

**Williamtown Sand Syndicate (WSS)
Cabbage Tree Road Sand Quarry
Community Consultative Committee Meeting**

02 December 2021

9:05-10:30

Mercure Newcastle Airport

Meeting Number: 6th Meeting **Type of meeting:** General
Chairperson: John Turner - JT **Note taker:** Jonathan Berry
Attendees: Sam Harvey (Port Stephens Council Representative)
Wayne Sampson (Resident) – WS
Barry Davis (Resident) – BD
Shirley Davis (Resident) – SD
Stephen Kuehn (Resident) – SK
Greg Callaghan (Resident) – GC
Paul Hardes (Resident) – PH
John Simpson (Hunter Water Representative) – JS
Darren Williams (WSS) – DW
Jonathan Berry (Wedgetail Consultants) – JB
Apologies: Shane Burton (WSS / Newcastle Sand) – SB, Peter West (Resident) – PW
Observers: None
Meeting Open: 9:05am

Minutes

Agenda item: 1 Apologies **Presenter:** John Turner

Discussion:

Shane Burton (WSS / Newcastle Sand) – SB, Peter West (Resident) – PW

Agenda item: 2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest **Presenter:** NA

Discussion:

John Turner (Chairperson) – Paid for service by WSS.
Wayne Sampson (Resident) – Deed with WSS.
Jonathan Berry (Wedgetail Project Consulting) – Consultant employed by WSS.
John Simpson (Hunter Water Representative)
Barry Davis (Resident) – Nil.
Shirley Davis (Resident) – Nil.
Greg Callaghan (Resident) – Deed with WSS
Paul Hardes (Resident) – Deed with WSS
Stephen Kuehn (Resident) – Deed with WSS
Darren Williams (WSS) – Quarry owner.

Agenda item: 3 Minutes to be adopted

Presenter: John Turner

Discussion:

Minutes from the last meeting were noted.

Minutes moved by WS. Minutes seconded by GC. All Agree.

Agenda item: 4 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Presenter: JT

- Response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested;

Actions from Previous Minutes

- WSS to look into wild dogs.

JB – Quarry looked into cage traps, before purchase identified control program was occurring on neighbouring HWC and SCA lands. Cage traps use suspended, cameras appear to show reduced dog activity onsite.

JS – Confirmed HWC and NPWS had conducted trapping on adjoining lands following concerns raised at the previous meeting, noted the following:

- Noted NPWS caught 2-3 dogs with 1 destroyed.
- Rabbit shooting by HWC near Grahamstown Dam / Medowie area. Lots of rabbits controlled.
- Deer control being investigated.

JT – Letter tabled from Keiron Rochester dated 30 November 2021

- Key aspects of letter relate to:
 - *“Sand blowing out of the site into the air;*
 - *Sand being dragged out of the site by trucks and depositing on the public road;*
 - *Sand blowing out of the trucks into the air as they leave the site.”*

JB – The quarry currently uses the following controls:

- Water cart.
- Contract road sweeper.
- Onsite skid steer is registered for use in road, however, it can be a dusty process in sweeping. It has in recent days been identified that the operation of this is substantially improved when using during wet conditions.
- The installation of a wheel wash is being investigated, likely to be placed before the weighbridge now that there is more room to install it.
- Amount of sand being tracked out should reduce as length of bitumen inside the site increases in length as operations and extraction move north.

BD – Raised observations from 14 May where truck had no tarp done up and did at Williamstown and has observed a landscaping truck with the door not sealed and was losing sand onto the road.

SD – House covered in sand / dust.

BD – Have observed westerly wind blowing sand down the road.

BD – Noted that perhaps all the existing sand on the road side could be removed using wheelbarrow.

GC – Noted a blower might be worthwhile.

JB – Agreed that removal of sand from the road side may be of benefit in reducing dust.

SD – Which people drive the car with the Newcastle Sand Logo, has been seen turning right into the quarry several times.

DW – This is quarry manager.

BD – Showed some photos with evidence of truck wheel marks from heavy vehicles turning right into the quarry.

DW – Reiterated the need for future observations to be phoned, texted or emailed as soon as possible to ensure actions can be taken with the trucks responsible.

DW – Noted that unrelated trucks have been observed doing illegal u-turns in quarry entrance. These are police matters, the quarry site commences at the quarry gate, the outside is a public road.

WS – Questioned the exit speeds of trucks leaving the quarry.

DW – Explained that there were RMS requirements for trucks leaving the quarry to ensure they would merge at appropriate speeds for the traffic on Cabbage Tree Road.

Agenda item: 5 Correspondence

Presenter: John Turner

- See presentation and below.

Agenda item: 6 Proponents reports & overview of activities, including; Presenter: Jonathan Berry

- Progress of the project
- Monitoring & environmental performances
- Community complaints & responses to these complaints
- Information provided to the community and any feedback

JB – Gave presentation of slides.

WS – Does the Wash Plant still use town water?

DW – Yes

Modification 3 proposal slide

JS – Has concerns about diesel in the sand beds and controls required.

JS – Has electrical trailing cables been investigated in preference of diesel generator?

SK – Noted during his working career at BHP the cables can be very painful and fail regularly.

JS – Would like Quarry to look at the cost / benefits of trailing cables rather than the diesel.

JS – Noted the need to address refueling of equipment, how this is done and how the diesel is stored safely.

Independent Audit slide

JS – Disappointed about 31 non-compliances, noted some were harsh, but others may have been under-rated.

Water related slides

JB – Noted that copper levels had also been reported to be elevated at BH4, but this appeared to be seasonal, or related to water levels with the levels peaking in winter when water levels are typically higher and reducing during summer.

JS – Confirmed the presence of copper that was observed to have an isolated peak at BH4 was unusual.

JS – Noted the sand beds are almost full.

Agenda item: 7 Other Agenda Items

Presenter: John Turner

Discussion:

JT – There were no other agenda items received.

Agenda item: 8 General Business

Presenter: John Turner

Discussion:

JT – Is there any general business?

SH – No Council business.

WS – Question about where water drained to from wash plant.

JB – Water drains back to a lined drain and sump and is recirculated.

BD – On 28 April SD sent email to JT about the minutes and Keiron’s registration being rejected. Is unhappy about the process with Keiron, and was not happy with the response to the email from JT, claiming it was aggressive and unnecessary.

JT – Disputed the email was aggressive, noted it was just factual, but apologised for any upset it may have caused.

SD – Noted Keiron now lives at 397 Cabbage Tree Road.

SD – Wanted to know what was in the sand, is it dangerous?

JB – Explained the sand was likely similar to the beach, some beaches are like this sand, others have more shell material. This sand also has some silt. The likely highest risk aspect of the sand is silica and this is routinely focused on by the mines department where quarry monitoring occurs onsite within the quarry working area to ensure the silica levels are below the safe regulatory level. The expectation is that if the levels around workers are safe onsite then the levels at the neighbouring land owners should also ok.

SK – No business.

GC – asked about the use of shakers onsite to help reduce sand.

DW – noted the quarry had installed shakers, however these shakes were causing concern for truck drivers, and at the time were installed at the weighbridge due to limited space. Noted that they may be useful in the bed of the wheel wash and/or in a location where empty vehicles did not need to use them (to reduce noise).

PH – Had observed more noise of recent time from the quarry.

DW – Noted he expected this was likely due to the additional preparation works in Sector 3 and levels should reduce when these works are completed.

JS – No business.

DW – No business.

JB. No business.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Continue to implement the additional controls to keep sand off the DW acceleration lane and access road to minimise dust.		
✓ Consider how to remove any surplus sand from the road side (noting RMS considerations).	DW	

Agenda item: 9 Next Meeting 15th March 2022

Presenter: John Turner

Discussion:

JT – The meeting is now closed, the next meeting to be advised for March.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
None.		

Other Information

- Minutes to be provided as draft in the next week.
- Committee members have one week to provide feedback on the minutes to the Chairperson.
- Within two weeks of receiving feedback the minutes will be finalized and distributed to members and placed on the website.

Meeting Close:

10:30 am