

Brandy Hill Quarry Community Consultative Committee – Annual Report for 2022

CCC / Project Name:	Brandy Hill Quarry	Reporting Period:	March 2021 to March 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Andrew Driver

1. Executive Summary

Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd operates a hard rock quarry, Brandy Hill Quarry, in the suburb of Seaham in New South Wales. The quarry, originally approved by Port Stephens Shire Council in 1983 has been operated by Hanson since 2001. In 2017 the company applied for an expansion into new areas of the existing site for the further extraction of aggregates and road base products up to 1.5 million tonnes per annum and to extend operations for a further 30 years. The proponent also sought to install a concrete batching plant, capable of producing 15,000m³ per annum and to receive up to 20,000 tonnes per annum of concrete washout material for recycling. This SSD application (5899) was approved by the IPC on 16/07/2020, subject to conditions.

The project operates in accordance with its existing approval and the company is currently working through the pre-approval conditions for the new expansion project determination. The Community Consultative Committee has been meeting regularly since December 2013 and operates in accordance with the guidelines. The membership consists of:

- Six local community representatives (including the stakeholder group VOWW & BHSAG)
- One Port Stephens Council (LGA) delegate
- Three company representatives (Hanson); and
- One Independent Chairperson.

The Brandy Hill Expansion Project was approved by the Independent Planning Commission on 16 July 2020.

The CCC meetings had increased during the assessment, consideration and determination of the application and are now held quarterly as the proponent works through its pre-approval conditions of consent, preparation of management plans, voluntary planning agreements with Council, etc.

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community and the company, who have worked hard to establish an improved working relationship with members. Whilst there have been issues in the past due to competing opinions, members are respectful and keen to get the best outcome for their community.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in March 2021, June 2021, August 2021, November 2021 and February 2022.
- Attendance is consistent, with some apologies registered depending on competing obligations with volunteer members.
- Presentations to the CCC at these meetings comprised of:

- Update on the finalisation process on the application's assessment by DPE & determination by the IPC
- Voluntary Planning Agreement with Port Stephens Council, including survey and construction of the footpath/cycleway along Brandy Hill Drive.
- Ecology/Biodiversity (including management of Koala Habitat)
- Environmental, Dust and Noise Monitoring
- Traffic Management
- Driver's Code of Conduct; and
- Complaints Register

Key issues

Trending topics of committee discussion can be summarised as:

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
Concerns with truck movements to and from the site, especially along Brandy Hill Drive and Clarence Town Road.	Drivers operate under a Drivers Code of Conduct and the company demands strict compliance. Any complaints are addressed immediately. It is noted however, that most issues are not attributable to Hanson trucks.	Hanson trucks are tracked via a GPS system to ensure compliance with its trucking movements. Truck drivers are audited regularly and any non-conformances are dealt with swiftly and firmly, even extending to sub-contractors. Hanson have worked with RMS to reduce the sign posted speed limits in the area to support the community's concerns.
Local Road Speed Limits	Truck drivers adhering to local speed limits.	Hanson have imposed its own speed limits to ensure that drivers do not cause impacts or safety issues to other road users and residents. Hanson has also made representations to RMS to successfully reduce speed limits on Clarence Town Road.
Bushfire Management	The committee has agreed that potential training between the RFS and residents would be beneficial to ensure management of bushfire risks in and around the project site and environs.	This was placed on hold due to COVID restrictions, however, remains an important issue for the CCC. As soon as it can be scheduled, arrangements will be made.

Voluntary Planning Agreement with Council	Members wish to ensure the best outcome for residents and the community regarding the VPA with Council. Hanson are required to contribute to certain items under the control of Council, such as a cycle path, bus shelters, road maintenance, etc.	Hanson has met with Council to progress these matters.
Biodiversity	Koala Habitat and biodiversity also remain a strong focus for the community. Hanson engaged a consultant to address these concerns with a report being submitted to DPE/IPC.	Appropriate corridors and biodiversity offsets will be put in place to manage these environmental issues. It is proposed that the CCC members will undertake a site inspection of this area at the next meeting.
Management Plans	The proponent is finalizing the preparation and updating Management Plans associated with the project.	CCC will be advised when these plans have been approved by DPE.
Blasting Notification	Following concerns raised by some residents, a blasting notification system has been put in place.	Residents are informed electronically of intended blasting occurrences on site in accordance with the Blast Management Plan.

3. Focus for next 12 months

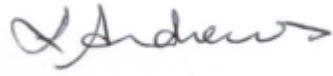
The planned activities for 2022 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Updates on pre-approval / conditions of consent for the expansion project.
- Updates of Hanson's VPA with Port Stephens Council and implementation of works.
- Updates from Hanson regarding infrastructure changes on site to address and mitigate expanded operations on site.
- Inspection of the wildlife corridor (Koala habitat) area.
- 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:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew" with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date:

11 April 2022