

Boral Berrima Cement Works & (Medway) Colliery

Community update – October 2013

Updating you on news from your local Boral operations

Boral's Berrima Cement team are pleased to present this latest edition of *Community Update* to the local community. If you haven't seen a copy before, this newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the latest developments at the largest business operations in the Southern Highlands.

The Cement Works has experienced a period of increased demand since the last edition was issued in March. This is mainly as a result of major infrastructure projects being undertaken in Sydney and the Hunter. The long-term forecasts for the site, however, are presently showing a decreasing trend as these projects near completion.

Read on to find out more about what has been happening at the sites these past seven months.

Colliery reverts to 'care and maintenance'

It was with great disappointment that we recently announced the transition of the Berrima (Medway) Colliery into 'care and maintenance' after more than 85 years of operations.

'Care and maintenance' means that although the site will remain open, the mining of coal will cease and activities will instead focus on relevant environmental and legislative obligations. Locals will continue to see heavy vehicles moving to and from the Colliery for a further period while the current stockpiles of coal are run down.

We were unfortunately compelled to take this decision for a variety of reasons. Firstly, we have highlighted during the past few years that the relatively small scale of the mine was being overcome by increasing operational costs.

These costs have mounted against the constrained climate affecting the building and construction sector, and a sharp increase in the availability of imported clinker materials from overseas.

There has also been the ongoing uncertainty about the ability of the Colliery's operations to continue from a planning perspective. Despite the successful securing of an approval during June 2012, most locals will know this approval has since been subject to ongoing legal proceedings brought about by some in the community.



As a result, we needed to act and fortify the competitiveness and long-term sustainability of the larger of the two local operations – the Cement Works. The downside of doing so was that between 20 and 30 employees of our licensed mine operator, Delta Mining, have become redundant.

The Cement Works kiln will now be supplied using coal sourced from the Illawarra. Local residents should notice no difference in the operations at New Berrima, nor any increase in heavy vehicle movements, as a result.

The decision to move to 'care and maintenance' was a very difficult one for us to make and we would like to thank those community members who have offered their support to the company in recent times. In turn, we would like to offer our best wishes to the outgoing Delta employees and acknowledge their valuable contribution.

Community meetings

Boral organises regular community meetings in order to share information and hear about any matters of concern to residents. You can find out more by visiting www.boral.com.au/berrimacement.

The next meeting will be held toward the end of 2013 or early 2014.

Using waste to reduce carbon

Those attending our regular community meetings will know that for the past year-and-a-half, Boral has been looking at how to integrate new sources of energy and raw materials into the cement manufacturing process.

The main aim of doing so is not only to reduce costs – reductions in the carbon output of the Cement Works can also be gained by blending these materials with the traditional coal energy used at the site.



To date the site has looked at natural gas and clean timber waste as fuel sources. More recently a trial of 'coal wash rejects' has been undertaken using supplies sourced from the Illawarra.

Last year Granulated Blast Furnace Slag (GBFS) was trialled as a raw material in clinker manufacture, while this year Fluidised Cracking Catalyst (FCC) has been reintroduced to the process.

The benefit of integrating these materials into production is not only realised at the Cement Works – it assists with the disposal of wastes which would otherwise be sent to landfill. All of these materials are bound by the usual conditions of use to ensure they do not generate any effects beyond what is presently experienced from the site.

Boral on show

More than 250 locals and visitors attended our first Open Day for six years which was held during the April school holidays. The day was a great success and allowed the Boral Berrima team the opportunity to show locals just what happens inside the site on a day-to-day basis.

We have received a great deal of positive feedback since the event and as a result hope to reintroduce it on a more frequent basis. The Cement Works management would like to thank not only the community for taking part, but also acknowledge the employee-run organising committee.



Help in a hoot!

The bushland surrounds of the Berrima (Medway) Colliery often prove an attractive place for our native wildlife, however sometimes they can come a little too close for comfort.



The Colliery team recently found this tawny frogmouth injured at the entrance to the site. Unable to ascertain what had happened to it, WIRES were called and it was figured out that the bird had struck something hard head first. The local wildlife experts then set about the task of nursing the female tawny back to health.

The great news is she was successfully released back into the local area during the first week of August, where it was thought she joined her breeding mate. Hopefully this means some more little tawnys before the year is out. If you find any injured wildlife locally, please contact WIRES in Bowral on 4862 1788.

Find out more.

Visit www.boral.com.au/berrimacement