



## South Keswick Quarry Community Reference Group

### Meeting #2

#### DATE / TIME

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 10am

#### LOCATION

Regional Group Boardroom  
Sheraton Road, Dubbo

#### ATTENDEES

Garry West (GW)	(Independent Chair)
Fran Schubert (FS)	(Community representative)
Paul Arundell (PA)	(Dubbo Christian School)
Sue Runciman (SR)	(Dubbo Regional Council)
Alex Irwin (AI)	(MAAS Group Holdings)
John Arnold (JA)	Arnold Planning (Online)

#### APOLOGIES

David Minehan (DM)	(Community representative)
Scott Morris (SM)	(Dubbo Christian School)
Mark Smith (MS)	(Dubbo regional Council)
Alasdair Webb (AW)	(Regional Group)
James Hardman (JH)	(Redimix Concrete Operations)

- 1 Welcome & Introductions** – GW opened the meeting at 10.05 am and welcomed all attendees and noted the apologies.
- 2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – No new declarations declared.
- 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting** – GW advised the previous minutes were circulated to members and the finalised copy has been uploaded to the Project website.

- 4 **Correspondence** – DM emailed GW with his apology and request a copy be recorded as correspondence. DM advised he had spoken to several people who live in Southlakes and/or with children in school and no-one is supportive of more trucks on either Sheraton or Boundary Roads and that there should be a reduction. As a state significant development the ‘future’ roads should be progressed to manage the impacts of the projects’ expansions.
- 5 **RHPL Presentation** – see presentation for detail.

South Keswick Quarry – no changes have been undertaken to operation and production (December-May) ~150,000 t. The EPA conducted a site inspection on 29 January 2024 and no issues arose.

South Keswick Concrete Works – no changes to operations have been undertaken and continue in accordance with the Operational Environmental Management Plan.

Proposed Quarry Extension – JA of Arnold Planning has been engaged to prepare the EIS for the proposed extension. JA indicated current DRC consent (D16-482) allows for extraction of up to 495,000 tonnes per annum (tpa). The extension is to increase production from 495,000 tpa to 750,000 tpa. Minor changes to the extraction area and sequencing and increased depth are planned in parts of the pit.

No changes to:

- Approved disturbance boundary
- Existing drill and blast methods
- Hourly truck movements, and
- Hours of operation.

State Significant Development – JA advised the extraction of over 500,000 tpa from a total resource above 5 million tonnes triggers the SSD provisions under the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) and that a SSD application is required to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). This process involves a more comprehensive assessment and a longer

timeframe.

The SSD process involves:

1. Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment requirements (SEARs). A scoping report has been submitted to DPHI.
2. Issue of SEARs. Department reviews scoping report and consults key agencies to issue SEARs.
3. EIS preparation. The EIS has been drafted to address all the SEARs requirements. The EIS consultation involves conducting a Social Impact Assessment. The project is currently at this stage.
4. Lodgement. DPHI publicly exhibits the EIS and seeks comments from the community and government agencies.
5. Response to submissions. DPHI collates submissions and requests a response via a response to submissions report.
6. Assessment and determination. DPHI assess the merits of the application. If 50 or more objections are received or the local council objects the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) will determine the application in place of the Minister for Planning.

The technical assessment outcomes of the EIS have been completed. There are no impacts beyond the current approval to Aboriginal heritage and biodiversity.

Air quality, noise and blasting modelling has been undertaken and the project will comply with the relevant criteria. Best practice management & monitoring measures will be implemented.

No change is proposed to hourly (maximum 20) truck movements; no change to haulage hours and routes is proposed. Current restrictions during school hours along Sheraton Road will continue to apply. The assessment demonstrates adequate capacity exists of local roads and intersections.

Detailed groundwater assessment including additional assessment monitoring and modelling has been undertaken to enable an accurate prediction of the water table. A buffer is proposed between the level of extraction and the water table.

An updated site water balance has been undertaken and sufficient water allocation exists for the project.

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been prepared by Umwelt to inform the preparation of the EIS. This has involved comprehensive

engagement with local residents and key stakeholders through a three step process involving the scoping phase, EIS phase and the Operational (post approval) phase.

Key Project commitments include continuing haulage restrictions along Sheraton Road during school hours, environmental monitoring of groundwater, air and noise, sharing information through an extensive community engagement plan.

AI advised the maximum tonnage in the application is currently under review and is likely to be reduced and groundwater levels are being finalised before the application is lodged with DPHI. Ideal haulage route to the Mitchell Highway would be via Blueridge if DRC progresses that option.

It is anticipated that determination will take approximately 9 months from lodgement of the application.

Proposed Concrete Works Production Increase – determination is pending. Noise assessment questions have been addressed and an offer of a Voluntary Planning Agreement has been made for the ongoing maintenance of Sheraton Road of 10c/t of production up to 30,000 tpa. Sheraton Road has been identified as not being adequate for continued heavy vehicle use by Council and an additional financial contribution has been requested. Regional Group have responded to clarify production forecasts and have revised the application. The offer of an additional contribution has been made subject to confirmation of equivalent contribution by other industrial developments using Sheraton Road.

## **6 Environmental Monitoring**

Environmental monitoring for the site includes Air Quality (airborne particulate matter continuously and dust monthly); Blasting (every blast covering noise and ground vibration); Water (on discharge for pH, TSS, Oil & Grease, EC); and Noise (annually).

The Regional Group website has been finalised and environmental monitoring results are available.

Air quality monitoring has seen the occasional spiking of airborne particulate matter and each occurrence has been investigated. Of the

12 investigations conducted, 8 were confirmed as not being related to the Quarry. The 12 month average is well below EPA limits. Four blasts have occurred since the last meeting and all were compliant with the criteria. Noise monitoring has been completed and compliant at all locations.

<https://regionalgroupaustralia.com.au/environmental-management#panel-south-keswick-quarry>

## **7 Environmental Performance**

South Keswick Quarry – no environmental incidents, 9 environmental hazards were identified (weather conditions/ dust / visibility / dangerous fauna. The Annual return has been submitted and one non-compliance recorded in the continuous PM monitoring. An internal compliance audit is scheduled for June 2024. No rehabilitation or other environmental management issues have been recorded.

South Keswick Concrete Works – no environmental incidents, no environmental hazards recorded, internal compliance audit scheduled for June 2024 and no rehabilitation or other environmental management issues have been recorded.

Two enquiries / complaints received:

- February 2024 – dust
- May 2024 - blast

## **8 General Business**

PA observed the best outcome for the projects would be for DRC to provide a haulage route via Blueridge rather than Sheraton Road.

## **9 Next Meeting**

Monday 25 November 2024 commencing at 10am. TBC