

# Community dialogue - meeting #16

## Hi-Quality – Bulla Spoils Processing Facility

### Meeting details

*Date:* 17 May 2022, 5.00pm to 6.30pm

*Venue:* Online (via Zoom)

*Attendees:*

Community representatives	
Anthony White	Controller, Sunbury SES (apology)
Chris O'Neill	No Toxic Soil Campaign
Graham Williams	Sunbury Residents Association
Heather Dodd	Local resident
Michael Osborne	Sunbury Business Association

Project representatives and guests	
Lance Ingrams	Regional Manager, Victoria, Hi-Quality Group

Facilitator	
Todd Beavis	Founder and Principal, i.e. community

### Purpose

The meeting was held to continue the dialogue between Hi-Quality and community representatives in relation to the establishment and operation of the Bulla Spoil Processing Facility to collect, treat and dispose of material from the tunnel boring machines on the West Gate Tunnel Project.

## Agenda

Item	Discussion lead
Welcome	Todd
Project/construction update	Lance
Community issues	Todd/Lance
Next meeting	All

## Project and construction update

- Lance shared a presentation providing and update on:
  - the operation and construction of the facility
  - the EPA improvement notice.
- Referencing the aerial picture of the facility in the presentation, Lance advised that an additional 10 holding bays have been completed, with a total of 40 now in operation.
- He advised that, once tested and treated, the material from the tunnel is being stored in stage one of the containment cell, with lining of the second stage continuing and expected to be completed by the end of this month (weather permitting).
- He advised that test results continue to show little PFAS in the material being brought to the facility.
- A community representative questioned whether any of the material from the tunnel has been identified as Category C and has needed to go into the pre-existing landfill cells (as required by the site's EPA licences). Lance advised that there had been some material that had physical contamination (including manufactured fibres) that had been diverted from the facility to the appropriate landfill on site.
- Lance then provided an update on the EPA Improvement Notice. He advised that the facility had conducted daily inspections to inform the response and talked through the following additional measures to prevent soil from entering Sunbury Road:
  - Ordering a wheel-bath to be installed prior to the wheel-wash, which will submerge the truck tires for additional cleaning.
  - Installing high-pressure hoses on the water cannons to increase effectiveness of cleaning.
  - Relocating the wash bay and installing additional asphalt in the cleaning area to support drainage process and avoid mud run-off.
  - Relocating scrape down area to avoid trucks tracking back through it after being cleaned.
  - Upgrading street sweepers with metal brushes instead of nylon brushes to improve effectiveness of road cleaning.
  - Increasing supervision during vehicle tipping within the bays.
  - Carrying out weekly inspections to review the implementation of the controls.
- He advised that Hi-Quality is still trying to source the wheel-bath, however it was proving difficult due to high demand. He advised if one was not able to be sourced in the near future, Hi-Quality would look at constructing one on site.

- He advised that the EPA had issued a Revocation of Improvement Notice on 17 May because compliance has been achieved.
- A community representative commented that they had seen a number of trucks leaving the facility last Friday that had mud on the rear wheels and suggested Hi-Quality should have a spotter inspecting the trucks before they leave the site. The representative also suggested that changes to the way the soil is deposited into the bays, such as tipping from an elevated platform, would reduce the likelihood of trucks reversing into the spoil on the bays.
- Lance responded by saying that changes have been made to the process on site to address this and, when combined with the new wheel-bath, he is confident it will go a long way to ensuring trucks are clean when leaving the facility.
- In wrapping up the conversation, a representative noted that at times the dirt on Sunbury Road is so thick that it covers the centre line and that Hi-Quality needed to ensure they have the right equipment to clean the roads to ensure safety.

## Community issues

- Todd started the discussion by drawing attention to the notes from meeting #14 which had been distributed prior to the meeting, where responses to the group's questions had been provided by the other project parties. The response to question 18 included reference to the announcement by the State Government of a \$2 million Sunbury and Bulla Neighbourhood Fund.
- The community representatives welcomed the funding announcement, acknowledging that it was a good response to community expectations previously submitted to the project parties.
- In discussing the fund, the following key points were raised by the representatives.
  - The Community Dialogue should have a say in where the funds are directed
  - It will be interesting to compare how the Sunbury and Bulla Fund compares to the amount allocated to other communities impacted by the project.
- Todd advised that the State Government had committed to attending a meeting of the dialogue in the coming weeks to discuss the Fund in more detail.
- In response to a question from one of the group, Hi-Quality representatives advised that now that the State Government had announced the Neighbourhood Fund, Hi-Quality would be looking at developing complementary community and environmental initiatives.
- Also, in response to a question from the group, Lance addressed the request for there to be a mandated minimum requirement for local employment. He advised that Hi-Quality actively tries to recruit locals and use local suppliers wherever possible. He said that in such a competitive job market, and to obtain the specialist skills required, they also need to look further afield, with a focus on nearby regional areas. In summary, while Hi-Quality is not planning to introduce a mandate, it would continue to focus on local employment.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, a representative asked if Hi-Quality was able to advocate for a no engine braking sign to be erected in Bulla, advising this would be a good win for the community. Lance advised that this was a matter for the Department of Transport and that he would be happy to follow up for a response from the Department.
- Finally, a representative asked if a date could be set for the group to attend a site visit.

## **Actions**

- Hi-Quality to share presentation from the meeting with community representatives.
- Hi-Quality to advise when the Community Dialogue members could visit the site.
- Hi-Quality to follow up the request for a no engine breaking sign in Bulla.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 21 June 2022.