

Draft minutes

BUTTAI QUARRY COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am to 11am, Friday 1 April 2022

Kurri Kurri Community Centre, 251 Lang Road, Kurri Kurri

Attendees

Kate Baartz	Independent facilitator (Baartz & Co)
Janet Murray	Community representative
Terry Lewin	Community representative
Colin East	Community representative
Luke Robinson	Daracon

Agenda items

1. Welcome, acknowledgment and introductions

TL: Advised that Cr Rosa Grine is likely to be the new Council representative and Cr Mitchell Hill is the alternate

2. Apologies

Richard Forbes	Cessnock City Council
John Canon	Daracon
Dan Smith	Daracon

3. Minutes

Minutes for Thursday 14 October 2021 were adopted as final with the following amendments, (moved by JM and seconded TL):

- update location of the minutes to say the meeting was remote.

Action: KB to edit to minutes and provide to LR for website

One additional edit noted for the Annual Report

- new down ramp update from John Renshaw to George Booth Drive
- annual report needs to be updated to say the first meeting was 'face to face' whilst the second was remote.

Action: LR to incorporate above edit into Annual Report.

4. Actions arising from previous minutes

Actions arising

Action

- 1. Contact Hunter Central Coast Planning Panel (HCCPP) requesting Cessnock City Council (CCC) involvement in the assessment of the Newcastle City Council (NCC) portion of the Richmond Vale Rail Trail (RVRT) before determination by the HCCPP.**

KB provided update from RF: The HCCPP approved the Newcastle section of RVRT Shortland to Pambalong Reserve on 8 December 2021. Council's role was limited but the decision is consistent with overall strategy. The section to Kurri Kurri has not yet been considered.

TL: 13 kilometres approved minus 2ish kilometres across the wetlands park. The panel was not eligible to approve because of a plan of management. The Tarro connection also removed temporarily.

TL: Spoke to Kate Harris, Cessnock City Council two REFs for Lake Mac and Cessnock. Cessnock to put everything on exhibition, 13/4 council briefing, 20/4 to council for decision. All of the major agencies have already provided feedback. All the landowners still to comment on REFs, one landowner not interested. One section is privately-owned, and Cessnock may need to acquire.

Daracon are an interested party, and they will be able to comment.

- 2. Cr Darrin Grey stepping aside on 4 December 2021, replacement councillor to be arranged.**

KB provided update from RF: The division of Committee's has not been finalised following the local government elections in December 2022. A new Councillor representative has not been nominated as yet. As soon as this information is available, KB will advise the CCC.

TL: List of nominated councillors is in the most recent council business paper

Action: RF to confirm Councillor representatives to KB. KB to send on the CCC.

- 3. Request Council's weed team add Buttai Road to their weeding schedule.**

KB provided update from RF: RF provided the weeds team with details inclusive of species provided by Janet Murray. Schedules have been severely affected by weather at this point so cannot advise on programme.

JM: Will continue to pull out weeds.

4. Confirm ownership of fire trail with discussions with Crown Land.

KB provided update from RF: Discussed at previous meeting – Crown contacted and can only commit to community consultation should closures be sought.

LR: Item has been discussed many times. The road reserve for the Fire trail runs through the quarry, however we've always committed to maintaining the fire trail access and will continue to do so.

JM: Road needs to remain a crown road, outrageous revenue raising.

LR: Handing a lot of crown land over to local councils, divesting from a lot of it. Haven't heard anything about the fire trail, Geoff maintains and keeps tight security near the pit. There are gates and alarmed cameras, RFS has keys for locks. Geoff has been talking to RFS about this regularly

TL: About a year ago a draft fire management plan was exhibited with all the named fire trails.

CE: Crown lands trying to revenue raise from selling crown roads, important to community to preserve fire trail around the quarry.

LR: Intent from Daracon is to maintain condition and accessibility.

5. Annual Report to include commentary regarding the noise results eg. Noise results complied for the period except for anomalous results

LR: Noise results were compliant so there was no need to include commentary

CE: It has been satisfactorily addressed.

LR: Buttai DDG monitors are the only deviation from requirements

JM: Look at them in the annual report, can't remember the weather at the time. It is difficult to look back and have a sensible comment about it

LR: Results are available on the web, if there are any air quality issues then we expect someone let us know.

LR: If the air monitors go over then LR raises an incident about it (only if both monitors go

over). Then this is investigated to understand why.

CE: Buttai Barn continues to be the cause of erroneous results.

LR: Issue over a long period of time, please continue to let Daracon know if there are any air quality (or other operational) issues.

6. Check and confirm the appropriateness of the plan checking fee for the road ~~upgrade~~ required for the recycling.

Update provided prior to meeting from RF: Daracon patiently seeking a meeting with Council engineers to discuss design and arrangements including fee apportionment. To be advised.

Action: LR/RF to provide an update on the plan checking fee when more information is available.

5. Daracon presentation

Refer to Attachment 1

Group: Discussion about deep lift asphalt and using it for road repairs – especially given the volume of rain.

Blasting results: No trigger recorded

JM: Are the shot chargers getting better?

LR: Precision Drill and Blast are the contractors for blasting, and they put a lot of effort and planning into the blast design.

TL: Are we sure that the no trigger is working correctly? Is the sensitivity set correctly?

LR: The blast criteria are set in the EPL. They have to set it to make sure it isn't set off by cars driving past blast site or similar.

CE: Can you talk to them about it?

Action: LR to talk to provider to further explain the blasting process to the CCC.

JM: Received letter on Thursday about blast on the Friday, there was a blast on Thursday then they came to do the blast on Friday and set up monitors and heard nothing.

LR: Confirmed the blast was on Friday and shared a 'no trigger' letter with the group.

Planting: Use a native mix of seeds on site. Plants that grew out of the top soil do much better. Have also weeds growing from site to private properties

CE: Has there been any planting in the last 12 months?

Action: LR to check when the last planting.

CE: Dot point 7 on page 10- Goal for community is screening the benches. What additional measures are you considering? Umwelt (Appendix 4)

CE: how can you get topsoil up there

LR: not in bulk, this will damage what we have already done. Need to improve the soil locally around the plants by hand. Looking at where the gaps exist and continue to plant, then go back and keep planting until the gaps are filled. Have been working on for many years

CE: Umwelt report – it's extremely rocky and the soil profile is the problem. These months are the optimum time for planting. When are you going to take these actions? Advantageous to do at this time of the year.

JM: Optimal growing conditions for weeds, it would be good to get the lantana and castor oil plants out while the ground is wet.

CE: Request to progress actions in the Umwelt report bench 2 and 3. Action with respect to adding soil around the plants and new planning this season.

Action: LR to discuss actions in the Umwelt report for bench 2 and 3 with landscape team to improve the soil and plant more trees.

TL: can you spray soil? if the soil along the whole bench is no good, then the whole section is compromised. What is the timing for planting for bench 4?

LR: has been investigated, the section is approximately 100m. There are a selection of trees that we plant, there is a batter. Re bench 4 the focus is the stuff you can see from the site not the long term regeneration of the lower benches.

JM: Also, a recommendation to mulch section to retain moistures.

LR: Already do this and have also used coir mats helps to shield trees from weeds and animals.

JM: Bales of hay mulch will support growth. Maybe a good option to plant creepers to grow from the top down while we are waiting for the trees to grow.

CE: Congratulations on the report and the use of the experts. The report has a lot of good recommendations and actions, the next step is to implement actions.

RFF update: Engineering design for access road has been Council for further discussion to try and stop the need to remove more trees.

John Renshaw Drive improvement will be complete before the RRF starts operating.

JM: Is there anything you can do about hoons on the road?

LR: Not sure, without an involvement from the Road Authority (Cessnock Council).

TL: Would more surveillance from John Renshaw drive be useful? Eg keeping undergrowth low.

JM: East on Old Buttai Road towards the quarry, other people from pilot business use the road. Have right of way, will that change?

LR: Confirmed traffic to and from site has right of way.

Action: LR to provide the timeline for construction once it is known and request potential traffic calming measures (hoon management) on Old Buttai Road with RF.

JM: there is pampas grass in the photos in the Annual Report

Action: LR to pass on to Geoff to remove pampas grass and general weed control

6. General business

Note: Buttai Quarry CCC minutes, presentations and reports are available on the Daracon website, this link is publicly available and can be shared with other interested groups
<https://daracon.com.au/services/quarries>

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be a site visit and will happen in Mid-October 2022, future meetings to be held on a Friday at 9am.

8. Action table

Action	Responsibility
KB to edit to minutes and provide to LR for website.	COMPLETE
LR to incorporate above edit into Annual Report.	LR
RF to confirm Councillor representatives to KB. KB to send on the CCC.	RF/KB
LR to provide an update on the plan checking fee when more information is available.	RF/RF
LR to talk to provider to further explain the blasting process to the CCC.	LR
LR to check when the last planting.	LR
LR to discuss actions in the Umwelt report for bench 2 and 3 with landscape team to improve the soil and plant more trees.	LR
LR to pass on to Geoff to remove pampas grass and general weed control.	LR

Attachments

1. Daracon presentation