



## **Minutes PQCEG inaugural meeting**

3-5pm 22 January 2018

Peninsula Quarries Pottery Road Somerville, in the main shed

### **1. Attendance**

Chair: Rob Gerand  
Chris DeFreitas  
Jo Murray  
Daniel Petroni  
Martin Reeves ERR  
Geoff Gilbert ERR  
David Chalke Tyabb Ratepayers  
Alan Robinson Somerville residents group  
Kate Blake Somerville residents group  
Dianne Anderson Tyabb residents group  
David Bergin, Mornington Shire  
Kerren Clark (minutes)

The chair opened the meeting by welcoming all to the inaugural meeting and asking participants to introduce themselves.

### **2. Apologies**

Ian McLeod ERR  
Martin O'Shaughnessy EPA  
Vince Lopardi SRW  
Mindy Abel Tyabb residents group

### **3. Terms of Reference**

Members agreed on the following ToR for the group.

- a) PQCEG is an advisory body formed to facilitate communication, meet regulatory requirements as necessary and administer a community grants program. The PQCEG does not have a deliberative function but PQ commits to implementing recommendations related to the community grants program
- b) Assist PQV to consult with the local community, including providing and receiving information from community members and organisations
- c) Endeavour to identify community attitudes and expectations
- d) Receive detailed plans and technical reports, such as those provided to DEDJTR
- e) Advise PQV on community consultation including how to consult on community issues such as any proposed changes on site
- f) Consider issues raised by members of the community about PQV's operations
- g) Review and analyse the register of complaints
- h) Establish and administer the community grants program.

### **4. Code of Conduct**

Members agreed on the following Code of Conduct for meetings.

- a) All meeting business will be conducted with courtesy and respect. The chair may ask non-compliant participants to leave the meeting and continued non-compliance may lead to expulsion
- b) Participants will come to meetings with an open mind, and be prepared to listen

- c) The PQCEG has been established to review issues relating to Peninsula Quarries Victoria. It will accomplish this by:
  - a. Improving industry knowledge and understanding of community interests and concerns
  - b. Improving community knowledge and understanding of industry policies and activities
  - c. Encouraging industry, community and other stakeholders to work together
- d) All members may add agenda items before the meeting and participants may request addition of an agenda items to a subsequent meeting agenda
- e) Participants who are not permanent members will advise PQ who will be attending meetings and, as far as practicable, inform their alternates about the previous meeting before they attend a subsequent meeting
- f) Issues addressed and information provided at a previous meeting will not be revisited because of change of representatives and ongoing issues will remain in the agenda until resolved

## 5. Introduction to site

CD introduced Jo Murray and described his and her roles at the site.

Work at present is focused on site maintenance and cleaning. The most recently completed job was installing a pipeline through the Charles' property and repairing a damn there on. He advised that the Shire has completed work downstream, removing a culvert, and that as a result of both tasks, flooding is no longer an issue. MA was kept informed throughout the process.

CD explained the geology of the site and explained the two main products are Type A SRF "soft rock fill", and road sealing clay. Type A is extracted directly from the face area, or can be blended with lower quality "cream coloured" upper bench clay to meet the VicRoads standards. This method utilises the material from all benches.

Type A material is a product in high demand for sub-divisions and by Casey Council and VicRoads. The other highly sort after product is red sealing clay, which is used for the lining of waste cells in landfill sites and effluent cells, for example at the Eastern Treatment Plant. Melbourne Water has also used the product recently in two creek linings (Bulleen and Dandenong) and it is also used for damn lining and construction. This is a highly sort after product due to its low level permeability.

DA asked whether blending is considered processing under the work plan. CD replied that it is not and GG stated that blending is not processing. AR asked where the blending occurred and CD said that it is done in the pit.

CD said the lower benches are formed of red clay, which is Type A material. This can be used in road construction and for lining dams and water cells as an environmentally friendly way to prevent water leakage, such as the Eastern Treatment Plant in Carrum Downs. It is a product in extremely high demand because of Victoria's huge number of infrastructure projects. Additionally, there are only two suppliers in Victoria.

PQV's clients include contractors for Melbourne Water, VicRoads, private builders and firms seeking environmentally sensitive liners.

AR said he'd heard a rumour that a crusher was to be installed on site. CD said this was not true. A crusher is used to crush rock, and there is no rock requiring crushing on site..

There are rock seams that run vertically through the clay giving the clay structural strength. PQV has no plans to install a crusher. JM added that clay is too soft to be crushed.

KB observed that operations seem minimal at present, specifically fewer trucks. CD said that major infrastructure work is on hold right now so there are a few trucks. He went on to explain that new processes on site, such as weighing and ticketing of vehicles, mean that there will never be a return to 200 trucks per day. He said that loading, weighing and ticketing takes at least five minutes per truck and that is the absolute minimum turn around. Trucks will increase as projects come on line, but never to 200 a day.

AR asked about the speed limit. DP advised that once there are to be more than 40 trucks per day PQV seeks Shire approval for a traffic management plan and this reduces the speed to 60kmph. He added that Bayport requested a permanent reduction to 60kmph. DB said that the Shire asked VicRoads for a reduction and this was rejected.

AR and others were disappointed as noise and dust are reduced when the speed is lower. All participants support a permanent reduction to 60kmph.

DA asked about water management and DP said that before Christmas SRW approved a licence covering groundwater management and discharge. The next step will be to vary the DEDJTR work plan. There was a discussion about the impact of this work and members agreed that technical reports are inaccessible to a lay audience. The group resolved to invite SRW to present at the next meeting to address what, if any, impact there will be on residents' homes, septic tanks, trees etc.

## **6. Completion of site fencing**

DA stated that she does not want a fence at the back of her property. CD stated that PQV is required by law to meet its legal OHS obligations. Obligations also exist in ERR regulations and both extend to the general public and animals as well as workers and contractors. DA asked why it could not go on the other side of the bund and CD replied that that creates a new safety hazard in that a person could climb the bund and fall between it and the fence. He added that a regular ladder would also reach from the top of the bund to the fence, permitting unsafe access.

DA said that a fence would prevent her from escaping a fire. JM said that WorkSafe considerations are paramount and DA said she did not know that they had jurisdiction over the site. AR confirmed that they do and agreed that WorkSafe has extensive powers in relation to safety.

AR asked what the risks are and CD said death by drowning, trucks/equipment and falls. He said there is evidence of unauthorised access to the site such as yabby nets. An untrained person may not recognise safety hazards that are obvious to the trained eye and death and injury are real risks.

JM said that a fence is required under the OHS Act as PQV has a duty to persons and animals to make them safe.

## **7. Bund works**

CD said two dams need to be dug and that the clay will be used to build bunds and they will be covered with the left over topsoil. He circulated diagrams and a list of approved plants for planting and members were asked to select flora for planting.

GG said that the work plan would need to be varied.

CD and DA had a disagreement about the pre-existence of the access track inside the fence. CD said that it had been there as long as he had been at PQV and that it had had to be reinforced to allow works to be undertaken on the Charles' property (to fix the drainage).

There was discussion about the planting on the list and DP said that the Shire has to approve flora and the plants on the list are approved. DB said he would seek advice from the Shire's specialists and provided an extended list for planting. He also offered to gain advice on which trees would grow quickly and provide good cover. DB agreed.

The group asked DB to invite a specialist to the next meeting and join the group for an inspection of the areas to be planted.

Discussion returned to item 7 and members of the group were unable to agree. CD said he would get advice as to whether building the fence between the existing trees (and the flora that will be planted) and the bund would meet PQV's OHS obligations and ERR's Code of Practice for Small Quarries.

#### **8. General business**

GG advised that during the day he received a complaint about reversing beepers and that it needs to be investigated as the noise might not have originated on the site.

There was a discussion about the OHS requirements, CD said that all site vehicles have squawkers and that he can't control noise from off site or external road-going vehicles.

It was agreed that noise would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

DB informed the group that at the last meeting, Councillors had rejected the proposal for mitigation works at the intersection of Jones and Pottery roads: it was contentious and the vote was close. Officers advised that the intersection be improved, Bayport had paid for it to occur but councillors instead asked for more information. Bayport has received a request for information from the Shire.

Residents' expressed dismay at the Councillors' actions.

#### **9. Next meeting**

3pm 21 February 2018. The meeting will include an inspection of some areas to be planted so participants will need to wear sturdy boots. Jo is focusing on OHS systems all aspects of compliance. He advised that there are two other employees on site and that he is responsible for overall management of the site.

Meeting closed at 5pm.