

Boral Cement Berrima

More than 90 years of growing the Southern Highlands and NSW

April 2020

On behalf of our organisation, we extend our sincerest best wishes and hope to our valued neighbours and community partners at this most extraordinary of times. Boral Berrima Cement remains open for business and so we offer this latest update on activity at our site.

Connect with Boral Berrima

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Operating hours: 24 hour operational site

Dust event attracts fine

Just before Christmas, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issued the Cement Works a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) for the dust 'event' which occurred during June and July last year.

As mentioned in our previous community newsletter, the event was triggered by the failure of **three** out of **144** dust collection bags in our **Cement Mill 6**.

This failure resulted in dust venting through an **exhaust outlet** some **12 metres** above ground, out of normal **visual range** and that of our onsite **cameras**.

Given **weather conditions** at the time, it wasn't until complaints came in from neighbours that the effects upon surrounding properties were apparent.

While we worked quickly to resolve the situation once identified, we **accept** the EPA PIN as a learning for both **managing site dust emissions** and preparing to **respond** swiftly to any site-related impacts.

We've continued to work with the EPA since **self-reporting** the incident in July. This work has mainly focussed on changing **procedures** and **practices**, and implementing the **new approaches** explained in our last **newsletter**, on our **website**, and at our last **Community Liaison Group (CLG)** meeting.



These include installing a new **'real time' dust monitor** on the site's northern boundary, commissioning a new **water cart**, and continued daily **weather station monitoring** for adverse conditions.

One of the other things we've tried to do is better understand the **appropriate** process for **cleaning solar panels** and **roofs** if such an event occurs.

Residents requested further information about this at our **Whole of Community meeting** held **25 July**. As explained through our communications, getting an answer hasn't been as straightforward as first thought.

The main issue is we're told there isn't any **consistency** between the **manufacture** and **materials** across solar panel brands. As a result, what suits one system may very well damage another.



To account for this, we've decided the best approach is to ask **New Berrima** residents interested in the information to **register** their system with us so we can gain comprehensive answers from **each supplier**.

Although we're working hard to ensure a similar event doesn't happen again, taking this approach will help ensure we have the right advice to offer if needed.

Please email us via feedback@boral.com.au with the name of the **manufacturer** of your system and its **model**, as well as your **address** and **contact details**. We'll then publish the correct information once gained.

Did you know...our kiln's 'diet' is now HiCal?

Berrima Cement was granted **approval** to integrate **HiCal 50** into all stages of the kiln's **energy fuel process** at the **end of 2019**. Find out more about **HiCal 50** on our **website**.

More information? www.boral.com.au/berrimacement.

Like us on **Facebook** – **@Boral Australia**.



Grant to further grow SWDF

The Berrima Cement Works' innovative Solid Waste Derived Fuels (SWDF) system is now well and truly part of the site's production chain, and is poised to reach even greater heights in the coming years.

The **planning approval** for the SWDF system, gained at the end of **2016**, allows the site to make use of up to **100 000 tonnes** of SWDF material **each year** in blend with coal to provide the kiln with **heat energy**.

As we go further into 2020, we're using the equivalent rate of **just over half** the permitted amount.



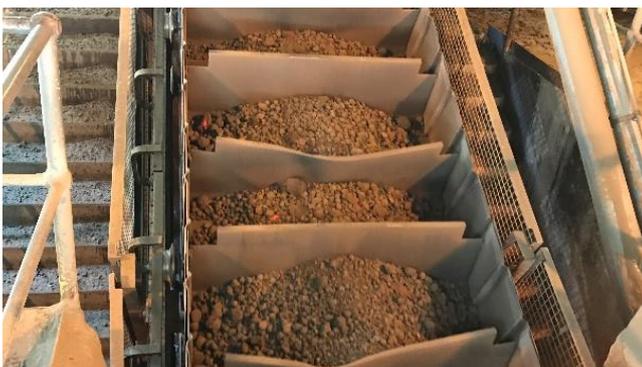
With plentiful supply of the **Wood Waste-Derived (WWDF)** and **Refuse-Derived (RDF) Fuels** we use available, we're in a position to move closer to the maximum approved SWDF volume.

However, before we can go too much higher, further **modification** of the SWDF system must be made. One of the things we need is a **chloride bypass**.

This new piece of equipment will help address the **chlorine**-related compounds which are contained within the fuel materials in small amounts.

As we use greater volumes of SWDFs, the amount of this chlorine and residual chlorides present and released during **combustion** also increases.

Although these levels are **miniscule** thanks to the extreme operating **temperatures** of the kiln, and therefore have a **negligible effect** on local **air quality**, they can interfere with our end product.



Just before Christmas, our ability to build the bypass received a major boost with the **NSW Environment Trust** making a **second** grant to the SWDF system. Almost **\$4.7 million** has been approved for the works from the Trust's **Waste Less, Recycle More** initiative.

As with the Trust's initial funds, Boral is very grateful to the NSW Government for its investment. We'll communicate more about this project once plans and a schedule have been finalised.

Helping when it's needed

At Boral Berrima, we have tried our best to work alongside the community as it has met challenge after challenge over the past six months.

Before the start of Summer, like many others our business was being affected by the persistent **drought conditions** which gripped the country.

Using a **licenced extraction point**, the Cement Works relies on the **Wingecarribee River** for its water needs. With no flow occurring over the local weir, Boral deferred water extraction in **November**.

Then the **bushfires** came to the region. We were pleased to work with the **Rural Fire Service (RFS)** during this period by providing direct access to the **water fill point** at our former **Medway Colliery** site. We also had many of our staff among the RFS and **NSW Fire & Rescue** crews who battled the blazes.

Reviewing both situations, we're now exploring whether the **natural water** flowing through the Colliery might **supply** the Cement Works in future.

During January, we also offered our facilities at the **New Berrima Recreation Ground and Hall** as the potential **base camp** for **BlazeAid** volunteers working across the Highlands on bushfire recovery.

Now with a new problem upon us, we're working carefully and cautiously to ensure industry can continue to access building and construction materials needed to keep our infrastructure maintained and growing in line with our needs.

While we do so, we urge our neighbours and stakeholders to take care during this time, and to keep in touch with us should there be anything else we can do to assist our fantastic community.



More information? www.boral.com.au/berrimacement.

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