

Marulan Quarry Project
Community Consultative Committee
Sixth Meeting, Thursday 12 November 2020
6.30pm-8.30pm Marulan Community Hall

Minutes of the meeting – FINAL DRAFT

Attendees

Present

Ian Colley (Independent Chair)
Vergilio Serra (Global Quarries)
Steve Kassem (Global Quarries - Minute taker)
Karl Rosen (GHD)

Graeme Dally
Wendy Dally
Shane Hill
George Emerzidis
Darryl Pearson
Don Angelosante
Stephanie Mowle – GM Council
Bill Kenchington

Welcome and Introductions

Ian welcomed everyone and invited people to introduce themselves given that there was a new minute taker for this meeting.

Wendy spoke an acknowledgement to country.

Minutes and Business arising

Ian – note that the minutes of the fifth meeting were distributed, and request any further revisions/amendments.

Minutes of the 5th meeting

Graeme D - page 3 - Karl comment halfway down page - Winfarthing Rd is not expected to be exclusion zone, but in G's notes it says "not an exclusion zone". There is conflict between these statements.

Karl – it's a matter of wording - we do not expect it to be part of exclusion zone - full extent of blasting not confirmed.

Graeme – I disagree with that as a statement.

Page 5 - 3rd way down page – Ian’s note on public exhibition that EIS to be given to CCC members before the public - Karl confirms this.

Graeme tabled additions/revisions to the 4th meeting, noting that there were no changes online. Ian noted that he had accepted 90% of the changes and made a call on the remainder.

Graeme - no further changes

New Action: Ian to check and redistribute amended versions of 4th and 5th meeting minutes (note that these were emailed on November 13th after this meeting - Action completed).

Follow up on previous incomplete actions:

Fifth meeting

Action 1: Vergilio - best time to meet next mid-February - actual submission for EIS not completed aiming for March

Action 2: Vergilio to provide social impact study - Vergilio confirmed this is public record for major Projects, he will print it out and bring to next meeting.

Action 3: whether studies have been amended noting more recent bushfire impact - whether need to be updated or changed. Karl - biodiversity studies ongoing, proposing to undertake further studies and surveys onsite and they will take into consideration the impact of recent bushfires on fauna movement in the area.

Daryl - who is doing the survey

Karl - GHD biodiversity teams - accredited assessors

Ian - take this action as completed

Third meeting

Action 1: GQ to set time for notice to the CCC members before submission. Vergilio - not yet known

First meeting

Action 1: on PDF's - completed

Action 2: on traffic options - Vergilio in meeting 3 he handed the options re traffic. If you haven't got it already he can send through a pdf to everyone. Action completed.

Shane - is that the one with access still at Winfarthing rd?

Vergilio - no official plans for Winfarthing - they would have been draft. Access is now from Hume Hwy

Wendy - we saw on planning portal - we contacted planning as it had wording for one but diagram for the other.

Karl - Dept of planning contacted me, we realised there had been a drafting error, this was re-submitted to the Dept so the version on the department website should be the correct version

Daryl - can I say something about this coming from hwy - have you been there to see how fast cars come over the hill where you are seeking access, you need to have a look, cars cannot stop quick enough

Vergilio: Trucks coming into site will be decelerating and will be travelling uphill which will assist in the declaration, Trucks leaving to go to Sydney will be assisted by the downhill to pick up speed and merge into the highway.

Daryl: will you be going towards Winfarthing or going out?

Vergilio: there is an option to go towards Goulburn, left out onto Hume highway from site

Darryl - not much distance there, truck is about 18m long, it's a traffic safety concern.

Vergilio: I can assure you any map or any access will be assessed by RMS before it is approved

Action 4: on ensuring that there is no-one on the property shooting

Shane: every weekend there are people there shooting

Vergilio: we are leasing part of the land, so unfortunately, we cannot control the whole land

Shane: the vehicle has been shooting actually drove past Daryl's fence

Darryl - there are 2 vehicles - guy wife kid and a dog, I actually saved the dog. Worried because my wife paranoid walking around the property and people there shooting

Vergilio: have advised the owners

Daryl: makes you look bad.

Shane: we don't want shooting on that property

Vergilio: I apologise and if this happens again call me directly - I don't care what time, just let me know - will provide my direct mobile for this.

Ian – Do you have control of this part of the property?

Vergilio: if they are irresponsible, they are doing wrong

Shane: can you remind them it is crown land, and they require a licence to do the shooting

Wendy - we have contacted the government, it is crown land, and we can go there, you are responsible for it, you need to let them know.

Vergilio - I will advise, as I am from Sydney, I am only made aware of this at these meetings, please call me when the next time it happens

Darryl: he has told me that he is the caretaker

Ian - maybe you should also notify police

Vergilio - send pictures

Angelo Darryl - I saw 2 people there at night

Ian: What action can realistically be taken?

Wendy: something needs to be done before someone is shot, Daryl has horses and sheep

Bill Darryl- getting access via Winfarthing, change the locks

Vergilio: will advise owners and warn them

(Ilan added this note to the previous action item)

Wendy - we want to use crown land, we will be using this going up, we want to take photos of plants there as well, and some of the animals

Stephanie: to wendy - do you have confirmation that you are allowed up there?

Wendy: yes, we have received confirmation this week

Shane: most native animals are protected so shooting ducks is shooting a protected species which is illegal, so they need a licence

Shane: We have lost stock recently, daryl lost sheep, all seems to be happening at these times.

Bill Shane: can you send a design of what you have leased

Vergilio - will send this to you

New action – VS to send a map of the leased area.

Action 5 - GQ will not block neighbour access

Vergilio: nothing touched since then - this action is completed.

Action 6: on releasing the EIS: still to be completed.

Action 8: GQ will clarify power source

Vergilio: still to be done

Action 9: GQ to provide details of insurance

Vergilio: that can't be done until we obtain approval

Ilan: the action points that remain outstanding will remain as a checklist/prompt for future meetings

Ilan: any other points?

Graeme: thank you for responding to questions - however there were 220 odd answers you gave, 81 answers were misleading, contradictory, or plainly ignored the question.

Vergilio: we answered to the best of our abilities at this time, in respect of the 81 answers, please let me know and i will obtain clarification in respect of these.

Graeme: eg trig station - in different answers, it was to be removed, not to be removed, re-instated and to be determined, all contradictory

Vergilio: seems to be some communication issues as this was a collaboration of different members, let me know and i will go back to them and obtain the clarification to make sure we are on the same page

Ilan: Graeme do you want to write to him about this so we clear this up. GD- Nn

Graeme: 76 issues and concerns not even addressed in the document.

Vergilio: yes i did mention that I tried to capture everything, and reviewed past meetings, there may have been some issues that I missed, please let me know which ones I missed so I can address.

Graham - in the sheet I gave you I noticed some were not addressed, all centre around communication and Bell Quarry.

Vergilio: we can't comment on other quarries

Ian - Vergilio will check the issues and report back

New Action: Vergilio to check for inconsistencies and gaps in the information document (such as contradictory statements on the trig station).

Update from GQ

Vergilio: (VS handed out a document with a map of the quarry layout and a document summarising the progress on various studies).

This a milestone for us, still in draft and general layout of quarry, trucks will enter from Hume Hwy, go to the left picking up the stockpiles and from there can do a loop around and will not interfere with quarry operations at all, from there essentially if you come up you have a 2 lane road, that will take the material to the crusher, then distributed to the stockpiles. We are looking at 2 overburden stockpiles, one where the existing pit is (at front) and the other towards the back behind the crusher and screener.

Karl: there are more water storage discussions required with our team regarding the quarry layout and finding the most beneficial layout. It's likely to be a turkey nest style dam to basically hold water that is captured from the quarry runoff etc, that will go from settling ponds, be pumped into the turkey's nest for re-use in the quarry processing area, that will be the key change that we are working out the most beneficial way to operate the quarry

Daryl: coming out of the hwy into gravel pit, how long is the distance, going back into hwy to Goulburn

Karl: left turn acceleration lane approx. will be approx. 175m based upon the current plans

Daryl: not enough for a truck,

Ian - is this an RMS issue?

Karl: we presented a range of different options, we listened to your concerns with regards to Winfarthing Rd , different options investigated and different scenarios presented. No formal approval yet for the intersection design, it is part of overall DA which will be determined as a part of the State Significant Development.

Ian - in RMS court to assess

Graeme: Access should be practical

Karl: RMS have requested further detail to be included in EIS

Bill: If access is not granted, how can you go ahead with the quarry? Why invest so much time, effort and money in developing this quarry when the big unknown is access approval? Should not access approval be one of the first matters to be gained?)

Ian: RMS will determine this

Karl: We are confident the intersection design will meet the required design guidelines.

Shane: safest option would be a Crossover

Vergillio: this is not feasible

Daryl: how do you go about the load when it is going back to Sydney

Karl: there will be a right turn acceleration lane

Stephanie: in order to not be misleading the plan should be amended to detail the Hume Highway crossover component of the proposal.

Shane: the speed there is over 100km/hr, you need to look at the planning for this, I have spoken to RMS about this and the truck should be travelling at the same speed as traffic, which is 120Kmh. The acceleration lane crosses Crown Land.

Daryl: I have concerns about traffic incidents

Karl: preliminary designs undertaken have been presented to RMS, further details have been asked of us and this will be undertaken.

Vergilio: any questions about layout - noting it was given to you today

Shane: Blue lagoon there, natural spring, the overburden is very close to it

Vergilio: Yes, we assess all this

Wendy: what happens to the water

Karl: Existing water within the pit, water management system will be developed to separate clean water from dirty water, and control all discharges

Daryl: Do you recycle dirty water

Karl: yes, used within quarry operations

Wendy: How is the VENM and ENM next to the water, you are bringing rubbish from Sydney here

Karl: impacts of such storage will be examined in detail in the EIS

Ian: Any water issues must be addressed within the EIS

Bill: will quarry operations be visible from the main road and Winfarthing road

Vergilio: may see operations in the first year, not thereafter

Karl: my impression they will be visible from the highway with limited visibility from Winfarthing Road. Visual modelling to be done to determine visibility.

Ian: In summary, this will be determined and addressed in coming reports

Shane: Please provide the visibility study once this is completed.

Vergilio. Noted

New Action – VS to supply the visibility study when completed

Wendy: How are you going to control the crusher dust stockpile noting the winds over the past few months and what will prevent this from going into the creek? Is it covered because it is on a slope?

Karl: There will be erosion and sediment controls on all stockpiles and water will be used for the dust suppression in the processing area. The full extent of the dust modelling will be presented in the EIS and this is yet to be undertaken as we have just reached the current stage with the quarry layout.

Shane: have you been to any quarries in the area.

Daryl – look at Holcim they have put big walls up so no lights at night-time can show and they have done everything to cooperate with the people.

Vergilio: this will all be considered

Bill: is this your first quarry?

VS: No we have never developed a quarry before, but we have extensive experience across the construction industry.

Shane: How can you say you are the leaders in the industry

Vergilio: All the directors and I have extensive experience within the construction industry and structural aspects. We rely also on consultants and mainly GHD whom have extensive experience in the quarry operation.

Karl: we do have extensive experience and have done work for quarries in the area and we will address all concerns

Graham: Will the Hume Highway be part of the exclusion zone?

Karl: we can categorically exclude the Hume Hwy from the exclusion zone, and I do not believe Winfarthing will be either, however will need to confirm this. Blast design will be designed to minimise impact on the local community.

Wendy: I am concerned about any exclusion zone that will impact our local community especially with my need to have access to medication.

Karl: will make sure that any exclusion zone will not impact on the community and access to roads.

Stephanie: it is untimely to make definitive comments about the blast zones when GHD consider it unlikely that Winfarthing Road will be impacted by the exclusion zone. Obviously Council will have objections to exclusion zones if it is to impact the on local road network and community.

Shane: Does RMS know about the blasting as this will impact the roads.

Karl: It is a hard rock quarry and zones were identified in previous reports, with RMS being notified. We will clearly articulate the impact of the blast zones on the local community.

Ian: So the answer to that is that any blast zones will be identified, and the impact of such blast zones will be addressed and communicated to the local community.

Wendy: They are issues about the threat to the local communities within this area, and concern about clearing of the native vegetation. There are 2 critically endangered ecological communities, 32 threatened/endangered, vulnerable species – flora and fauna – and 13 migratory birds

Why has this site been chosen given this?

Vergilio: We have had site visits in respect of this.

Karl: There has already been for field campaigns of biodiversity specialists and people accredited under the biodiversity conservation act. We are proposing to undertake an EPBC referral for consideration of impacts upon matters of natural environment significance.

Wendy: concerns about this regarding the site – how did you choose your site if you did not consider this?

Darryl: Why can't we see these reports?

Ian: They will be provided as they become available, as I understand.

Vergilio: These particular documents – the social scoping assessment and preliminary environmental assessment - are public documents and have been online for a while, I can provide these to you. They were the some of the first documents done. A second SIA is to be done.

Graeme: The Traffic Assessment narrative appears incorrect – now access is via Hume Hwy

Karl: yes, this was an outline of the study, progression of the study has taken longer but please understand that this is mid-process and we will update the community once we have completed the specialist reports.

Bill: With respect to the GQ handout at the meeting on 'Current Progress with Traffic & Access Assessment', I note that you say it is 70% complete. Is that correct?

Karl: this is a rough gauge – to be more accurate it is above 60% .

Wendy: concerns about bushfire risk – we are the major stakeholders; you need to integrate into this community.

Karl: a focus of SEARs is to undertake the bushfire assessment and planning for bushfire protection. Focus on development of bushfire zones and protection around this.

Daryl: if there is a bushfire, we need to make sure there is a plan in place.

Shane: Fire will travel on top of the trees and there needs to be a plan about notifying neighbouring residents about this and planning.

Vergilio: this will be addressed.

Wendy: we are a close-knit community.

Shane: you need to consider not the 30 of us, but extended families and the impact.

Vergilio: we are doing our best to ensure we undertake protections and liaise with the whole community. This project is a big financial investment and there are risks that we will manage.

Wendy: communication needs to be better, we have a facebook page and for people who don't have mobile phones and technology, so we do letterbox drops, so we keep our community updated. This project is a big decision for them and there are concerns about people moving out.

Shane: Concerns about wildlife crossing the street – and the quarry will result in more wildlife being out of place and result in them going onto the highway, and in turn impact the highway traffic.

Wendy: experts come to the area, however no one is talking to us directly. We need to sit with them and have a chat with these experts so we can take this information back.

Vergilio: the whole purpose of the CCC is to discuss as the EIS has not yet been granted, so we do not have final reports and hence we are providing the information as we receive it along with your concerns.

Wendy: We are the stakeholders, and we need to be more involved, we did not choose this quarry to be here.

Daryl: you have not reached out to neighbours and informed them or discussed with them what you are about and what you they are concerned about

Wendy: if this is about being a good neighbour, introduce yourselves to this community. The other quarries had hundreds of submissions against them and they have now worked with their local community to forge a good one. We are people, think of us and liaise with us. We are trying to protect something we should not have to protect. We will be complaining to the Minister about whole this process is impacting them – there is no thing that protects the emotional aspect. We should be able to focus on the rest of our lives – not on this. A psychologist has advised me to focus on my life and not to take too much an active interest in this.

Ian: to be fair, the CCC process does aim to take resident concerns seriously, and ensure the culture of these meetings is respectful.

Wendy: They need to listen and take action – so you mean I'm in a position where I cannot vent.

(Wendy left the meeting)

Daryl: Why did you choose this community?

Vergilio: the CCC is meant to be a discussion , where we are able to answer question by question , when speaking and raising issues you jump from topic to topic without letting us address each individual question , this makes it difficult to be able to have a discussion.

Don : I will be objecting in my fullest.

Ian: this is your right. Can I check with you all, given Wendy's exit, I am concerned about her, and it might be time to bring this meeting to a close. When are we expecting to have the next meeting? My strong preference would be after we have a substantial new information from the various reports due before submission of the EIS.

Karl: realistically – March-April

Graeme: What will happen then?

Ian: Most reports as Karl indicated will be ready by then.

Darryl: Can you provide these reports to us in advance for comment?

Vergilio: yes, we will provide them as they are done and invite comment .

Ian: Agreed and should be provided for comment so that we can meet next year in March/April

Shane: are you going to do a report on mental health? Are you going to provide counselling – and see what happened to Wendy, you should provide a counselling service

Vergilio: We note the importance of mental health – and will note your comments. We should have information ready by February 2021.

Ian: Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season. I will provide a tentative date in February for a meeting and confirm this closer to the date, assuming we have relevant reports available to us by then.

Tentative Meeting date (suggested by Ian after the meeting) – Thursday 25 February, 2021

Sixth Meeting

Action 1: VS check for inconsistencies and gaps in the information document handed out last meeting (such as contradictory statements on the trig station).

Action 2 – VS to supply the visibility study when completed

Action 3 – VS to send a map of the leased area.

Fifth Meeting

Action 1 – VS to consider meeting with NOW Inc, subject to Covid advice.

Action 2– VS to email invitations for the social impact study

Third Meeting

Action 1: GQ to decide a suitable time for early notice of information to CCC before formal submission of the EIS

First Meeting

Action 4 GQ will make sure that no one is on the land shooting. (From sixth meeting – VS to strongly remind the lessees of their responsibilities)

Action 6 The EIS report will be made available when completed.

Action 8 *GQ will clarify power source to members*

Action 9 *GQ to provide details of insurance once approval is granted.*