

MEETING NOTES

Subject: Boral Deer Park Community Liaison Committee meeting

Location: Boral Deer Park Quarry Training Room, Riding Boundary Road, Ravenhall

Date & Time: 28 November 2013 – 5.30pm

Minutes: Paul Jackson, Stakeholder Relations Manager (Southern Region), Boral Property Group

Attendees:

1. **Clare Brennan** – Albanvale resident and Albanvale Residents' Association
2. **Marion Martin** – Deer Park resident
3. **Stefan Gangur** – Neighbouring resident
4. **Joe & Frances Carabott** – Neighbouring residents
5. **Peter Batur** – Resident
6. **Robert McNaughton** – Resident
7. **Wendy Bitans** – Neighbouring resident
8. **Eyal Cohen** – Neighbouring property owner
9. **Steve Finlay** – City of Melton Council
10. **Stan Young** – Brimbank City Council
11. **Rachel Tosolini** – VIC Department of Justice
12. **Paris Nichols** – Environment Protection Authority, Victoria

Boral personnel:

- **Richard McCarthy** – Business Manager, Boral Waste Solutions
- **Nick Stuhlemer** – Business Development Manager, Boral Waste Solutions
- **Darren Gregory** – Operations Manager, Boral Western Landfill
- **John Stewart** – Compliance Officer (Environmental), Boral Western Landfill
- **Jason Parr** – Quarry Manager, Boral Deer Park Quarry
- **David Karstens** – Plant Manager, Boral Deer Park Asphalt
- **Patrick Boyce** – HSE Advisor, Boral HSE (Southern Region)
- **Paul Jackson** – Stakeholder Relations Manager (Southern Region), Boral Property Group

Apologies:

- **Sian Harris** – VIC Department of State Development, Business and Innovation
- **Myles Whelan** – Environment Protection Authority, Victoria
- **Matt Williams** – Plant Manager, Boral Deer Park Concrete

MEETING NOTES

The following notes are taken from presentations and conversations conducted as part of this community meeting. The content, while representing an accurate summation of proceedings, should not be taken to represent exact dialogue unless specifically minuted as such.

Meeting notes are reviewed at the start of each meeting to identify any items in need of correction.

Meeting opened – 5:35pm

1. Welcome and apologies

Paul Jackson welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance, mentioning he was pleased to be back from Sydney again for the meeting, this time as the Chair.

Paul explained he was chairing the meeting because **Greg Crawford**, the long-standing Chair, had recently decided to take retirement and left Boral on 15 November. The meeting acknowledged the role Greg played in the managing the CLC from its beginnings and offered its thanks.

Apologies were offered to those who had turned up early for the planned inspection of the Boral Deer Park Concrete plant. A late decision was made to postpone due to the on-set of inclement weather, and Paul only had access to limited phone numbers and email addresses.

All Boral personnel present in the room were briefly introduced ahead of the commencement of business.

2. Previous meeting notes and matters arising

Paul pointed out there were notes from two previous meetings available for the review of Committee members – those of the last CLC meeting of 18 July, and a sub-group meeting held on 26 August involving Pinegro, focusing on odour.

Members were invited to review printed copies of both notes. Paul highlighted three matters arising from the 18 July meeting to be covered in separate sections of the later agenda. No further matters in relation to the 18 July meeting were raised.

Paul then asked for any matters arising out of the 26 August sub-group meeting. A number of residents expressed concerns over ongoing general odour issues from the overall precinct – these were held over until the Landfill operational report later in the meeting.

Darren Gregory touched on the Landfill's use of odour 'masking' agents as one matter arising. He explained the agents were mixed into the water used for dust suppression around the site and were primarily aimed at addressing odours from freshly laid waste.

A resident asked whether the agents had been used earlier in the day. Darren explained three to four runs were undertaken prior to the rain moving in. The resident mentioned they had asked because the external odour was particularly bad between 8am and 12pm.

The resident further raised they had called both the site and the EPA to report the matter. Darren gave his thanks as it helped initiate an immediate investigation. It was noted there continues to be communication issues in reporting to both Boral and the EPA from the residents' viewpoint.

Residents also noted a wide range of local suburbs are being affected by odour. Darren was handed a diarised list of odour events noted by residents for further examination.

MEETING NOTES

It was asked whether any progress had been made on the litter containment issues previously discussed. Darren explained work was continuing on the new 12-metre high catch fence, while mobile 6-metre catch fencing has been deployed around the working face.

A question was also asked about landfill capping at the end of each day's operations. Darren said a 300 millimetre cover was applied consisting of either dry clay or earth.

Patrick Boyce then gave a presentation on Boral's management plan for the northern grasslands reserve as a matter arising from the 18 July meeting. He explained the plan is a requirement of the quarry's approval and is to be updated every five years, with this being the first update.

The updated plan has achieved the endorsement of Melton City Council and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Patrick outlined the focus of the next phase will be on reduction of weed cover, Serrated Tussock and Needle Grass management, mapping and documentation.

It was noted the plans did not include vegetation establishment or planting. Patrick explained trees are not allowed to be planted in the grasslands reserve. **Jason Parr**, however, mentioned plantings were ongoing in the buffer zones.

3. What's new in Boral?

Paul re-introduced **Richard McCarthy** as the new head of the Boral Waste Solutions business. Richard said that he had relocated to Melbourne after being with Boral for six years, his last role being the Manager of the organisation's Mergers and Acquisitions team.

Richard expressed his gratitude for being part of the meeting and mentioned he looked forward to working with the community on the continuous improvement of the business and its operations.

Paul then briefly explained the new Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) division of Boral. The creation of the division aligns with other similar large organisations and, among other things, places emphasis on safety as a primary business driver.

Two recent company announcements were also briefly discussed, one being the Boral joint venture with American building materials concern USG, and the other being the sale of Boral's Dowell Windows business.

Richard highlighted that the USG joint venture was a securing step for Boral's position in the building materials market, especially plasterboard products. A resident asked where Boral's plasterboard is manufactured – Richard replied that it is an Australian manufactured product.

Another resident noted that Boral's Port Melbourne headquarters currently has a 'for sale' sign in front of it. Richard explained that the signs were advertising for potential leaseholders as there are vacant areas in the building. Boral does not own the building.

4. What's new at the EPA?

Paul then welcomed **Paris Nichols** from the EPA, attending his first meeting of the CLC, and invited him to update everyone on happenings at the Authority.

Paris introduced himself as a Project Manager from the EPA with responsibility for assisting the agency in implementing major initiatives. Presently he is heading a project looking at the effects of encroachment on facilities like Boral's by surrounding development.

Noting the earlier comments made by residents on odour issues, Paris explained the EPA has been undertaking analysis of where odour complaints are coming from in an attempt to definitively link them to potential sources around the region.

MEETING NOTES

He showed the meeting a map of the complaints which had been made during the present financial year, with potential odour-emitting sites superimposed to give context. Along with Boral's operations, Orica, a poultry farm and a tannery were shown.

Paris noted that his colleagues from the Operations section of the EPA will keep members updated on progress with the analysis.

In relation to the sub-group meeting held on 26 August, Paris reiterated the EPA's commitment that a two-officer team had been dedicated to the area. In-person attendance at any complainant's premises will occur as soon as possible when two or more reports are received.

Residents again commented that in several instances, notably 5 September, neither the EPA or the site were contactable. Darren mentioned the Landfill's weighbridge was staffed from 12am and that the automatic answering service lists out appropriate options for callers.

Darren further added the main site phone line will divert to message bank if the phone remains unanswered. Weighbridge staff are always able to take details and always pass them on to relevant team members for further actioning.

Paris said he had noted the comments about the EPA's not being available and would explore this with his colleagues.

It was asked why the odours seemed more noticeable later in the week, and especially during the mornings. Darren confirmed the only potential source of odour at those times should be the active tipping face.

Paris finished his presentation with mention of a new on-line searchable tool the EPA has developed which allows residents to view any known local groundwater pollution. This is available via www.epa.vic.gov.au.

5. What's new at the DSDBI?

As no Department representative was in attendance, this item was deferred.

6. Boral operational reports

a) Quarries

Paul invited Jason to present the Quarries report. The meeting was shown the usual monitoring data for blasting, air blast overpressure and dust emissions which were all normal and compliant with requirements.

Jason noted blasting is currently taking place in the south-western portion of the quarry in support of the Regional Rail Link project. A resident asked if any complaints had been received about either blasting or dust. Jason mentioned there had been a single complaint in relation to a failure to pre-notify about a blast.

Residents around the south-western corner of Boral's land mentioned they had 'felt' the most recent blast more than usual. Jason said he thought they may have experienced overpressure rather than ground vibration based on the monitoring. Land stripping is also taking place near those properties.

It was asked whether there were any diagrams or maps available which showed areas of the quarry which had already been extracted, depths and future extraction plans. Jason explained current plans were to extract to the south and west before moving into the northern approved reserves.

MEETING NOTES

Jason further commented the average extraction depth was between 13 and 14 metres across the quarry as while there are six basalt flows on site, the water impact on a lot of the lower rock means it is of poor quality.

It was noted that if imagery exists showing past and future quarry progress, members would like to view it.

No further conservation work in regard to the striped legless lizard and spiny plains rice flower had been undertaken since the previous meeting as current quarry activity is outside the monitoring zone. It was mentioned, however, that a lizard had been found in the neighbouring prison lands.

Jason concluded by mentioning most material out of the quarry was being taken by the Regional Rail Link project and that remedial works on the quarry screenhouse would be undertaken over Christmas.

The quarry will be closed from 20 December until 6 January, with crushing to recommence from 13 January. Planning for an upgrade of the quarry plant is ongoing.

b) Concrete

As no Concrete representative was in attendance, this item was deferred

c) Asphalt

David Karstens gave a brief update on the Asphalt plant's current activity. David said the plant was running a night shift at present in support of various VicRoads works, and would be involved with the resurfacing of the West Gate Bridge over the holiday break.

The site will be closed from 20 December until 14 January. David noted the truncation of Riding Boundary Road by the Regional Rail Link should occur during this period and access will then switch to the new Christies Road entrance.

d) Landfill

Richard first referred members to two updated handouts on litter containment and odour management measures at the site. These were distributed for member review.

Darren said that 40 new gas extraction wells have been installed through the waste cells since the last meeting. The interim cover layer is also being upgraded to improve both odour management and visual amenity.

Access to the site from Christies Road is expected to be restored from 13 December. The EPA has also approved a new cap design to be emplaced across the northern half of the Stage 2 area of the Landfill.

Darren also reported the EPA Works Authority approval for the construction of a new leachate management pond had been received. Final design issues are now being reviewed and construction is expected to commence in the new year.

Approval for the proposed public waste transfer station is also pending, with construction to begin before the end of the financial year.

On odour management efforts, Darren raised that neutraliser and deodoriser use continues and appears to be having an impact on emissions.

MEETING NOTES

In response, a resident asked whether the substances were having more immediate effects at site but were less effective in the wider 'neighbourhood'. Darren indicated that information was still being gathered to determine levels of improvement.

Returning to litter containment, Darren again mentioned the new 12-metre high catch fencing was now half-constructed, with the completed section covering the working face. The fence has already withstood one high wind event successfully.

The completion of the fence is now awaiting further funding. It is expected it will take another six weeks of work to complete the remaining section. Darren added the fencing provided good assistance during the depositing to compaction stage of emplacement, the phase with the highest risk of litter escape.

Richard re-emphasised early reporting on both issues remained critical to both swift responses and long-term development of solutions.

Discussion then centred on the vehicles moving waste to the Landfill. It was asked whether the trucks were sprayed out after leaving waste – Boral does not do this or have the facilities for same on site. Comment was made that Council should review requirements for these vehicles on odour.

Residents then asked whether particular waste types encouraged odour, citing one instance where animal waste was deposited at the Landfill. **Nick Stuhlemer** explained loads of those types were one-offs and booked in advance so necessary measures could be put in place.

Raising the odour experienced during the day, residents asked what the likely source was. **John Stewart** said he was still investigating because the odour had disseminated once the weather changed. He will be speaking with the site's main contractors as part of the investigation.

Darren concluded by mentioning he would additionally study the diarised event log handed in by residents and look into the communications issues also raised.

7. General business

Paul then moved the meeting into general business. On correspondence, Paul mentioned that Greg had written to both the Melton City Council following a request that an elected Councillor be re-invited to the CLC, as well as Victoria Police about concern over recent training exercises.

Paul reported no response had been provided to either letter, however **Steve Finlay** confirmed **Councillor Nola Dunn** had been nominated as the Councillor to attend future meetings.

Members were then referred to Condition 10.4 of Boral's Work Authority 97 relating to the arranging of the CLC and its meeting frequency. A recent audit picked up that the CLC have been meeting three times a year, but that the condition requires four meetings.

Accordingly, Paul asked members for views on whether they wished to increase to four meetings, noting the flexibility to meet on a frequency which accords to members' wishes.

It was asked whether the CLC condition would be affected if Boral or the site was ever sold to a third party. Paul explained that regardless of ownership, the Work Authority and its conditions would remain.

Members then agreed they would be happy to continue the present three meeting arrangement.

Paul then noted the required Annual Performance Statements for the operations had been completed and submitted to relevant authorities. It was asked whether members could see copies of the statements – Richard said this was possible after the EPA approved them for public release.

MEETING NOTES

Rachel Tosolini then updated the meeting on the new Ravenhall prison project. The facility is now being planned to hold 1000 beds, and two private consortia have been shortlisted to undertake construction which is expected to begin in 2015.

A resident asked who the group of people were who were noticed at the site in the morning. Rachel explained they were various representatives of the consortia conducting a site inspection.

Neighbours to the east of the existing corrective facilities then asked for a meeting with Boral and the Department of Justice in relation to the Riding Boundary Road truncation. Neighbours are fearful the blocking of the road at the new rail line will be an encouragement to anti-social behaviour.

The meeting then discussed a resident request for at least 50 percent of future CLC meeting agendas to be concentrated on the Landfill operations.

It was observed by most attendees this was already naturally occurring as a result of the various issues which had arisen at the site. In any case, Paul agreed to be mindful of the request when setting agendas for future meetings.

Finally, the application made to Melton City Council for the extension of the Landfill was discussed. Nick informed the meeting that Council was preparing for an advertising period from 4 December, with submissions requested by 18 December.

Steve advised, however, that per Council's standard practice submissions would still be accepted up until the tabling of the related report to Councillors. This is likely to occur in February or March.

Richard then re-explained what was being sought through the application. Boral is seeking approval to extend the area which is approved for landfilling to match the area which is approved for quarrying. It is not an expansion of the existing operations as has been recently reported.

Richard further explained that as the quarry still has up to 60 years of resource remaining, the voids left by the quarry and then used for landfill in the proposed extension area were still years away from being available. Each new individual cell would still need to go through its own approval process.

It was asked if that was the case, why is Boral seeking approval for the extension now. Richard explained that aligning the approved areas would provide certainty for all parties about the site's use in the face of ongoing development in the region, and allow the proper planning of the site's future.

Neighbours to the south-west of Boral's land expressed their concern that the buffer zones proposed between their land and the future Landfill area were not adequate. This was noted.

A further question was asked about truck numbers on local roads. Nick said that on a typical day around 400 trucks visit the site. This was down from around 500 in the years leading into the global financial crisis.

It was asked whether the gas extraction at the Landfill was contributing to the ongoing odour issues. Darren reiterated that extraction was actually a contributor to reducing odour emissions, not a contributor.

Discussion concluded with a comment from residents that as it was evident Boral had put several months of work into the application before it was lodged, in the spirit of the CLC it should have been introduced and explained at a much earlier stage.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approximately 7.30pm.