

Boral Cement Berrima Community Liaison Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Date:	10 December 2020
Meeting Location:	Virtual session via Microsoft Teams
CLG Member Attendees:	Clive West (Berrima and Berrima Residents Association representative) Barry Arthur (Environment Manager, Wingecarribee Shire Council)
Boral Attendees:	Dean Beltrame (Operations Manager, Berrima Cement) Greg Johnson (Environment & Sustainability Manager, Boral Cement) Paul Jackson (Stakeholder Relations Manager, Corporate Communications) (Chair)
Apologies:	Andrew Wood (New Berrima representative) John Barrett (Burradoo and Berrima Residents Association representative)
Invited Guest:	Geoff Wright (Belanglo resident and WinZero Committee member)
Distribution:	All attendees Boral Cement Berrima website (www.boral.com.au/berrimacement)
Disclaimer:	<i>These notes are taken from presentations and conversations which formed part of this meeting. The content of this document, while reflecting an accurate summary of proceedings, should not be taken to represent exact dialogue unless specifically minuted as such.</i> <i>Meeting notes remain draft until confirmed by members at a following meeting.</i>

Meeting Item	Description
Meeting commenced	10:03
Welcome, administration and safety moment	<p>Paul Jackson thanked everyone for offering their time to attend the session and for participating once again using the 'virtual' platform in lieu of an in-person meeting.</p> <p>Paul reminded everyone the meeting was being held online due to a miscommunication about the original date (26 November) and the fact he did not have the availability to travel back to Berrima before the end of the year.</p> <p>The Traditional Owners of the lands on which each of the participants were located were then appropriately acknowledged and respects offered.</p> <p>Geoff Wright was then welcomed as a guest, with Paul asking him to elaborate on his interest in the Berrima Cement Works CLG.</p>

Geoff thanked Paul and outlined that he is a resident of nearby Belanglo and a retired builder. He explained that he retains an interest in matters concerning the environment and anything which reduces human impacts upon same.

Geoff is also a member of the WinZero Committee, formed to help guide Wingecarribee Shire's response to the ongoing climate change 'emergency' as declared by Council.

With introductions completed, Paul then invited his colleagues to offer a 'safety moment' as per the usual practice. **Dean Beltrame** then spoke about the effect of weather conditions upon operations.

Dean noted there had been very high winds around Berrima of late and indeed some trees on site had fallen as a result. He also mentioned a rotating air vent had come off a site building and crashed to the ground.

Dean related that the safety moment arose from the need to be aware of weather conditions, particularly when unpredictable, and the possible consequences upon person safety from them.

Paul thanked Dean for the input and then asked for any matters arising from the previous CLG meeting held 3 September, noting there were seven action items to be reported upon.

There being nothing new, Paul elaborated on progress with each of the listed items. Item 1 related to the circulation of the endorsed Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the CLG to members which had been completed.

Paul noted the ToRs would remain in place until 2023 when they would need to be revised and re-adopted.

Item 2 concerned the site's long promised commitment to research the best methods for cleaning cement dust from solar panels as a response to the June-July 2019 dust 'event' in New Berrima.

Paul recapped what had happened with the issue during the past 18 months and the difficulties of being able to land on a singular solution to the initial problem, mainly due to inconsistencies in the manufacture of and materials used in different brands of panels.

Given the length of time which had passed, changes in site staff and the repeated 'roadblocks' in providing residents with the right information, Paul informed attendees that the business intended to end its efforts with the item.

Paul further pointed out only two residents had responded to the site's call for information about their solar systems. These residents would be supplied with any information discovered by Boral about their systems.

A member expressed concern that such a decision would leave the wider community dissatisfied when it came to future issues with dust from the site.

Paul clarified that dust complaints would continue to be dealt with as they had been for many years. It was just this specific issue which couldn't be progressed due to the variables encountered in finding solutions.

The third and fourth items concerned requests from the Berrima Residents Association (BRA) with respect to the Remembrance Driveway Memorial Grove on the Old Hume Highway.

Paul explained that both requests, being the provision of access to Boral-owned land for a tree inventory and nomination of a representative to the new Management Committee, were awaiting further information from the BRA.

It was then confirmed the BRA would be attending to these issues directly.

Item 5 concerned a request from the BRA that a Boral representative attend a meeting with Council staff about the proposed 'habitat corridor' around the boundary of Boral's landholding.

Paul asked whether the nominated meeting had taken place. It was indicated the BRA was awaiting a response from Boral on its support for the whole concept before the meeting was arranged.

This discussion led into Item 6 which itself concerned Boral's support as mentioned. Paul indicated that internal discussions had indeed taken place but that the matter would need to be deferred from the CLG session as final advice from Boral's Property team was pending.

Paul mentioned that once clarified, Boral would write to the BRA to set out its commitment to the proposal.

The final item related to the sharing of the presentation from the 3 September 2020 meeting with Council's Traffic team, specifically regarding the proposed heavy vehicle movements associated with a potential widening of the delivery window for Solid Waste Derived Fuels (SWDFs).

Paul confirmed this had been completed. **Barry Arthur** mentioned that his Traffic colleagues had appreciated being shown the information and didn't raise any concerns informally.

Barry noted, however, that Council would express its formal view on the proposal during the assessment phase as per the normal process.

There being no further discussion, the two apologies were noted and the business of the meeting proceeded.

Operations

Dean was then invited to present his usual overview of operations at the Cement Works since the previous session.

He began by informing attendees of the completion and commencement of operation in October of the isotainer facility on the New Berrima side of the site.

The site is currently running three isotainer trains a week, mainly to Victoria, equating to many road tankers being taken off the region's roads.

Dean also reported that as the effects of the COVID-19 situation had taken hold, cement volumes had started to drop off by about 12 to 14 percent.

The site had to carry work for the Maldon Works for a period after a failure in their mill, while there had been an unplanned kiln stop at Berrima which

had thankfully been turned around in four days.

Unfortunately, Dean revealed there had been further redundancies at the site since the last session with about 12 positions lost.

The Cement Works' safety record was reported as continuing along its high standard, with still no 'Lost Time Injuries' (LTIs) recorded during the last 712 days.

Dean did point out, however, that there had been two 'Medical Treatment Injuries' (MTIs) during the previous financial year with one being a strain, and the other a laceration.

Dean also mentioned the use of the new water cart, commissioned earlier in the year, was increasing and beginning to have a real influence on managing dust emissions.

An attendee raised previous CLG discussion and asked whether dust emissions could be mitigated through use of vacuuming rather than water spraying.

Dean responded by saying industrial vacuum trucks visited the site on a weekly basis with a majority of 'fugitive' dust on roads and hard surfaces removed that way.

The water cart and standard road sweepers are used just ahead of the vacuum trucks' arrival at site.

It was asked what happens to the collected dust. Dean explained that the dust collected is not all from the cement process and contains dust from the raw materials used.

Accordingly, if it has not been contaminated with other elements, the dust collected is re-used in the manufacturing process. If it can't be used, it is sent to resource recovery, not landfill.

A further question was asked as to whether the water cart could be used for fire emergencies.

Dean confirmed that in theory, it could be used to defend the Cement Works but due to not being road registered, it could not be deployed outside of the site.

With that said, Dean mentioned that the water supply available at the former Medway Colliery was accessible to fire services. Paul also raised that Boral water infrastructure, including road registered vehicles, was made available to communities right across the state and had been used in the 2019 fires.

Returning to the issue of dust management, Dean concluded his overview by mentioning that the site team had increased its regular interactions with community members in the past year.

The increased visibility of the site team in New Berrima had encouraged more residents to connect with the Cement Works when issues like dust arose, and it had been noted on local social media pages that those with whom the site had interacted were more inclined to provide advice to others.

Dean finally noted that community complaints about dust had greatly reduced since the collector bag replacement program after the 2019 dust 'event'. The issue still remains a big focus for the site team.

Environment

Paul then asked **Greg Johnson** to present his usual update on the site's environmental performance since the last session.

Greg began by informing attendees that both the NSW Department of Planning and the Environment Protection Authority had accepted a request for kiln stack testing to revert to a six-monthly program.

The most recent stack testing results, showing full compliance, were shared with the meeting.

Greg also confirmed that the 'real time' air quality monitoring system is now fully embedded and in use as part of operations.

The regular graphs showing the results of deposited dust and high volume air sampling (HVAS) monitoring were shown. Greg noted the latter had shown the effects of bushfire smoke from earlier in the year.

He further explained that there had been a pleasing downward trend in dust emissions during the past six months. It was noted that the weather conditions had generally been wetter, however Greg suggested there was also an indication that not all dust experienced locally was from the site.

To conclude, Greg reported that there had been early noise monitoring conducted on the new isotainer facility, the results of which had been very impressive.

It was suggested that the isotainer stacks actually shield New Berrima from the site and its outputs which was an unexpected bonus.

A team from the NSW Resources Regulator had also recently toured the site and were left impressed by the growth of vegetation planted several years ago, particularly around the shale pit.

Greg also mentioned the recent wet weather had triggered a high degree of weed growth and so spraying would be undertaken in response.

A discussion then continued about vegetation management at the site with reference to the BRA's 'habitat corridor' proposal.

A request was made as to whether the CLG could be shown the past of the site which would contain the proposed corridor if Boral were to offer it support.

It was also asked whether a check could be made of the clearance at the Stony Creek culvert under Berrima Road to see whether it was sufficient for animal movements.

Solid Waste
Derived Fuels
(SWDF) and
Planning

Paul then offered the meeting an update on behalf of his colleagues in the Planning team.

He revealed that since the previous session, Boral had liaised with the

Department of Planning on the various proposals planned to be subject of modification applications in the coming year.

These include the construction of the chloride bypass on the SWDF system, increased SWDF intake to site, the potential doubling of the currently permitted SWDF usage limit, and logistics associated with all of these.

As a result, it had been confirmed use of the modification planning pathway was the correct option. Paul mentioned further details using the information presented at the last CLG session would be shared more widely with the local community early in the new year.

Greg explained that with the terms of the State Government grant offered to the chloride bypass project, the business was hopeful of submitting the relevant modification later in January.

He also pointed out an updated air quality emissions assessment would need to be undertaken to ensure continued compliance with the existing air quality limits.

It was asked what makes up the SWDFs. Greg confirmed the site uses Wood Waste-Derived Fuel (WWDF) and Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF). It is the plastics contained within RDF which create challenges with chlorides.

A member asked if Boral had any plans to use 'green hydrogen' in future. Greg explained the business was constantly looking at its energy 'mix' against the parameters for various 'scopes' of emission types.

He asserted that Boral is aiming to reduce the opportunity for carbon emissions from all of its processes. The organisation currently sees natural gas as a first step given its lower carbon output than traditional coal.

An attendee informed that WinZero has advocated for hydrogen use in the new Austral facility across the road from the Cement Works, especially as the pipework to support its use is in place.

Greg responded that Boral sees natural gas as a transitional step toward future use of hydrogen.

He elaborated that Boral has a five-year plan looking at the overarching carbon issue through which measures such as maximum intake of SWDFs, minimising coal use and implementing and reviewing natural gas use were all elements.

It was asked if Boral is also integrating new carbon-reducing technology and processes into production. Greg mentioned Boral has partnered with the University of Technology, Sydney in the development of increasingly sustainable concrete products.

He also pointed to Boral's recent inaugural release of environmental product disclosures to underline its sustainability credentials. A request was made to share this information with the group.

Greg went on to say that Boral has been actively involved in research on sustainable building products for an extended period and had developed capability to make concrete with up to 60 percent raw material replacement.

The organisation is not as involved in carbon capture but instead employs things like waste fly ash and slag usage. This is absorbed into the clinker made during production, leaving no residue.

Greg explained that the opportunities Boral had identified as part of its greenhouse gas reduction initiatives included with fuels used, electricity consumption, substitutions for clinker in cement production, alternative additives for concrete, structural designs, recyclability and recarbonation, and changes in specification standards.

A comment was made that Boral should be a leader in this area given its position as a primary user of raw materials and secondary producer.

An attendee raised an aluminium smelter he had read of in Germany which co-generates electricity with a neighbouring cement works through use of heat as a great industrial model to follow.

A question was asked as to whether Boral had ever considered solar energy generation at Berrima given its landholdings. Greg confirmed that future land use possibilities include both solar and wind energy generation.

He concluded by mentioning that in respect to waste energy recovery, Boral would be releasing a global strategy for sustainability which would include targets and initiatives. This information will be publicly available.

General business At this point Paul called for items of general business, noting that a request for a discussion on a recent article in the *Canberra Times* on carbon capture had now largely been covered.

There being no further business, Paul thanked everyone for their time and closed the session. In doing so, he noted that the 'Whole of Community' meeting which had been scheduled to be held before the end of the year would now likely be deferred to March or April.

The effect of this would mean the 2021 WoC Meeting would be delayed from July-August until probably August-September. The normal cycle would then be picked up on from there.

Next Meeting	11 March 2021 from 2pm
Meeting Close	11:20

Action Items Arising From Meeting

Action No.	Details	Responsibility	Due
1	Refer information discovered on cleaning of solar panels to two community members who registered their system details during 2020	Boral (Site)	ASAP
2	Determine position on BRA habitat corridor proposal and issue letter outlining position.	Boral (Site / Land Development)	ASAP

3	Arrange site visit to eastern boundary as location of proposed habitat corridor, and to check clearance of Stony Creek culvert under Berrima Road	Boral (Site) / CLG / BRA	Pending Boral advice on support for proposal
4	Share information about Boral's environmental product disclosures with CLG	Boral (GJ)	Before next meeting