

Linwood Marino Community Working Group Meeting

Draft meeting notes

Monday 26 June 2006

Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club

Attendance: Beryl Hall (Marino Residents' Association)
David Parsons (Marino Residents' Association)
Fran Southern (Marino Residents' Association)
Gerard Hocking (EPA)
David Vaughan (EPA)
Olando Puccini (Mines)
Adam Betterman (Boral)
Alistair Kelsh (Boral)
Paul Whiffen (Boral)
Ann Shaw Rungie (QED)
Sophie Martin (QED)

1. Welcome, introduction and overview

Notes of the previous meeting in February had been previously circulated. The notes that follow provide a summary of key points discussed at the meeting.

Ralph Dodds was not in attendance and no one had heard from him recently.

2. Discussion of agenda

Ann ran through the proposed agenda and everyone agreed to proceed. Adam said he would like to raise another couple of additional discussion points at the end of the meeting.

3. Review of issues and actions

3.1 Decision on new location of truck parking area

Adam gave an overview and history of the issue. A relocation of the truck parking area has been investigated in order to increase the distance between residents and truck parking activities. The proposed truck parking area would include a fenced off area double the current distance away from the residential area.

Monitoring carried out in late 2005 comparing noise from the current and proposed location showed very little difference, however the proposed location's size would mean that trailers would no longer need to be uncoupled at the end of a shift and re-coupled at the start of a shift. The increased size would also mean that no reversing of trucks would be required, eliminating reversing alarm noises.

Adam has received in principle agreement for the move to go ahead and is now actively seeking quotes for fencing, power and the construction of a lunchroom for the truck drivers. Adam aims to have a plan of the area available at the next working group meeting.

Action: By next meeting Adam to have a plan of area to show the Working Group.

3.2 Noise Monitoring

At the previous meeting held in February, David asked if the spikes which appeared in the data could be traced to any particular action in the quarry such as individual short events. Adam discussed this issue with Chris from Sonus and provided the group with some feedback.

Adam explained that two sets of data were presented - the Leq data which is continuous, raw data recorded in real time. Nothing is omitted from this data and therefore background noise is included. The short term measurements specifically undertaken at the two alternative truck parking sites were manually recorded and the background noise has been omitted through human interpretation and distinction of wavelength frequencies.

Although the Leq data may seem to contain spikes of noise, because nothing has been omitted it is not possible to attribute the spikes to quarry noise.

In response to a question from the group about the higher noise readings on the short term measurements graph Adam explained that without looking at the data in conjunction with weather information eg. Wind readings and temperature, he would assume that day in particular was quite windy and during peak traffic times traffic noise would have contributed to the raw data.

The group asked if this type of data would continue to be logged and Adam explained the reason for recording that information was specifically to determine the differences in noise emanating from the two alternative truck parking locations. He also advised the group that it was a requirement to undertake noise monitoring every 12 months as part of the EPA licence conditions for the quarry operations.

3.3 Dust Monitoring Results since last meeting

Static monitoring results

Adam explained the current locations of the static dust monitors, advising the group that Monitor 2 had changed position and was now closer to the main crushing plant.

The monitor was relocated in order to eliminate vandalism which had been an issue at the original location. Alistair queried whether the monitor was providing real value, as Boral could not tell from those results if the dust was settling close to the monitor or travelling outside the site. Adam agreed and suggested he would consider approaching a resident near the area instead about positioning the monitor on their property.

Data for March and April had been added to the graph and Adam gave a brief account of the results from each monitor.

- Monitor 1 had not registered any high dust readings since February
- Monitor 2 was now picking up high dust levels due to its close proximity to the main crushing plant.
- Monitor 3 had recorded some good, consistent results and provided a reflection of what the background dust levels are like in the area.
- Monitor 4 and 5 had both recorded results well within the required limits

Adam explained that Monitor 1 provides the best understanding of what is being achieved in terms of dust reductions. The dust peaks featuring in January and February may have been related to truck activity in the area. Beryl asked if the piles of aggregate usually located near that monitor were still there. The piles of sand are no longer kept in that area, with gravel being kept there instead. The gravel does not sell as quickly as the other aggregate material and so the dust issue caused by double handling has been moved further away from the residential area, it is expected this will result in reductions in dust recorded.

A further reduction in the recorded dust data is expected from Monitor 1 in the future due to the construction of the shed over the pugmill bins (discussed further below). Adam explained that the shed's construction had been finalised the day before the Working Group meeting and that 'post-shed' data would be available at the next Working Group meeting.

Action: An update of static monitoring results will be presented at the next meeting.

Dustrac monitoring

The Dustrac monitoring was discussed and with records from March to May 2006 displayed on the projection screen. Adam reminded the Group that this data consisted of a 24hour average reading of continuously logged data downloaded as an average reading every 15 minutes. In South Australia there is no standard for dust levels and Boral have adopted the Victorian Standard of 0.06mg/m³. During the recording period the results have exceeded that level on two occasions. Adam explained that it was important to realise the location of the Dustrac monitors were right at the dust source, not at the boundary of the quarry, however Boral would still like to aim to remain under the Victorian Standard. The average range of results have been in the vicinity of 0.03 - 0.035 mg/m³

Although it is assumed there would be spikes in the data higher than the 24hour averages given, this type of dust monitoring is usually recorded and reported on a 24hour average basis.

Boral are considering placing additional monitors at Marino and Hallett cove during the summer months.

David asked if it is possible to compare the static and Dustrac monitoring and Adam explained that it was not possible as one set of data is a measured volume collected on a monthly basis, the other data set is recorded continuously as grams per cubic metre every 15 minutes. The Group then discussed if it was possible to correlate the higher peaks with anything in particular for example weather conditions or quarry operations. Adam said that the results probably reflected high wind conditions or increased activity from the pugmill bins on those particular days and it was possible to go back and look at the particular operational activity of the quarry on those days.

Alistair gave an explanation of the current thoughts on best practice dust monitoring and the confusion within Australia as to the best way forward on this issue. Currently in Australia there are only 3 or 4 consultancies that are able to give advice on this matter and as they are highly sought after, it has been difficult for Boral to get some answers on the topic.

Members of the Working Group were keen to know if there was another quarry in Australia or overseas that could provide some insight into the issue and advice on how to progress. It was discussed that whilst there may be some other examples to learn from Boral were not satisfied that if they went ahead in setting up a dust monitoring system using others advice that the method and measurement techniques chosen would be the best possible available. As the exercise will involve considerable cost to Boral, they want to make sure they 'get it right' and that the method and techniques used do not become defunct too soon into the future such as what occurs with computer equipment these days.

Boral want to illustrate that changes are being made such as the construction of the shed over the pugmill bins and want to be able to monitor the effects of these changes on dust levels. The current collection methods allow an indicative measure of the response to the changes to be made.

The Group recapped on the issue of using mobile phone or pager alerts coupled with the dust monitoring in order to initiate mitigation measures at the exact time that dust levels were approaching the Victorian Standard. Alistair and Adam agreed that something like that should be investigated in conjunction with any new dust monitoring program. The Group also discussed the need to identify what was causing any high readings, however it was recognised that the data is not currently downloaded regularly enough to determine this.

Action: An update on the implementation of a consolidated dust monitoring program will be provided at the next meeting.

3.4 Erection of Dust Shed over pugmill bins

Adam showed the Group some photographs of the newly erected shed over the pugmill bins. Visual dust observations had been made during the day and Adam reported that not a lot of dust had emanated from the pugmill bins so far.

Designing the construction itself took a long time due to the strong wind loading the structure would need to endure. The shed was physically difficult to build too, incorporating a 30degree roof angle and tying the whole thing in with the existing infrastructure the cost was more than \$60,000. The next stage of this project is to capture dust created within the shed and Boral are currently looking at a range of options to achieve this, including dust curtains and misting technology.

Adam and Alistair had been to see similar technology at the Northern Area Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) Waste Transfer Station. They explained that the mist was sprayed into the air and has a cooling and odour suppressing effect in its operation at the NAWMA site. The mist would also achieve dust suppression, as the liquid would work to 'grab' the dust and settle it out.

Olando congratulated Boral on their achievements so far. The Group agreed that the construction of the shed was a great achievement and were looking forward to seeing results in the future.

3.5 Tree Planting Day

Using an aerial photograph, Paul Whiffen showed the location of the tree planting day on the weekend prior to the Working Group Meeting. The area is near two water tanks that are used for irrigating dust control and truck washing. These tanks are visually prominent and suffer from graffiti vandalism often. The tanks are also going to be painted green in the near future to camouflage them a little better. The aim of the tree planting was to provide a screen for the water tanks and local provenance seed was used to grow seedlings in conjunction with the Urban Forests Million Trees Program and a local Bushcare group.

Conservation Volunteers helped to coordinate the day which was quite successful with approximately 200 trees and grasses planted.

Adam apologised that there was not much advance notice, however it was unfortunately unavoidable due to the limited time offered to Boral for the use of the Conservation Volunteers.

3.6 Community Information Board

Adam and Alistair are considering installing a community information board, similar to that at the NAWMA balefill. Adam showed some pictures of that board which is located at a public viewing area overlooking the balefill. The community information board includes information on the construction of the balefill and how the landfill process works. Adam believes something similar could be initiated at the Linwood Quarry.

The group thought this was a great idea and discussed possible locations criteria eg: away from the main road, with a gate to shut the area off at night. Adam

suggested the parking area at Hallet Cove. Alistair also mentioned a location near Perry Barr Road, however this would require landholders permission to put in an access track.

It was suggested that a bus tour for the Working Group be organised in order to have a look at a few potential locations. This will be considered and discussed at the next Working Group meeting.

4 Communication Issues

4.1 Newsletter – feedback on shorter format

The Group was provided with copies of the A5 newsletter which had been developed following a request for a shorter newsletter at the previous meeting.

The Group all gave positive feedback on the A5 newsletter, agreeing that the full colour publication was a lot better than black and white and that the look and size of the newsletter was very good.

Beryl advised the Group that she had been in contact with a letterbox dropper who was happy to distribute copies of the newsletter to the community. All Working Group members took a handful of copies each, with some to be distributed at an upcoming Marino Residents Group meeting.

Action: Beryl will advise QED how many copies she thinks will be required for other distribution.

4.2 Website Feedback

Adam had undertaken an initial follow-up on the possibility of developing a website where information about Boral's involvement with the community and in particular the Working Group could be made available. Boral had advised that this is possible however it would require some time and resources dedicated to getting the material together.

Fran indicated that the information to be placed on the website would be easy to get hold of, for example the meeting agendas and minutes, photos from the past bus tour etc. The Group asked if it would be possible to have a student work on the development of the web pages.

Adam explained that the webpage would be a part of the corporate website for Boral and that as such corporate standards would have to be met. For example people would be able to search the general website www.boral.com.au for keywords such as 'Linwood' or 'Marino' to get to the relevant pages. There would also be the task of ongoing update and maintenance of the information.

Fran was keen to get this idea moving and offered to get the relevant information together so that Boral's IT department or relevant staff could progress the idea further.

Action: Adam and Fran will discuss this further and spend some time progressing the idea between now and the next meeting.

4.3 Staff Changes at Quarry

Adam discussed some changes that will be occurring at the quarry with the Working Group. These changes included:

- A new Quarry Manager had been appointed - Alan Murphy
- The overall management structure was changing
- Adam is going to be replaced by a Trainee Manager soon and will mentor this new staff member in order that they become familiar with the Linwood Operations and also the roles of the Working Groups
- Adam will move to the Country Operations Manager role within the Quarry group soon and will no longer be based at the Linwood Quarry full-time
- As part of this role Adam will be responsible for community liaison activities for all of South Australia

It was made clear to the Group that they wouldn't lose Adam altogether and that for the next 6 months at least he will continue to run the Working Group meetings. After that period the new Trainee Manager would take a lead role but Adam will still be involved. In the meantime Adam is still the main contact person for any issues in relation to dust or noise.

The Group thanked Adam for his involvement and agreed Adam had achieved a lot of important changes during his involvement to date.

Alistair discussed Boral's future intention to continue to undertake what had been important community liaison initiatives and Boral's aim of managing and improving the Quarry's performance.

David mentioned that Boral had undertaken some other important community initiatives other than participating in the Working Groups, including the assistance they had provided with asphalt outside the new Hall at Seaclyff Primary School. He thanked Boral and in particular Paul Whiffen for his involvement.

Adam advised the Group that Boral had also helped to sponsor the Brighton Primary School's entry into the Pedal Prix.

Action: The Group thought that important community involvement such as these two examples and the tree planting day should be included in the next newsletter.

4. Where to from here

The Working Group decided the next meeting would take place on October 16 2006; with the location to be confirmed closer to the date.

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.