarding this report.

The Groundwater Assessment Report

Compliance Coordinator advised this was undertaken at the Departments' request at large expense. As a result of this report, Council was informed it must buy Water Shares for 70 mega litres. Council has submitted an EOI application to purchase the required water shares and is awaiting outcome.

Weed Control

Compliance Coordinator advises regular weed control is undertaken by the Quarry's Bush Regeneration contractors.

Additional Other Business

Compliance Coordinator reminded the committee of the process to make a complaint - not through the Quarry weighbridge, but to call Councils Contact Centre so the complaint will be sent to Compliance team to investigate and respond within a set time frame.

The Chairperson mentioned that he considered the amount of work undertaken by Quarry and Compliance this last 12 months was considerable.

Compliance Coordinator commended Quarry Production Coordinator on his hard work and efforts.

Neighbour W wanted to know about the Quarry's Fire Management plans.

Neighbour 7 added that in the area around the Quarry is generally struck by lightning one or two times each year which can cause a few fires, but they usually come with rain. Neighbour 7 fully expects a loss if a major fire was to come through at this time with conditions as they are.

Neighbour W advises Neighbour 3 has managed the cool fire burn through winters in the past to control and protect the areas.

Neighbour 7 advises she would be happy to work with Council to assist in managing the risk.

Compliance Coordinator informed the Committee that Council would investigate this further. Noting with the offset land being protected, biodiversity areas may make clearing for fire breaks challenging.

Neighbour W considered there should be a justification of the clearing along the fence lines and better fire management to protect the community and Councils assets.

Neighbour 7 advises the risk is there if you live in the bush.

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 5pm.

Next meeting to be advised.

ACTION	ACTION OUTCOME	BY WHOM & WHEN
Contact LLS to enquire about availability of wild dog baits	Contact Committee members and advise outcome	Council – 31 January 2020
Traffic Management Assessment relating to Nimbin Road	Forward link to Departments State projects page to ensure committee members know where to locate assessment information and outcome	Council – 31 January 2020
Council website Quarry records	Forward link to Council records page to ensure committee members can find referenced records	Council – 31 January 2020