

# Linwood Quarry Community Working Group Meeting

## *Meeting notes*

5.30pm Wednesday 31 August 2005 – Brighton Tennis Club

**Attendance:** Beryl Hall (Marino Residents' Association)  
David Parsons (Marino Residents' Association)  
Ralph Dodds (Marino Residents' Association)  
John Dunsford (EPA)  
Gregg Marshall (Mines)  
Serge Caplygin (Mines)  
Olando Puccini (Mines)  
Adam Betterman (Boral)  
Alistair Kelsh (Boral)  
Paul Whiffen (Boral)  
Ann Shaw Rungie (QED)  
Mikila Lawrence (QED)  
The Hon. Angus Redford (Visitor)

## 1. Welcome, introduction and overview

A meeting of the Linwood Quarry Community Working Group was held on 31 August 2005. Notes from the previous meeting on 4 August had been were circulated.

Ann Shaw Rungie, from QED Pty Ltd, welcomed members to the meeting and introduced The Hon. Angus Redford, Member of the Liberal Party who attended as an observer.

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

## 2. Discussion of agenda

Ann suggested that the agenda reflect the actions that had been taken since the last meeting on 4 August 2005. The Group agreed that the agenda should include the following:

- Review of outcomes from quarry tours
- Marino Residents Association meeting 14 August 2005
- EPA dust monitoring
- Vibration - discussion of seismic activity in the area
- Rainwater tanks
- EPA licensing
- Working hours
- Communication issues.

Section 3 provides a review of the issues covered at the Working Group meeting and any resulting actions.

### 3. Review of issues and actions

#### Review of outcomes from quarry tours

Two quarry tours were arranged and held; a day tour on 19 August and a night tour 23 August 2005. Approximately 6-8 residents, not part of the Working Group, were present on the tours. All attendees from the Working Group felt that the tours were a useful exercise. Some of the comments made by the Working Group included:

- It makes discussion at meetings easier as there will be a better general understanding of quarry layout and operations.
- It was an opportunity to see what is being done and what is being planned to reduce the impacts on the surrounding residential community.
- It was an opportunity to see how the quarry had physically changed since the previous tour in 2002.
- It was useful to see the location of the stockpiles.
- It was interesting to see the water management on site.
- It was an opportunity to hear the various noises made and therefore in future be able to recognise what is being heard in the residential areas.
- It was useful to see the location of the primary and secondary crusher and understand noise levels.
- It was an opportunity to look at quarry operations from a resident's perspective.
- We can identify opportunities for improvement.

#### Marino Residents Association meeting

A Marino Residents' Association meeting was held on 14 August 2005. Prior to the meeting, a copy of the notes and graphs of monitoring results discussed at the 4<sup>th</sup> of August meeting, were given to the Working Group members so that they could report back at the residents' meeting.

Beryl stated that there were still many people discussing what had happened at the Community meeting on 5 July 2005. She also commented that the quarry tours gave people in other areas the ability to share the information they had learnt with residents in their area. It was also suggested that more people would have liked to have attended the tours. Adam commented that this could easily be arranged and suggested that Beryl extend this offer to residents at the next Marino Residents' Association meeting.

**Action:** Beryl to extend the offer of quarry visits at the next Marino Residents' Association meeting 14 September 2005.

## EPA dust monitoring

John Dunsford stated that the EPA has been able to obtain two high volume samplers for a period of three months to measure ambient dust in the Marino area. The samplers will be used to measure for Total Suspended Particulates and PM<sub>10</sub> sized particles (respirable dust) and operate from midnight to midnight in cycles of either every 1 in 6 or 1 in 3 days.

John asked the Working Group for suggestions as to where the samplers should be located given the following requirements:

- The samplers dimensions are 0.4m x 1.2m
- A power supply is required
- The area must be secure
- The area must not be shielded from the ambient air
- The sampler makes a noise similar to an air conditioning unit when running
- The EPA must be able to access the location to remove the dust samples every 3 or 6 days.

The Working Group agreed that a resident's backyard is likely to be most suitable and that this should be raised for discussion at the next Marino Residents' Association.

The dust collected from the samplers will be tested to provide data on total volumes and also speciation of the dust collected; i.e. what it contains.

The pumps do not have the capacity to run continuously; however, John stated that the samplers could be obtained for a further three months if required. The Working Group discussed the usefulness of two three month testing periods and difficulties in comparing the data considering the imminent change in season to warmer and drier weather.

**Action:** Beryl to add the samplers onto the agenda for discussion at the next Marino Residents' Association meeting 14 September 2005.

**Action:** John Dunsford to provide specifications of the high volume sampler to Boral

**Action:** John Dunsford to clearly identify purpose, objectives and expected outcomes for this sampling program. It is important to ensure that the Boral and EPA monitoring programs work in tandem.

## Vibration – discussion of seismic activity in the area

The Working Group discussed the possible source of vibrations that have been identified. The vibrations are not regular in occurrence or duration.

Adam commented that he believes that it is highly unlikely that the quarry is the source of the vibration. The Working Group agreed that finding the source will be a process of elimination.

David Parsons commented that he had found information on the PIRSA website regarding seismic activity in the Marino area. Olando Puccini commented that David Love is a seismologist in the Geological Survey department of PIRSA and that he could be available to discuss recent seismic activity.

Alistair Kelsh commented that he had heard other possible noise sources coming from a shed on the golf course near to the quarry, that sounded like a pump. Paul Whiffen commented that the golf course regularly pumps water from the railway line bore to water the greens and that these pumps may be activated for watering at night.

**Action:** Adam to identify what is kept in the sheds on the golf course before the next Community Working Group meeting.

**Action:** Greg to liaise with seismologist and advise what relevant information could be provided to the Working Group.

### Rainwater tanks

Ann reported on research, on the use of rainwater tanks, that QED had undertaken since the previous Working Group meeting. In general, the standards for each state recommend that where available, reticulated water should be used for drinking and that rainwater tank be used in the garden or for toilet systems and similar. The research also showed that in general if the rainwater has no smell and is clear then there is little risk unless the tank is situated in an urbanised area or near to areas of heavy traffic.

The Working Group agreed that concerns are related to potential long term health risks posed by whether silica is in the dust that has collected in the tanks. John stated that generally silica only poses a risk to health if it enters through the respiratory tract and not if it is ingested.

**Action:** John to liaise with Department of Health regarding possible impact of silica in rainwater tanks.

### EPA licensing

John Dunsford explained the EPA's general licensing process to the Working Group. Under the Environment Protection Act 1993, extractive industries over a threshold value of 100 tonnes per year must be licensed. The licence process requires advertising and is subject to conditions and a length of term, after which it may be renewed.

The licence process is standardised for the type of industry. All licences issued are available on the public register. John advised that the EPA is looking to move towards web access for this information; however as there over 2000 licences in SA, this is a major logistical exercise and will take time.

### Working hours

Alistair gave a presentation about Boral's current working hours and forecasting of workloads that had been done by BIS Shrapnel. Alistair explained that the Linwood quarry had been above capacity firstly as a consequence of a residential boom in 2002-2003 and then the infrastructural boom in 2004-2005 which amongst other things included the Adelaide Airport.

Alistair explained that Boral had an abnormally large share of a peak market in this time which had led to the extended working hours. External consultants have been used by Boral to attempt to forecast levels for future business.

The proportion of material predicted to come out of Linwood is likely to fall next year as big infrastructure projects will be happening in the northern suburbs, including the Mawson connector and Port River Expressway 2 and 3, work which will be better served and therefore more likely won by Boral's northern quarries.

In the short term, Boral anticipated Linwood will return to normal operating hours as the Adelaide airport is completed; i.e. by November or December 2005.

Alistair emphasised that in both the short and long term the forecasts are only as accurate as the information available at the time, including that given by customers and project completion dates. One consideration is that SA is currently in a pre-election year and that this can give rise to unpredictable government spending patterns.

Boral guaranteed however, that residents will be updated regularly on production forecasts and any unforeseen changes.

### Communication issues

The Working Group discussed recent complaints related to dust from blasting, that had been received by Boral. Adam explained that most recently the blasting had coincided with strong mid northerly breezes, which will have contributed to the travel of noise and dust. Recent blast shots had taken place on top of the hill; however Boral this should end shortly as the layer of material is removed.

On average there are three shots fired every month. Adam has an ongoing arrangement to contact certain residents the day the blast is to take place. This list can be extended if required. People are contacted by telephone as emails are not always regularly checked. Whilst the blasts are normally scheduled a week in advance, the timing can only be guaranteed on the day.

The Working Group then discussed other means of communication including meeting notes, reporting back to the Marino Residents' Association and the effectiveness of newsletters to update residents. The Working Group discussed using a Boral website to store and access information; however, it was agreed that distributing information by email should be trialled first to determine whether a website would be appropriate.

## 4. Where to from here

The Working Group agreed that the next meeting will take place on 12 October 2005, the location is to be confirmed. It was agreed that the following issues will be discussed as a priority:

- Effectiveness of initiatives in place at the quarry e.g. new crusher
- High volume samplers - where to place them
- Response from DEH regarding use of rainwater tanks.

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

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.