

Salt Ash Sand Mine Community Consultative Committee – Annual Report for 2021

CCC / Project Name:	Salt Ash Sand Mine Community Consultative Committee	Reporting Period:	March 2020 to March 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Samuel Newman

1. Executive Summary

ATB Morton operates Salt Ash Quarry, which is located 22 km west of Nelson Bay and 3km east of Salt Ash Village in the Port Stephens LGA. Access to the quarry is via Janet Parade (a dead end road) off Nelson Bay Road.

Salt Ash Quarry was granted project approval in October 2010 to undertake sand extraction activities until 2030. The project has been modified on three occasions and in 2017 the proponent lodged Mod 4, proposing to increase sand production transportation rate, increase truck movements and extend working day operations. This application was subsequently approved.

The CCC was established in 2016 and operates in accordance with the guidelines. The membership consists of:

- Three local community representatives (one alternate)
- One Council delegate (Port Stephens Council)
- Two company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

Due to the lack of concerns from the community and the proponent's hold on its proposed expansion of the sand mine (Mod 4), meetings were moved from bi-annual to annual. The date was set down for May 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was postponed to 2 July 2020.

Members were reminded that an extraordinary meeting may be called at any time, if needed.

At the CCC meetings, the committee receives information from the project operators regarding its compliance with the conditions of consent.

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community and the company.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in July 2020.
- This is a very small committee on a small site, with only two neighbouring property owners as community representatives on the CCC. Despite letters and invitations to other stakeholder groups, there has been no interest from the broader community in becoming members on this CCC.
- Attendance is inconsistent, with apologies recorded due to competing obligations experienced by volunteer members.
- The CCC benefits from the attendance of a Port Stephens Council delegate.

- The approval of the expansion project (Mod 4) provided onerous conditions for the proponent with road/intersection upgrades making the economic value of the extension prohibitive. The company will continue to explore its options in line with resource need and market opportunities.

3. Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Truck movements to and from the site	Drivers operate under a Drivers Code of Conduct and the company demands strict compliance.	Ongoing monitoring by company.
Reduce Speed Limit along Janet Parade	The proponent has a self-imposed reduced speed limit for all of its truck drivers (40km /ph) despite the road being signposted as 60km/ph	Ongoing monitoring.
Concerns from resident regarding damage to home from vibrations from truck movements along Janet Parade	The proponent has requested the property owner to provide a written report with supporting evidence for its consideration. (Private matter.)	Ongoing.
Company's intention to proceed with expansion of the mine	DPIE approval received, but proponent has project on hold.	Ongoing.
Heavy Haulage Levy	Queries on the heavy haulage levy paid by the proponent to Port Stephens Council's and where these funds are spent.	Council's delegate confirmed that haulage levy, is only to be spent on Janet Parade (not state roads). There is currently \$80k in this restricted trust fund, for major works/reconstruction (not pot hole maintenance).
Realignment of Nelson Bay Road	RMS is considering options/plans to realign Nelson Bay Road which will include the turning lane into and out of Janet Parade.	CCC to be kept informed when information is available on the future plans.

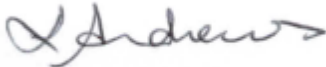
4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Decision on whether the proponent will proceed with its Mod 4 approval (due to conditions imposed on the determination by RMS requiring extensive road works, including turning lanes and treatments, which would make the project cost prohibitive).
- Regular updates on environmental monitoring; including noise, dust and fauna.
- Drivers' continued compliance with the road rules and driving to conditions in accordance with the Drivers Code of Conduct.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes are available on the project website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	22 April 2021