

Linwood Quarry Community Working Group Meeting

Meeting notes

5.30pm Thursday 4 August 2005 – Brighton Tennis Club

Attendance:

Beryl Hall (Marino Residents' Association)
David Parsons (Marino Residents' Association)
Fran Southern (Marino Residents' Association)
Ralph Dodds (Marino Residents' Association)
John Dunsford (EPA)
Gerard Hocking (EPA)
Ted Tyne (Mines)
Serge Caplygin (Mines)
Olando Puccini (Mines)
Adam Betterman (Boral)
Alistair Kelsh (Boral)
Paul Whiffen (Boral)
Chris Turnbull (Sonus)
Ann Shaw Rungie (QED)
Mikila Lawrence (QED)

1. Welcome, introduction and overview

A meeting of the Linwood Quarry Community Working Group was held on 4 August 2005 to review the issues and actions that arose from a Marino residents' meeting held at the Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club on Tuesday 5 July 2005. Notes from that meeting were circulated on 19 July 2005. Two new residents from the Marino Residents' Association were invited to attend this meeting.

The Boral Linwood Community Working Group has been meeting regularly for some years. In recent times, meetings have been held twice a year and include the Marino Residents' Association, the EPA and Primary Industries and Resources, Mining Regulation Branch.

The meetings provide the opportunity for community representatives to raise issues or suggestions for discussion as well as for Boral to report back on progress made since the previous meeting.

Ann Shaw Rungie, from QED Pty Ltd, welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced new members to the Group including Fran Southern and Ralph Dodds from the Marino Residents' Association and Ted Tyne from the Department of Mines.

The notes that follow provide a summary of key points discussed at the meeting.

2. QED's role

QED's role is to provide independent advice on establishing a process to enable people to work together to address issues and ensure better environmental outcomes. QED has experience in managing issues in relation to resident and industry interface in a variety of situations where environmental issues need to be discussed including cement plants, wastewater treatment plants and reserves and lakes. QED also facilitates meetings to ensure issues raised by all parties are covered. Anyone who wants an issue discussed at these meetings should advise QED on 8227 0188.

3. Discussion of agenda

A draft agenda had been provided prior to the meeting for discussion and a letter prepared by residents was also provided by Fran for members to read. It was agreed that there were many more issues to discuss than could be handled at this Working Group meeting. Ann asked the Working Group to consider what they would like to get out of this meeting and what they would like to achieve for the long term.

The group recorded their ideas on different coloured sticky notes. These ideas were then sorted by the Working Group members into categories as shown below. The comments are shown in Table 1.

The categories of issues were as follows:

- Dust
- Noise
- Action Plan process
- Working hours
- Long Term actions
- Communication issues.

It was agreed to start with dust and silica issues and depending on time other issues would be prioritised for future meetings.

Section 4 provides a review of the issues covered at the Working Group meeting and any resulting actions.

4. Review of issues and actions

Dust Management

Adam presented results collected from the static monitors between 1999 and 2005. Whilst the majority of readings were below the statutory level of 4mg per square metre, there were readings recorded that exceeded the level for March and April 2005. The readings were thought to be attributable to extended working hours, the rehandling of material required for the Adelaide Airport job and the extended dry period experienced throughout Adelaide and SA. The use of real

time monitors (Dustrac) are also in use to monitor dust, the results for the past 6 months will be distributed in the upcoming weeks.

Real time dust monitoring is conducted to build a better understanding of where dust comes from within the quarry and measures in 15 minute increments. At present there are two Dustrac monitors; one is located by the pugmill bin where the majority of rehandling activity is carried out. The second monitor is located within the community in Alan St Marino.

Boral is currently in the process of purchasing another monitor to be placed in the Hallet Cove area. It is hoped that the third monitor will allow Boral to develop a long-term database that will enable the company to better understand the impact of changes made and to demonstrate improvements.

To date Boral is undertaking improvements in two areas where they believe the majority of the dust is coming from. The improvements are:

- Upgrade of the pugmill bin loading area to incorporate a shed like structure to capture airborne dust. This project is expected to be completed by the end of September 2005.
- Upgrade and install a timed watering system that keeps the aggregate stockpiles wet 24 hours a day. This will utilise both bore and recycled water where appropriate. This project is already underway and is expected to be complete by the end of August.

Action: Adam to email Dustrac monitoring results to Working Group

Silica

Personal monitors are utilised by Boral for testing personnel at all Boral sites. The testing is carried out on an annual basis by trained personnel on three randomly selected members of staff. Efforts are taken to get a cross section of personnel in job description and location within the quarries including staff working in the crushing plant. The monitors are worn over a minimum of an eight hour period.

The monitors collect dust over that period. This is then sent away to be processed externally. The samples are tested for two different things:

- Absolute dust levels
- Silica levels in the dust collected.

Exposure limits for both dust and silica were reduced in January 2005. Dust levels were reduced from 5 mg per cubic metre to 3 mg per cubic metre. Adam displayed graphs, based on the data collected by the company and independently analysed, showing personal dust levels between 1999 and 2004. All were well below the new lower limits. Likewise, 8 hour silica exposure levels were reduced from 0.2 mg per cubic metre to 0.1 mg per cubic metre in January 2005. All results between 2000-2005 were below the new lower limit. These graphs had been viewed by the Department of Health before the meeting and the method of presenting the data was considered appropriate.

Adam explained that attempts had been made to measure for silica levels in dust at the quarry boundary by using personal monitors placed on the boundary. The

company has been advised that the results cannot be considered reliable. To obtain reliable data, it is necessary to obtain:

- a high volume sampler
- a number of runs, in all seasons, as the site silica content and background silica content will be seasonally dependent.

Adam also explained that silica is always present in ambient air and that the amount will be dependant on the location, for example silica levels in ambient air will be higher near to a beach. Background silica levels can have a big impact on results. For testing to be accurate, a year's worth ambient background data is required.

Boral has investigated what would be required to undertake ambient air monitoring of silica in dust at the quarry boundary and there is only one NATA (National Australian Testing Association) accredited company in Australia and testing would be very costly.

Ralph queried whether high silica content is what determines the quality of the product that comes from the Linwood quarry. Alistair explained that it is the grain size and cementation process over time that gives the Linwood stone its inherent properties.

Action: Alistair to provide copies of petrographic analysis of the silt stone to Ralph and Gerard Hocking.

Action: Adam to provide hard copies of the dust and silica data to the Working Group prior to the next Merino Residents meeting (17 August 2005).

Noise monitoring

Chris Turnbull, a noise consultant from Sonus, presented results of noise monitoring that had been undertaken in July and August 2005. Short-term manual measurements were taken on four occasions:

- 'A' Friday 29th July 2:00pm - 3:30pm
- 'B' Monday 1st August 8:30pm - 9:00pm
- 'C' Tuesday 2nd August 5:30am - 6:00am
- 'D' Tuesday 2nd August 11:30am - 12:30pm

The area is classified as urban residential with some industry. The maximum allowable noise levels for this area are:

- 58 decibels Day (7am to 10pm)
- 50 decibels Night (10pm to 7am)

The following measurements were taken at the location when noise from quarry operations was audible:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|
| 'A' | Perry Barr Road | 44 decibels |
| 'B' | Jervois Terrace | < 40 decibels |
| | Spinks Road | < 40 decibels |
| 'C' | Perry Barr Road | < 40 decibels |

Jervois Terrace	< 40 decibels
Spinks Road	< 40 decibels
'D' Perry Barr Road	50 decibels

The measurements taken were all below the allowable levels.

Most of the time it was not possible to hear any noise from the quarry. The noises heard from the quarry however, were the occasional reversing beeper from trucks and from loading operations.

Gerard presented noise measurements taken independently by the EPA. A total of 11 measurements were taken over a three week period using a noise logger located at Beryl's house. The measurements were taken at night as well as in the mornings.

All measurements were found to be under the allowable levels. The majority of noise measured was found to be from:

- Traffic noise from Ocean Boulevard
- Trucks starting up
- Birds and dogs.

Gerard noted that he did not hear anything from the quarry other than the trucks.

Copies of the noise monitoring report were distributed at the meeting.

Action: Gerard to forward copies to Boral and QED.

5. Where to from here

It was agreed that a quarry site visit will be useful for new and existing members of the Working Group to understand the quarry site better. Both a day and night visit were agreed to allow people to get a comprehensive understanding. Adam agreed to arrange a bus. Following this discussion, the following two site visits were arranged:

- 8am Friday 19th August - meet at the quarry near the weighbridge
- 7.30pm Wednesday 24th August.

The Working Group agreed that the next meeting will take place on 31 August 2005 at the Brighton Tennis Club. It was agreed that the following issues will be discussed as a priority:

- Vibration
- Rain water tanks
- EPA licence - How it works?
- Communication - Feedback mechanisms to be discussed.

A draft agenda will be prepared and distributed to the Working Group prior to the meeting.

The Working Group also agreed to consider the following topics for future meetings:

- Quarry rehabilitation
- Vegetation of the mound.

If you have any comments on these notes or any other issues you wish to raise please notify Adam on 8298 8810 or 0401 896 810.

Table 1: Issues raised by the Linwood Quarry Community Working Group