

Austral Bricks: Cardup Stakeholder Community Group

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 14 July 2021, 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Dome Cafe, 829 South Western Highway, Byford

Agenda, minutes and tabled documents available via
www.australbricks.com.au/environmental-documentation#

Once you click on the link, you need to also **click on the 'Cardup (WA)' tab** along the top of the webpage to be directed to the correct page.

Attendees

Alan Clarkson	Serpentine-Jarrahdale Ratepayers Association
Tony Harrison	Byford on the Scarp Association
Colleen Rankin	Byford Progress Association
Max Erskine	Byford Progress Association
Peter Edmiston	Local resident
Vanessa Slater	Coordinator Natural Reserves; Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Andrew Mack	Consultant
Jessica French	Environmental and Sustainability Manager; Brickworks
David Johnson	General Manager; Austral Bricks
Lenda Oshalem	Chairperson; Newgate
Alisha Aitken-Radburn	Newgate

Apologies

Stephen White	Byford on the Scarp Association
Tom Dyer	Serpentine-Jarrahdale Ratepayers Association
Ann Dyer	Local resident

Agenda

Item	Topic	Reporting
1	Welcome / Introductions / Apologies	Newgate
2	Austral Bricks personnel changes	Austral Bricks
3	Minutes of previous meeting	Newgate
4	Matters arising from previous meetings	Newgate
5	Operations update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map overview • Annual audit compliance report for Shale Rd pit 	Austral Bricks
6	Update from last meeting on dust issues / interim actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truck contract arrangements / toolbox sessions • Water carting • Sealing shoulder on the in-road • Installation of mobile camera • Dust monitoring, employee monitoring and feedback on photos / videos from community • Annual Environmental Report published on website • Updates to dust management plan 	Austral Bricks
7	Northern pit site – addressing dust concerns	Austral Bricks
8	Throughput – response to SCG	Austral Bricks
9	Weather monitoring on site	Austral Bricks
10	EPA update	Austral Bricks
11	Consideration of relocation to West Mundijong Industrial area	Austral Bricks
12	Other business	Newgate
13	Next meeting	Newgate

Item	Topic	Action Items
<p>1.0</p> <p>1.1</p> <p>1.2</p> <p>1.3</p>	<p>Welcome / Introductions / Apologies</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem opened the meeting at 1:00pm.</p> <p>Apologies received from Stephen White, Tom Dyer and Ann Dyer. Kevin Radford will no longer attend SCG meetings.</p> <p>Introductions – Jessica French, Brickworks' Environmental and Sustainability Manager will re-join the SCG. Alisha Aitken-Radburn from Newgate will be taking the minutes for this meeting.</p>	
<p>2.0</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p>Austral Bricks personnel changes</p> <p>David Johnson spoke to Austral Bricks personnel changes. Tanya Gilders has taken a new role in another business. Jessica French will be taking over from Tanya Gilders as one of Austral Bricks' representatives on the SCG.</p> <p>David Johnson will also be leaving Austral Bricks and moving to Victoria in the coming weeks. Shaan Beatty will be replacing David Johnson as General Manager. Shaan Beatty is currently the General Manger for Austral Masonry in Jandakot.</p>	
<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem noted minutes of previous meeting include all changes received from SCG members. Previous meeting minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Matters arising from previous meetings</p> <p>Effectiveness of the scrubber</p> <p>Peter Edmiston sought to clarify a point from the March meeting, at item 5 of the March minutes, regarding the effectiveness of the scrubber. At the March meeting it was noted that the scrubber has been effective, however it has only achieved an average of 52% reduction, less than the 82% reduction that was predicted. Peter Edmiston asked the current status of the effectiveness of the scrubber.</p> <p>David Johnson answered that the efficiency of a scrubber can be determined by a number of factors, including weather variables, limestone volume and quality of limestone. David Johnson stated the most important part of the result is that every test Austral Bricks has done is well below the licence limits. David Johnson noted fluctuations can occur due to the different clay being fired and different colour bricks on each day. David Johnson reiterated that Austral Bricks has never had a testing result above the limit.</p> <p>Jessica French raised there is also an error factor to consider. Jessica French highlights that the result is also impacted by the way the ports were installed, the pre-scrubber port does not have the same airflow as the port on the stack.</p>	

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4.2	<p>Peter Edmiston asked when the licence is granted, whether regulators consider these factors when determining reasonable throughput levels and whether the scrubber's effectiveness of 52% instead of 82% is reasonable based on the throughput. David Johnson said Austral Bricks is well under the licence limit on emissions regardless of throughput.</p> <p>Jessica French added when throughput is increased, it does not mean that emissions also increase. Jessica French adds throughput is not licenced, however there are conditions on emissions coming out of the stack. Jessica French stated Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) decides the limit from looking at similar industries and looking at the site's proximity to community.</p> <p>Buffer zone</p> <p>Peter Edmiston raised proximity is getting closer to the facility and this is an area of concern. Jessica French responds the closest house is just over 300 metres away from the stack and there is an Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) buffer guideline stating brick factories should be 300-1000 metres away from housing, depending on the size of the facility. Jessica French also noted Cardup is one of the smallest brick manufacturing facilities in Australia. Jessica French said the 1000 metre buffer is for a factory like Midland Brick, which has multiple, larger kilns. In contrast Cardup is smaller, with one single small kiln, therefore a buffer of 300 metres is sufficient.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson asked whether the buffer zone had been lessened recently. Jessica French said it had not, but Austral Bricks has one mandated by the Shire.</p>	
5.0 5.1 5.2 5.3	<p>Operations update</p> <p>General operations update</p> <p>David Johnson stated production at Cardup is and has been stable. David Johnson also noted DWER visited the site this year, no significant issues were raised, and the operations were found to be compliant. There was a minor issue with dust on the ground due to truck movements and Austral Bricks operates a street sweeper and water cart.</p> <p>Annual audit compliance report for Shale Rd pit</p> <p>Regarding the Shale Rd pit, David Johnson noted Austral Bricks' annual compliance audit report has been submitted to the Shire and is compliant with all the requirements. The report is published on Austral Bricks' website.</p> <p>Site map overview</p> <p>A site map was circulated to familiarise the SCG with the site.</p> <p>David Johnson noted Plant 3 has been modernised over recent years. There are two grinding sheds, the one with a brown roof does fine processing of clay. The second grinding</p>	

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	<p>shed with the green roof is the primary crush zone. These areas were highlighted because they are where Austral Bricks is preparing clay and where operations can be adjusted in certain weather conditions (e.g. strong winds). Plants 1 and 2 are unused. The primary crusher is at the back of the site, towards the old quarry area within the site.</p> <p>Peter Edmiston asked if the map could be updated noting the in-road and exit-road, dryer and open storage area.</p> <p>Peter Edmiston made a comment that carbon dioxide would be emitted from the dryer. David Johnson said the dryer's main emission is humidity.</p> <p>David Johnson highlights the two little yellow dots on the map are dryer vents. The batch dryer is only used when Austral Bricks produces solid bricks, which is a very low percentage of production. The batch dryer does not run all the time and temperatures are not high enough to generate the same emissions as the kiln.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson asked whether there is any truth to the rumour that dioxins are created. Andrew Mack said this matter has previously been raised through the group and that dioxins were not an issue of concern. David Johnson stated the air that feeds the firing dryers comes from the cooling end of the kiln. Austral Bricks drafts the air before combustion occurs in the kiln.</p>	<p>ACTION 23</p> <p>Update Site Map with in-road and exit-road, dryer and open storage area.</p>
<p>6.0</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p>	<p>Update from last meeting on dust issues / interim actions</p> <p>Truck contract arrangements / toolbox sessions</p> <p>David Johnson provided the SCG with an update that Austral Bricks has participated in toolbox sessions and working to ensure the trucking contractor understands and complies with Austral Bricks' dust mitigation measures.</p> <p>David Johnson noted at the last meeting, concerns were also raised about trucks coming out of the site and crossing over the centre of Kiln Road. Austral Bricks had upgraded Kiln Road in the past to the meet the requirements for RAV assessment (Restricted Access Vehicle – referencing the length, height of the vehicle) set by Main Roads. Kiln Road has a RAV2 rating.</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem noted further information about RAV ratings is available publicly on Main Roads' website.</p> <p>Water carting</p> <p>David Johnson stated Austral Bricks has increased the amount of water suppression activity on the site and noted recent wet weather. Water carting will continue throughout the year when required. Street sweeping happens weekly at the site. Austral Bricks also requires loaders, which have previously been able to travel through the site, are now restricted to</p>	

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<p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p>	<p>distinct routes to reduce movement of wet clay, which in turn would create dust.</p> <p>Sealing shoulder on the in-road</p> <p>David Johnson reported the entrance driveway into the clay pit has been sealed. Austral Bricks has widened the road considerably so trucks can turn without raising dust.</p> <p>Installation of mobile camera</p> <p>David Johnson noted a mobile camera has been installed and it is sitting on a post inside the gate facing the site's main operations. The camera operates 'like a dash cam'. Alan Clarkson asked about the situation where dust was occurring but when Austral Bricks was informed, they said there was no dust. Alan Clarkson asked if this would be addressed if there is dust present at the time stated. Lenda Oshalem noted complaints may be received by Austral Bricks from DWER or the Shire after a period of time. Lenda Oshalem noted the installation of the mobile camera allows Austral Bricks to go back to a specific period and reference the footage. Andrew Mack and Max Erskine asked about the footage length and loop time. Lenda Oshalem undertook to come back to the SCG with this information.</p> <p>Dust monitoring, employee monitoring and feedback on photos / videos from community</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem noted Maria Nguyen, Manager of Occupational Hygiene was asked to review photos from SCG members and provide comments. Maria Nguyen's feedback was circulated and noted.</p> <p>A one-page summary of employee monitoring was also circulated. David Johnson noted monitoring was conducted and employees working in the primary shed and yard space came back with results below the exposure limits. The further away from the point of monitoring the lower the risk, therefore the risk to community from the detections that have been taken is lower than the people in the immediate vicinity. David Johnson reiterated the silica exposure standard has been halved in the last 12 months and Austral Bricks is well below the new halved limit.</p> <p>David Johnson pointed to one area that was noted as having results above the exposure limit. This area is inside grinding shed 2, which is an enclosed building where processing occurs – the crushing and grinding of the clay. David Johnson stated Austral Bricks has had this area tested before and it was just under and now it is just over. Austral Bricks has always considered that this area requires PPE to be worn. On the day of testing, the employee was conducting cleaning activities around dusty equipment and the area continues to be a PPE zone.</p>	<p>ACTION 24</p> <p>Provide information to the SCG about the loop time / footage length of the mobile camera</p>

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6.6	<p>Alan Clarkson asked how Austral Bricks monitors outside dust. David Johnson replied Austral Bricks periodically sets up static dust points and employees have a mobile tester placed on them.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson asked for breakdown of what is in the dust and noted DWER does not have any breakdown. Lenda Oshalem noted Austral Bricks has previously answered this question. Alan Clarkson expressed his strong concern that he was not satisfied with this answer. Alan Clarkson said he believes DWER needed to do more about this point, and he indicated that he would be seeing the local Member of Parliament about this matter.</p> <p>Max Erskine asked about the international pollution index register, particularly PM2 [sic PM 2.5] and PM10. He asked what has happened to the monitoring of these particulate matters. David Johnson replied that Maria Nguyen tests for health and, safety concerns. Max Erskine said this particulate matter is increasing and noted there is a device called an egg – an inexpensive personal monitoring device that tests the dose of particulate matter. Jessica French said Maria Nguyen uses a very similar device to an egg. Maria Nguyen did not just test for silica, she also tested for total particulate matter and PM4, which means particulate that is 4 microns and smaller. Max Erskine said he believed Austral Bricks needs to be using an instrument that is verified and conforms to a certain standard. Peter Edmiston noted he would like more information about what was tested for. Vanessa Slater noted she would also like to know how the instrument was calibrated. Lenda Oshalem took all these points on notice for Austral Bricks to come back to the SCG with information about the instrument, calibration and what was tested for.</p> <p>Annual Environmental Report published on website</p> <p>David Johnson noted last year's Annual Environmental Report (AER) had been published on the website and is available. The report is brief because it covered a period the site was not operating. Peter Edmiston stated clay was still coming in and out over the reporting period, but the kiln was shut down. He believes the report did not include the group's complaints, which may be made to DWER, the Shire, the company directly or through the SCG. Lenda Oshalem asked Austral Bricks what and how complaints are recorded. David Johnson responded complaints are recorded anytime regulators or members of the public contact Austral Bricks. Lenda Oshalem asked about the reporting period of the published AER. David Johnson responded from 1 June 2019 to 30 June 2020. David Johnson also noted Austral Bricks has not yet prepared an AER for the last period, which will represent what has happened in the last 12 months.</p> <p>Peter Edmiston indicated he believes the report, which states the Cardup operations were "ceased" is misleading because</p>	<p>ACTION 25</p> <p>Austral Bricks to report back about employee monitoring, what instrument was used, its calibration and what was tested for.</p>

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	<p>it implies to an average reader that the "gates were locked". Jessica French clarified the content is determined according to the licence.</p> <p>Peter Edmiston asked whether Austral Bricks is required to report on dust and water pollution because the kiln was not lit. Jessica French reiterated Austral Bricks reports content relevant to the licence. Peter Edmiston expressed his concern about this point. Andrew Mack highlighted the licence only covers prescribed activities, which is clay brick manufacturing. The Shire is the responsible regulator when there is no prescribed activity going on, i.e. for storage, material movement, dust etc. Peter Edmiston questioned whether the Shire has regulatory responsibility for dust within the premise. Andrew Mack reiterated this is the case and the development application approval covers a range of these aspects.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson asked when the site is due to have the licence renewed. Jessica French replied the licence is in place until 2029.</p> <p>Jessica French also asked SCG members if there was a complaint made that they believe has not been accurately recorded, to notify her so that she can include it in the upcoming report. Peter Edmiston indicated SCG members thought these meeting were the place they bring complaints. Lenda Oshalem took this matter on notice and will ask Austral Bricks to clarify what is recorded as a complaint.</p> <p>6.7 Updates to dust management plan</p> <p>David Johnson noted the definition of strong winds will be updated. He also stated the dust management plan is a minimum requirement, and Austral Bricks is going above and beyond the minimum requirement with what is outlined in this meeting. David Johnson said Austral will continue to meet environmental and safety requirements.</p> <p>Peter Edmiston asked what roles will be responsible for the dust management plan. David Johnson took the question on notice, as it may become multiple roles.</p> <p>6.8 Dust monitoring plan</p> <p>An update on the development of a dust monitoring proposal was requested. David Johnson said Maria Nguyen is still preparing the proposal.</p>	<p>ACTION 26</p> <p>Austral Bricks to clarify what is recorded as a complaint and whether this includes complaints received via SCG meetings.</p> <p>ACTION 27</p> <p>Austral Bricks to report back on summary of dust management plan updates and information about roles responsible for the dust management plan.</p>
<p>7.0</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>Northern pit site – addressing dust concerns</p> <p>David Johnson said Austral Bricks had undertaken maintenance in the northern pit area and mulch has been distributed around the northern pit.</p>	

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<p>8.0</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p>Throughput – response to SCG</p> <p>David Johnson said specific information about the volume through the kiln and scrubber cannot be provided to the SCG as it is commercial-in-confidence and market sensitive information, however the throughput over the last period was less than that stated on the licence. David Johnson acknowledges this is not the answer the SCG seeks, however, if Austral Bricks can control the emissions generally – the throughput is irrelevant. David Johnson said Austral Bricks operates below licence conditions and production is stable. There are a range of efficiencies proposed in the current development application including, use of modern technologies, which means an increase in throughput does not necessarily mean an increase in emissions. Peter Edmiston said he understood the licence application details that an operator can control the emissions by controlling the throughput of the kiln. David Johnson notes the key is that Austral Bricks does not exceed the licence conditions.</p>	
<p>9.0</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p>Weather monitoring on site</p> <p>David Johnson said Austral Bricks is seeking to trial a system that has a function which links with local weather stations (through a program called Accuweather) and can send alert notifications to relevant people in the organisation about weather conditions. It currently sources weather data from a local weather station located on Larsen Road.</p> <p>SCG discuss the location of Larsen Road is not in the estate area and may not be suitable.</p> <p>David Johnson said Austral Bricks is trialling the software so they can get alerts about strong winds.</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem asked whether Austral Bricks is considering buying a weather monitor. David Johnson said Austral Bricks is looking into it.</p> <p>Colleen Rankin said residents have weather stations, which connect with each other. Lenda Oshalem asked Colleen Rankin if she could find out how the weather stations connect. Colleen Rankin said multiple sites may connect, which could provide a good idea of the averages.</p> <p>David Johnson added the advantage of the new system is that it sends a notification to a person, rather than requiring someone to review the weather data at the end of the day.</p> <p>Max Erskine said that previously when the SCG has asked about weather stations, Austral Bricks stated the need to have an accredited system. David Johnson responded this is still a regulatory requirement for formal processes such as approvals, which require Austral Bricks to engage a consultant to provide a report and use information from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). DWER will only accept BOM</p>	<p>ACTION 28</p> <p>Colleen Rankin to provide information about the application used to connect local residents' weather stations with each other.</p>

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	<p>accredited data. Max Erskine expressed his concern that this formal requirement is for a reading far away from the site.</p> <p>Colleen Rankin said she is happy Austral Bricks heard the matter through the SCG, took on board the feedback and is doing something for the residents.</p>	
<p>10.0</p>	<p>EPA update</p> <p>David Johnson stated additional information requested by the EPA, which includes a human health risk assessment, additional air quality monitoring and management plans, are underway. They are longevity reports (data collected overtime) and will be provided to EPA as soon as they are ready. David Johnson said no decision will be made on current development application until the EPA finalises its review.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson expressed concern that Austral Bricks gained a licence without this level of information.</p> <p>David Johnson said the reports are from specialist and required a significant internal funding allocation.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson asked if consultants used are Western Australian. Jessica French answered they were Western Australian consultants. Alan Clarkson requested the names of consultants engaged.</p> <p>Jessica French noted the wet weather may not be suitable to monitor conditions for a potential worst-case scenario.</p>	<p>ACTION 29</p> <p>SCG to be provided names of consultant companies engaged by Austral Bricks to provide additional information to EPA.</p>
<p>11.0</p>	<p>Consideration of relocation to West Mundijong Industrial area</p> <p>David Johnson noted the suggestion for Austral Bricks to relocate to the West Mundijong Industrial area was made by third parties such as the Shire. David Johnson said while he understood the intent of the request, the reality is that it would be an enormous task and likely to be met with opposition from local residents at West Mundijong. Austral Bricks does not consider it a viable option at the moment. It would require 120 hectares of land at zero cost, all appropriate zoning and approvals in place to build a new plant, also at no cost. It would also require all utilities to be connected and provided such as high voltage power, gas and water in brick plant quantities would need to be in place. The estimated project cost would be near \$200 million.</p> <p>Vanessa Slater queried whether the move would result in greater truck movements from the shale pits on Kiln Road.</p> <p>Alan Clarkson queried the amount of land needed to relocate.</p>	

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	<p>David Johnson reiterated access to utilities, land availability, the cost of approvals and ability to secure approvals remain an issue.</p> <p>Max Erskine said West Mundijong is an industrial area. David Johnson responded that while it is zoned industrial, there are still landowners operating as rural.</p>	
<p>12.0</p>	<p>Other business</p> <p>Alan Clarkson congratulated the Shire on their work and siding with the community on matters relating to Austral Bricks. He said he expected there would be a class action in the future.</p>	
<p>13.0</p>	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Max Erskine said Wednesday works best for future meetings. Lenda Oshalem noted this feedback.</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem said she will notify the SCG of the date of the next meeting.</p> <p>SCG meeting closed 3:02pm.</p>	<p>ACTION 30</p> <p>Lenda Oshalem to inform SCG of the date of the next SCG meeting.</p>