

Minutes PQCEG meeting 2

3-5pm 21 February 2018

Peninsula Quarries Pottery Road Somerville, in the main shed

1. Attendance

Chair: Rob Gerrand
Chris DeFreitas
Jo Murray
Daniel Petroni
Martin Reeves ERR
Ross Potter ERR
David Chalke Tyabb Ratepayers
Kate Blake Somerville residents group
Dianne Anderson Tyabb residents group
Mindy Abel Tyabb residents group
David Bergin, Mornington Shire
Paul Murphy Mornington Shire
Alden Collins
Kerren Clark (minutes)

2. Apologies

Ian McLeod ERR
Martin O'Shaughnessy EPA
Vince Lopardi SRW
Alan Robinson Somerville residents group

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved as circulated.

4. Site tour

Following a health and safety induction, members inspected the southern side of the site and Paul discussed with members appropriate endemic trees and shrubs for planting. It was agreed:

- a) Trees need to be tall and dense to provide maximum cover
- b) Paul will email to Kerren a list of appropriate plants that he considers will grow quickly. He will also indicate approximate spacing for selected species
- c) Neighbours will email a list of trees they would like based on the species recommended by Paul (send to Kerren)
- d) Chris will arrange for planting at the appropriate time, including mulching and weed control

5. Completion of site fencing

Jo spoke to the agenda attachment regarding PQV's OHS obligations. She explained that she had investigated Alan's suggestion that the fence be placed adjacent to the bund rather than on the boundary. She said that the does not meet with OHS requirements so the fence must be on the boundary.

Rob said that on reading the obligations, it is clear that Chris is personally liable for any incident anywhere on the site.

Mindy asked if there are options on the type of fence and Chris said there are. Alden asked whether barbed wire can be omitted and Jo said that it is hard to argue that the site is secure with barbed wire.

Dianne is opposed to any fence on the boundary and would prefer a wall, like freeway noise walls, adjacent to the bund.

As the group was unable to agree on a safe and acceptable option, the group referred to the VCAT order attached to the agenda. Rob said that it sets out a process to follow, which is that unless the neighbours agree, the courts must decide the matter.

6. Bund works

During the site tour, Chris explained his vision for completing the bund on the southern border. The bund will be further from the boundary than the existing bund and he intends to retain the maximum number of established native trees and to run water along the top of the bund for watering and to offer to neighbours. To achieve this, the bund will need to be winding, and the access track will be winding and narrow. Assuming the water can be run along the top of the bund, access for the water cart will not be required.

In order to supply water to the bund, tanks will have to be installed in the south west corner. They need to be high enough to provide for gravity feeding so they will be visible to Mindy. Mindy said that she objected to the tank being visible from her property. She would like trees planted as soon as possible so they can grow and obscure the view. Chris agreed that trees could be planted as soon as the hot weather is finished.

When water is available, it will be offered to all neighbours on the southern boundary.

All agreed that retaining existing trees is desirable and that Chris' suggestion regarding the bund seems appropriate.

7. Complaints and compliments register

Jo tabled the register for January and members reviewed the document.

8. EPA works approval application

Daniel said that following SRW's approval of quarry dewatering, PQV will now apply for a water discharge licence. He estimates that the application will be ready in about a month.

Surface water - water that collects on the surface of the ground.

Groundwater - is the water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations of soil, sand and rocks called aquifers.

SRW approved the extraction of 90 million litres of groundwater per year from the quarry pit. The EPA application is to permit mechanical pumping of that water through the existing drainage system into the Balcombe Creek. There was discussion about Olivers Creek and Daniel confirmed that no water would be discharged into that waterway.

David C asked if the application can be tabled and Daniel said that it could once it is finalised.

Dianne asked whether the removal of groundwater approved by SRW was safe and Kerren referred her to the agenda attachment, SRW reasons.

Alden asked how 90MI could be discharged, and Daniel said that consultant reports estimated the ultimate quarry pit would only result in an additional 20 – 40MI. The site already had an existing discharge of around 90MI annual volume and that with water being used for dust suppression and watering on site the 90MI was ample for anticipated flows. It would also allow for possible future sale of water. There are no current plans to sell water, but PQV has the option to do so in the future.

David B was asked for his view and he stated that ground water has nothing to do with the Shire.

Discussion returned to the SRW licence and as SRW has provided its reasons for decision that address concerns previously raised, it was agreed that there is no longer a need to invite Vince to speak at a meeting.

There was discussion about the term ‘relative level (RL)’ and Daniel confirmed that it refers to sea level. Chris said that at its surface, the site ranges from RL92 – RL88 that the quarry pit is currently at RL76. PQV currently has permission to excavate to RL 55.

Daniel said that if the EPA licence is approved, PQV would then apply to ERR for a work plan variation in accordance with special condition 24 of the existing approval.

Rob asked if there were any questions or concerns and the group agreed that they would like to know more about the EPA’s assessment process. It was resolved that the EPA be invited to attend the next meeting.

Daniel left the meeting at 4.30pm.

9. Community grants program

The group agreed that grants should not be offered to sporting clubs as they have access to numerous other grants.

On Kerren’s request, members agreed to come to the next meeting with ideas about what groups should be eligible, how to structure grant rounds and whether there should be maximum and minimum grant allocations.

10. Jones Road speed limit

David B reported that there has been no progress since the last meeting. In relation to the intersection works, he has not been approached by any councillors but the plans are ready so the only impediment is the resolution of councillors that works should not commence.

David C said that there is to be a ward council meeting soon and agreed to provide the date once he has it.

All agreed that councillors should be pressured to pass a resolution to allow works to go ahead.

11. Noise

Jo said that she had received a complaint from Dianne while trucks were being loaded with concrete for disposal. Di said that the noise stopped almost immediately upon speaking with Jo.



12. General business

Rob reminded members to email a list of preferred plants to Kerren before the next meeting.

13. Next meeting

3pm Wednesday 28 March 2018. David will bring Easter eggs.

Meeting closed at 5pm.