

Minutes PQCEG meeting 3

3-5pm 18 March 2018

Peninsula Quarries Pottery Road Somerville, in the main shed

1. Attendance

Chair: Rob Gerrand

Chris DeFreitas

Jo Murray

Daniel Petroni

Ian McLeod ERR

David Chalke Tyabb Ratepayers

Kate Blake Somerville residents group

Dianne Anderson Tyabb residents group

Mindy Abel Tyabb residents group

David Bergin, Mornington Shire

Leah Collins

Alan Robinson

Kerren Clark (minutes)

2. Apologies

Martin Reeves and Geoff Gilbert ERR, Martin O'Shaughnessy EPA, Mindy Abel

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved with minor amendment to point 6.

Alan raised a number of matters from the previous meeting, which he did not attend, and expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of progress. Rob pointed out that the group had only recently been formed and that the members had agreed not to revisit matters closed at previous meetings. Alan continued that he wanted to discuss: fencing, SRW's rationale and; what has been achieved to date.

4. EPA briefing

The EPA was unable to send a representative. Kerren to re-issue a request to attend.

Ian asked whether an application had been made and Daniel responded that it had not.

Members expressed confusion about the SRW licence and the EPA application, and the difference between ground water and surface water. Kerren read the definitions from the previous minutes.

Dianne asked about water being pumped from the site and Chris confirmed that surface water is currently pumped, via two dams, into Balcombe Creek. He added that this is unrelated to the discharge licence. Ian confirmed that water is currently not being discharged.

Alan asked what happens when surface and ground water mix and Daniel said the EPA application and approval process examine that issue.

Di asked whether there is currently ground water in the pit and Chris confirmed that there is not.

Alan asked about materials deeper down and Rob referred him to the first meeting when Chris described the geology. Daniel added that it is all clay and clay shale, but different types at different depths. It was confirmed that PQV does not have permission for a crusher and that as the material is all clay, a crusher would not work anyway.

Alan said the regulatory framework and the current laws were frustrating.

Residents reiterated their view that the quarry is new and that the Shire had told people the site would be closing. It was noted that the issue of continuous operation of the quarry was at VCAT and cannot be resolved by this group.

Rob asked members to focus on what this group can achieve in relating to current operations.

There was some discussion about previous regulatory processes and residents do not feel they had input into the SRW approval process. The group rescinded its previous decision not to ask Vince from SRW to speak at the meeting and it was agreed that Kerren would invite him to the next meeting. Daniel said a hydro-engineer may be more appropriate and agreed to look for the name of an engineer at SRW.

There was unresolved discussion about the work plan and DEDJTR's enforcement of its requirements. Ian explained that notices had been issued and since their issue there had been no non-compliance. He added that it's not productive to talk about the past and suggested that meetings should be structured and stick to the agenda. He said the group should focus on issues where improvements can be made such as screening, noise, safety and dust. It was agreed that these would be standing agenda items.

5. Tree planting

David B reported that the Shire had advised that three species on the lists circulated by Dianne and Leah are environmental weeds and cannot be planted:

Southern Mahogany or Bangalay *Eucalyptus botryoides*
Silky Oak *Grevillea robusta*
Honey myrtle *Melaleuca armillaris*

After some discussion it was agreed that blue and manna gums are preferred as koala habitat and other large trees on the list should also be planted to promote bio-diversity. Members further agreed that no further approval was necessary and that Chris should go ahead and source small trees and large shrubs from Dianne's list of plants that grow in heavy clay soils.

Chris will work with the landscaper to develop a planting plan and source the desired species, noting that some may not be available. He aims to start planting before the next meeting. He said the landscaper advised that weeds have to be cleared and dead wood removed before planting can commence. Dianne objected saying that dead wood is animal habitat and that blackberry spray kills everything. Chris said that most of the dead wood is from invasive species and asked what else can be used to kill blackberry.

He further advised that he would soon be opening a new stage, in the middle of the site, that it will have less impact on residents. Ian explained that the department has taken a decision that staging is no longer required so Chris will be able to proceed.

6. Completion of site fencing

Jo informed the group that WorkSafe had visited the site on 23 March. She said the quarry was evaluated and given a clean bill of health save for the issue of two Improvement Notices (INs). Jo tabled the report and notices, which are attached.

The notices direct PQV to install fencing on the southern and north-west boundaries within eight weeks.

Alan asked whether Jo could negotiate with WorkSafe about the location of the fence and she said she would try. Dianne asked whether WorkSafe had the work plan and Jo replied that they had requested and been provided with a copy before the inspection so she presumed it was read.

Rob asked Chris for his thoughts and he said that he thinks WorkSafe trumps other authorities so PQV is obliged to comply with the Notice.

Alan observed that Chris has no choice and reiterated his request for Jo to try and negotiate on the location. Ian said that he thinks WorkSafe acted outside its authority.

7. Bund works

As Mindy does not want a tank visible from her home, Chris is investigating new technologies and alternative designs. He will provide a progress report at the next meeting.

8. Complaints and compliments register

Jo tabled the register and members noted that it is a small font and hard to read. She agreed to provide a soft copy.

Ian said there had been dust complaints and Rob asked whether these were received on recent high-wind days. Ian said that was correct and dust sampling shows compliance over the month. Ian asked that dust be included as a standing item on future agendas.

9. EPA works approval application

It was agreed that this matter was covered during item 4.

10. Community grants program

It was agreed that:

Grants should be for environmental projects
There should be one annual grant round, advertised widely
There will be no restrictions on grant amounts, other than the \$5000 maximum.

Based on the above, Kerren will develop some program specifications for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Jones Road speed limit

David B reported that there has been no progress since the last meeting and reiterated that VicRoads makes the decision about the usual limit. The Shire can only lower it on application from companies like PQ for a specific purpose.

Kate said there recently had been clumps of clay on the road – she agreed to find out on what day so Jo can investigate. Jo offered to circulate the new truck requirements and advised that three trucks had recently been sent away due to non-compliance.

There was discussion about trees on private property that obscure drivers' view when exiting Pottery Road. David B agreed to investigate whether the Shire can lop branches outside the property. There was also discussion about a mirror and stop sign and David reported that these measures would not improve safety. Residents disagreed.

12. Noise

Nil.

13. General business

David C mentioned the ward meeting notice he sent to Kerren and she agreed to circulate the notice. He encouraged residents and PQV representatives to attend.

Ian congratulated PQV on its drainage efforts – he said the problems had been resolved permanently. He said the general appearance of the site was impressive and Alan said the comments were quite fair.

14. Next meeting

3pm Wednesday 9 May 2018.

Meeting closed at 5.10pm.