



Hornsby Park DA for Landform Earthworks - Engagement during Public Exhibition

Hornsby Park Engagement

Client: Hornsby Shire Council

Date: 24 May 2019

A Veris Company



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Date	24 May 2019
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Version	4 (Final)
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1 Background

1.1 The site

The site comprises approximately 60 hectares of bushland and open space surrounding the Quarry which is located at the western side of Hornsby, approximately 1km from the town centre.

In addition to the quarry void, the site is home to a number of features of historical and community interest, including early settler relics, the State Heritage listed Old Man's Valley Cemetery, remnant buildings of the quarry crusher plant and the existing Hornsby Park.

The Quarry has been closed for safety reasons since the late 1990's, meaning very few people have had the opportunity to appreciate its astonishing beauty. Transforming the site into recreational parklands will open the site to the community, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the stunning landscape, ecological communities and history that make this location so special.

1.2 Previous engagement

1.2.1 Plan Your Parkland

In 2017, as part of its commitment to creating parklands that are "designed, owned, used and loved by residents", Hornsby Shire Council contracted Elton Consulting to provide communications and engagement support for its Hornsby Park project. This first phase of engagement resulted in the community being asked to 'Plan Your Parkland' by providing their blue-sky aspirations for the site. The engagement approach included:

- » Email to 40,000 residents
- » Letters and emails to stakeholders
- » Project website updates
- » Establishment of a Community Deliberative Forum, which met on three occasions
- » Stakeholder meetings with
 - > Mountain Bike groups
 - > Bush care & Environmental Groups, and
 - > Presentation at the local business chamber meeting
- » Community Swing-Bys held in Hornsby Mall that engaged over 600 residents

The main themes heard are included in the graphic below:

Most popular activities and attractions requested by the community



Walking tracks



Picnic areas and open spaces



Mountain biking



Environmental



Cafés / restaurants



Arts / community / historical facilities

1.2.2 DA preparation engagement

At the conclusion of the 'Plan Your Parkland' round of engagement, Council began preparing a Development Application (DA) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the earthworks required to create a safe, and accessible landform. As part of developing the DA and EIS, Council again worked with Elton Consulting to engage the community. The targeted engagement approach included the following:

- » Email to 40,000 residents
- » Letters and emails to stakeholders
- » Project website updates
- » Presentations to:
 - > the Community Deliberative Forum
 - > environmental and bushwalking stakeholder groups
- » 4 Community Swing-Bys in Hornsby Mall
- » Social media posts
- » media release

This phase of engagement again demonstrated overwhelming support and understanding around the concept of transforming the quarry into parklands and identified a number of key themes:

1. **Accessibility** - support for making the site accessible to the public
2. **Environment** – support for careful management of any impacts to site vegetation, particularly the ecologically endangered communities.

3. **Engagement** - recognition of Council's commitment to engagement and support for transparency and openness as the project continues.
4. **Geotechnical investigations** – acknowledgement that the impacts of mining operations on site stability and safety had been appropriately investigated as part of the EIS process

2 Engagement to support exhibition

2.1 Engagement Objectives

Council submitted its Development Application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement to independent planners. Once assessed by independent planners it will be sent to the Sydney North Planning Panel for assessment. Assessment of the DA and EIS are required before earthworks can begin to make the quarry site safe, stable and accessible.

In keeping with Council’s ongoing commitment to engaging the community throughout the transformation of the site, Elton Consulting was engaged to provide communications and engagement support during the public exhibition period. The core purpose of engagement was to:

- » raise awareness and understanding of the DA and EIS amongst key stakeholders, including those who participated in prior engagement rounds, and the broader community.
- » Support the community and stakeholder to make submissions

Engagement was focused on a number of key messages that were designed around the outcomes of previous engagements and responded to the questions, concerns and interests previously expressed by the community and key stakeholders. The communication and engagement approach was developed and delivered around three focus points:

- » the creation of a safe, stable, accessible and flexible landform that could accommodate the range of activities the community has identified for the parklands
- » the extent of earthworks required to deliver the required landform objectives
- » the mitigation measures as set out in the EIS to respond to potential impacts on the environment and community during construction

2.2 Tools and techniques

The following tools and techniques were used to engage the community, to support the exhibition process:

	<p>Project website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide project update » Inform about opportunities for engagement » Encourage feedback through providing a link to DA application » Keep public engaged and generate a sense of continuity and project progression
	<p>Emails to CDF and Environmental Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Inform about progress and status of project » Encourage feedback by providing a link to DA application » Inform about opportunities for engagement » Keep stakeholders engaged and generate a sense of continuity and project progression

	<p>Community Swing-By Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reaches those not previously engaged with the project -particularly Culturally and Linguistically Divers (CALD) communities, and young people » Opportunity for project team and technical experts to directly engage with the community » Provide information and generate and collect feedback » Supported by collateral with images designed to enhance understanding and foster engagement
	<p>Site Tour for Manor Road and Ferntree Close residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Followed a letter that was issued to residents informing of the Exhibition process » Organised following a request from a Manor Road resident » To answer specific questions about the impact on adjacent neighbours
	<p>Outcomes report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Details engagement methodology, tools and techniques » Sets out key outcomes of engagement strategy » Promotes transparency and openness of the engagement process

3 Engagement Outcomes

3.1 Engagement snapshot

The following table provides a high level snapshot of how many people were actively engaged:



594 Engaged at the four Mall Swing-By sessions



40,000 residents received email update



Site tour Invitations issued to 135 Ferntree and Manor Rd residents



21 participants on site tour

3.2 Key quotes heard



"I am all for the landform works to deliver recreational and ecological improvements."

"At the moment it is just loose slopes and weeds. Half of that valley is weed."

"All the blue gum is getting strangled by the weeds." "I want the weeds removed so blue gums can thrive."

"I would like to see the area cleared. It doesn't matter if you cut down extra trees to make it safe because we want to have access."

"That's a positive; giving access and safety to open up and let people see the crusher plant."

"This is the right thing to do. It is such an eyesore. Make it look nice and use it."

"Amazing." sounds good."

"This will be brilliant." "Make it safe to use."

"Accessible and safe, that

"It is good to hear about the regeneration work. The space should be used and protected."

"It is great that Council is engaging with the community. We really appreciate this."

"If they are going to make a decent facility...it is fine to lose a few trees in the short term."

4 Engagement Outcomes

4.1 Mall Swing-By sessions:

To engage as many people as possible, four 'swing by' sessions were held in Hornsby Mall during high foot traffic times. In total, approximately **594** were actively engaged, with a solid proportion being from both CALD communities and young people.

The sessions involved members of the project team talking to the community about the DA and EIS process, answering questions, and providing details on how submissions can be made. These conversations were supported by AO boards that explained the process and informed people about how to make submissions. A copy of the two new AO boards that were produced for this round of engagement are located in Appendix A.

The details of the sessions are outlined below:

Session Date	Numbers Engaged
Thursday 11 April	94
Saturday 13 April	193
Thursday 2 May	144
Saturday 4 May	163
Total engaged	594

4.1.1 Feedback Themes

Although 594 people were actively engaged – that is, stopped and read the information boards - conversations were had with over 100 people during the four sessions. Project team members took notes of their conversations and a thematic analysis has been completed below. The themes are listed in order of frequency.

Support for the application

General Support

As this round of engagement is based on highly technical documentation, the overwhelming majority of people who stopped by and were engaged had little nuanced feedback. They were not as interested in the landform as they were focused on the final activities. These people did express a significant amount of general support, making comments such as the below:

'very excited; 'can't wait'; 'superb'; 'bring it on'; 'Great! It will change Hornsby!'; 'Very Happy!'; 'Looks very good'; 'This is fantastic'; 'Looks awesome. Council doing a great job'; 'This is a great project....need to do this

now'; 'Great idea, looks like a wonderful park proposal'; 'Looking forward to when the park is open, should be wonderful. Thanks!'; 'Great proposal – HSC is very progressive'; 'Very brilliant idea'; 'This will be brilliant.'; 'I think it's fabulous it's going back to the people'; 'This is great, I love it'; 'I think it is great'; 'Very nice, will be a lovely park, excellent'; 'Fantastic, just amazing – let's get on with it!' .

Support for the DA and EIS

Those that were interested in the specifics of the DA and EIS were also incredibly supportive of Council's approach. Many acknowledged that as the site is currently "a man-made hole", earthworks are needed to make the site safe and accessible. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"That makes sense, I agree with that."

"That's a positive; giving access and safety....and to open up and let people see the crusher plant."

"Accessible and safe, that sounds good."

"This is the right thing to do. It is such an eyesore. Make it look nice and use it."

"Make is safe to use"

"No concerns. It's a great use of space"

"It will otherwise be wasted land...since we've messed it up, we should use it".

"Excellent. No concerns, good stuff"

"It's a good use of a hole"

"It is very hilly. I agree that we need to do the works to provide a flat space people can use."

"It is important for kids to be on the site so they can understand its history."

"It is for the community's benefit."

"Long term benefits to the community will be tremendous."

"The landform looks great."

Impacts on the environment

It was difficult to engage people about the specific work that needed to be done on site to make it safe and accessible, and the resulting impacts on the environment. For those people who had the time and/or interest, they expressed support for Council's approach. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"As long as the trees and nature will be improved, temporary disturbance is fine. It's good for the long-term. It's abandoned, so it will all be cleaned"

"It's not accessible, so it makes sense to disturb it now so we can enjoy it later."

"If they (Council) are going to make a decent facility, they have got to do it (complete earthworks)."

"Trees grow, it's fine to lose a few in the short term."

"It doesn't matter if you cut down extra trees to make it safe because we want to have access."

"I have no problem about the loss of trees in the short term."

"I agree with what you are doing. I don't want it locked up."

"It has already been farmed and quarried. It's time to open it up to the public"

"It's not exactly virgin wilderness. It is a quarry."

Support for Council's approach to enhancing the natural environment

It seemed that residents who were interested in discussing the impacts on the environment were those who have an active interest in it. Many were local bushwalkers, or volunteers at local bush care groups. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"Putting trees back is good. It fits in with your planting of 25,000 extra trees."

"I'm pleased you will be replanting with endemic species. It's very important."

"It's great to hear you will be concentrating on the lower storey and native grasses."

"I'm impressed you want to create a wetland area. It will be great for animals."

"It is great to hear about what is being done to look after the environment."

"I'm glad to hear that remnant won't be touched, that was my biggest concern. You have now allayed my concerns."

"Keep the bushland as its perfect Koala habitat."

Introduced species and weeds

A handful of residents who are familiar with the site (through bushwalking, mountain biking or being neighbours) were familiar with the types and location of the different vegetation and species that are on site. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"At the moment it's all loose slopes and weeds."

"Half that valley is weeds."

"All the Blue Gum is getting strangled by the weeds."

"I want the weeds removed so the Blue Gum can thrive."

"Please make sure any planting is with provenance species."

Future Uses

As outlined earlier in this chapter, many who had not already been engaged in previous rounds of consultation and were unfamiliar with the project, wanted to express opinions about what recreational activities they would like to see at the park once it is open in 2023. Team members explained that a subsequent round of consultation will be undertaken at a later date to seek this type of feedback, and comments expressed now will not be captured as part of the report for the DA/ EIS round of engagement.

General Support for Council

A sizeable number of people, unprompted and completely unsolicited, remarked spontaneously during conversations that they had faith in Council's overall approach to the project, and were supportive of the Council in general. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"I trust the Council."

"If you think this is the best way forward, I trust you."

"You have my full support. There are more people in the area and we need more spaces for kids."

Supportive of the transformation

A handful of people engaged are familiar with the site and have had used it currently. When discussing the DA and EIS, they were able to make a connection to the other aspects of the site that are important community. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"It is very important to keep and preserve the cemetery, this is an important part of Australia's history."

"I'd like to see the Aboriginal heritage of the area recognised."

"It is good to hear about the regeneration work. The space should be used and protected."

"I have no issues. I use the mountain bike trails and have experienced very little down time so far."

"I use the mountain bike trails twice a week. I am very happy about plans for them to be maintained and improved. There is very easy access to the site from the train."

"I use the bike trails. The site is already so much better than it was. The regeneration work is already making a difference. People need to know about this great work, if it wasn't for the parklands project the area would not be able to be used."

Impacts on adjoining residents in Manor Road and Ferntree Close

A handful of residents from both Manor Road and Ferntree close attended the Swing-By sessions and asked specific questions about the notification letters they had received in the mail as part of the DA process, as they were confused by the terminology 'area of impact' and what that would mean for them. In response to a request from one resident, Council decided to issue invitations to all residents on these streets to a site tour, to answers any questions residents may have about the 'area of impact' and the DA/ EIS process. The outcomes of this engagement are outline in chapter 5.

Council's commitment to ongoing engagement

As people were being engaged (by either by reading the display boards, or talking to team members), a large proportion commented on the value of the Swing- By and how it deepened their understanding of the project. Comments that reflect the views expressed include:

"It is great that Council is engaging with the community. We really appreciate this."

"It is great that you are keeping the community informed."

"Very good that you are open to presenting information. We need more of it."

"I'm really happy with the engagement. Good job"

5 Site Tour

A Manor Road resident visited one of the Swing-By sessions held in the Mall. During the discussion with the project team, they suggested a site tour would be of value to residents of Manor road, to deepen their understanding of the “area of impact” that was outlined in the notification letters they received. Following this suggestion, a site tour was organised and extended to residents of Ferntree Close, as both roads back onto the site. Invitations were issued to 135 residents requesting that only 2 from each household might attend and with a limited number of spaces, and the site tour was held on Tuesday 14 May from 2:30pm- 4:30pm.

In total, 21 residents of Ferntree Close and Manor Road attended the site tour. The tour was planned with a number of stops where information regarding the DA and EIS were discussed, and then open for questions and answers. The map and notes of the tour are included as Appendix B and C of this document, however the main themes are captured below:

- » Discussion about the earthworks:
 - > visually showing attendees where earthworks will be occurring
 - > explaining the required stabilisation works
 - > detailing where vegetation will be lost and replanted
 - > outlining the preservation and enhancement of EEC
 - > acoustic implications
- » Explanation about the vegetation mapping and condition assessment:
 - > discussion and questions about mapped categories of Blue Gum and Blackbutt Forest communities (including unforested areas)and implications for how they will be treated
- » Details about Quarry Fill:
 - > broad explanation for the graded landform/ amphitheatre and lake proposal and how and why the proposed levels have been determined
 - > discussion about what is hoped and may be achieved with the water that continues to fill the quarry void from the groundwater table, including such as necessary release of some water, returns to the creek, recirculation within the quarry for lake quality, potential harvesting for other uses such as irrigation and amenities
- » General question and answer:
 - > about next steps
 - > more site tours

After the site tour, several participants sent emails thanking the team, commenting on how valuable the information was.

The comment below reflects the sentiments that were expressed in the emails received:

“The council staff were very patient and willing to answer questions which was much appreciated.”

6 Next Steps

Once a Determination has been made regarding the EIS/ Development Application, the next steps will be to prepare an engagement methodology for the next round of consultation.

Appendices

- A A0 boards
- B Site tour map
- C Site tour notes

A A0 Boards

HORNSBY PARK THE TRANSFORMATION FROM QUARRY TO PARK CONTINUES



NorthConnex has finished delivery of fill material to Hornsby Quarry and are now demobilising from the site.

Council has lodged a Development Application (DA) with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the next stage of the works proposed for the former rock quarry and Old Mans Valley sites. The DA is concerned with earthworks that are required to make the site safe, enable environmental restoration and deliver a flexible landform that will be suitable for a variety of recreational experiences.

The EIS provides recommendations about how to stabilise parts of the quarry and make the site safe. It also outlines ways to protect the environment during construction. The DA will be assessed by independent planners and determined by the Sydney North Planning Panel.

A range of safety issues remain on site that will be rectified through the landform works including:

- » removal of unstable mining spoil from parts of the northern slope, and
- » measures to stabilise quarry cliff faces and implement rockfall exclusion zones.

The DA also provides guidance about how best to manage potential impacts on nearby residents, businesses and the community and addresses considerations such as noise, traffic and air quality. It also makes provisions for:

- » the preservation of important cultural assets and heritage items,
- » the protection of valuable vegetation,
- » the restoration and regeneration of impacted and poor quality forest areas, and
- » the management of potential impacts on soil, water and biodiversity within the site.



Old Mans Valley



View to eastern diatreme and part south cliff

www.hornsbypark.com.au

HAVE YOUR SAY

ON THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



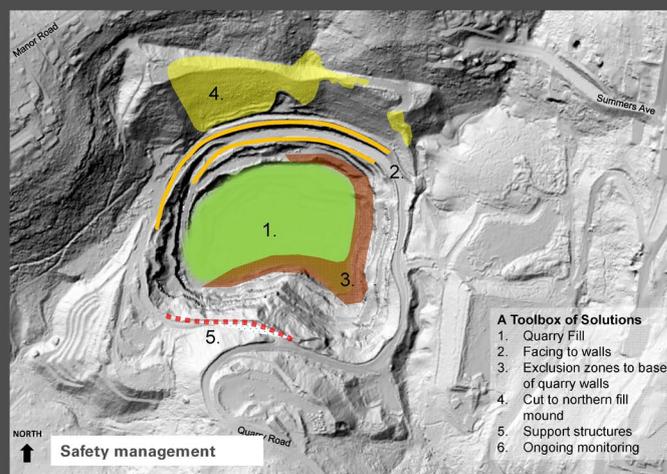
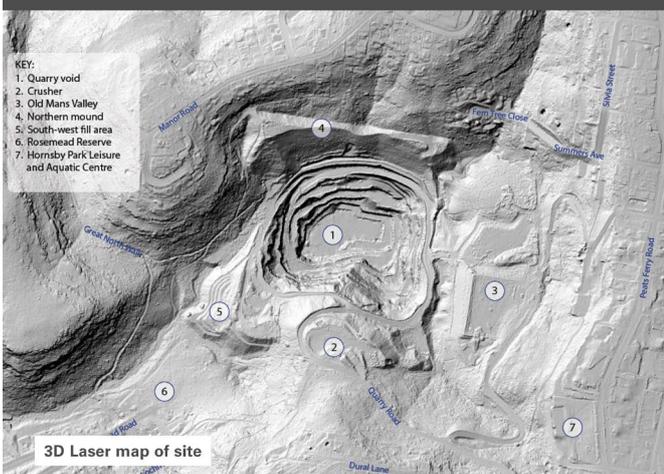
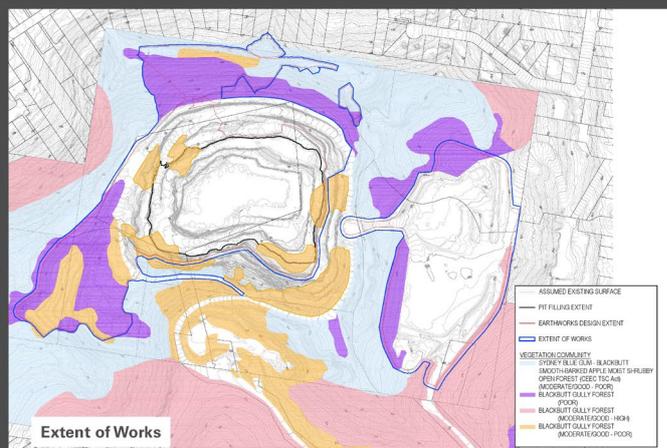
The DA and Environmental Impact Statement for the landform earthworks in Hornsby Quarry is on public exhibition and will remain open for comment until Friday 17 May 2019.

HOW DO I MAKE COMMENTS?

To view and make comments on the DA, go to the Hornsby Shire Council website and search for DA/101/2019 or go to the dedicated website for the **Hornsby Park and Quarry Redevelopment Project** at hornsbypark.com.au where a direct link is provided.

HOW DO I STAY UPDATED?

The Hornsby Park website hornsbypark.com.au has a document library and summarises the history of the project to this point. This will be your best way to stay in touch with the project and future opportunities to review and comment on any aspect of the planning and design towards the opening of the restored quarry and parkland in 2023.



B Site tour map



C Site tour notes

Hornsby Quarry Site Tour Notes

Tuesday 14 May 2019

2:30pm – 4:30pm

21 Residents from Manor Road and Ferntree Close in attendance.

Council Staff: Rob Rajca; Kurt Henkel; James Frawley; Craig Clendinning; David Beharrell

Elton Consulting: Calli Brown

Key

Q= Question

A= Answer

C= Comment

Background information:

Council Staff

"The site including Old Mans Valley was originally three parcels of land, with the Crusher plant being the building where the rock was crushed to make Sydney's roads. The DA, which will be assessed independently, is for the landform only".

Q: Are there other plans for the quarry?

A: Only Parklands

Q: Will there be any acoustic studies?

A: Yes. Many have already been done and they are in the DA.

Q: What were the acoustic studies for?

A: Construction only.

C: (comment) We care about the powerful owl. They seem to be coming back.

C: They roost in the trees

Stop 1: Southern Access track

Council Staff:

"The track we are currently on we'd like to maintain and keep as a track. However, the geotechnical engineers have said there is long term instability. In the DA we have outlined our plans to make it safe. We want to do micro-piling. This means we will drill holes and put concrete columns into the rock below. When we move across the valley you will see why – there is a lot of soil here that will erode over time. This monitor here is one of our 40 devices across the site, which is part of our safety precautions. After a downpour of rain, we check them. So, you can see that although the site is fenced off to the general public, we are still monitoring safety."

Q: Is it unsafe because of the dumping of unused fill? If the mining trucks used it for decades, does it really need the micro-piling?

A: Now that we want to open the area up to the public, safety is different to mine safety. The soil is very deep. It will eventually erode. That's why we have to micro-pile.

Q: Will the fence come down?

A: No, we will still have a fence here. We will need to remove some of the trees near this fence for safety reasons.

Q: Will you de-privet?

A: Yes. It will take a long time though.

Q: So, the quarry will remain?

A: Yes. It's too beautiful to fill it to the top, and it's part of the area's history.

Stop 2 View of South West Fill Site

Council Staff:

"Behind us is natural bushland. It's mapped as Blue Gum Forest. However, over in that area (pointing), it is fill from the quarry. This is an area that is up to 25 metres deep with spoil from the quarry. When you look at it, you can see it is unnatural – it's terraced. (shows a diagram). This is what we call the south west fill area, as it is south west of the quarry hole. We are proposing to move the fill from this area and use it to create an accessible landform in the quarry hole."

Q: Is it critically endangered?

A: We will not be touching the area that that is mapped as CEEC. (Shown on the EIS Extent of Works Plan/ Vegetation Map). We will be removing fill from some areas that will have minimal impact on vegetation.

Q: Does this mean you are saving the Blue Gum Forest but removing areas mapped as Blackbutt Forest?

A: Not necessarily. The Blackbutt Forest classified area is mostly exotic vegetation, eg, Pampas grass. When we did the vegetation mapping for the EIS we were required to use the BioBanking Assessment Methodology. So even though it is largely exotic, we need to view it as what it has the potential to be. This resulted in this area being bumped up to a higher category, e.g. Blackbutt Gully Forest.

Q: (Looking at the map) All the light blue, is that all Blue Gum High Forest?

A: Yes.

Q: The Blackbutt Gully Forest is in three colours. Why isn't the Blue Gum the same?

A: Because it has been mapped as Critically Endangered. It won't be touched. Even if it is mapped as poor or medium quality, we still have to protect it as much as possible but at the same time ensure public safety. We have spent the last 3 years looking at ways to avoid, minimise and mitigate impact as much as possible.

C: It's great to have those maps here on the tour (EIS Extent of Works Plan and Lidar Survey).

A: Yes (pointing) you can see the area where the material (spoil from the quarry) has been dumped.

Stop 3 Blue Gum High Forest:

Council staff:

"The quarry has filled with water faster than expected. It is up to the level of where the NorthConnex fill is, so NorthConnex is pumping the water out. It is done under a licence and it gets tested before it is pumped out. It is of a very high standard."

Q: Does it go into Berowra Creek?

A: Yes, eventually.

Council staff:

"You can see there is mapped Blue Gum High (Diatreme) Forest. You can see that it is good quality, meaning that it has a relatively intact forest composition and structure, including canopy trees, mid-story and ground cover. It wasn't touched during mining.

Over here though, you can see this bush isn't as good quality. The soil it is growing on was placed there as overburden from the mining activities and it has self-seeded over time. There are lots of weeds – with the mid and understory being primarily weeds. It still mapped as CEEC though, due to the existence and prevalence of the distinctive tree species associated with Blue Gum Forests.

Q: Before the quarry was it full of Blue Gum?

A: No, it was farmed, for timber. There were also orchards.

Council staff:

"We have found from soil samples that the soil profile is changing. They are in North of Old Mans Valley, with just a small modification from orchards. Everywhere else in this area though, the sandy soil from upper surrounding areas has eroded and come down over the top of the volcanic soils".

C: I read a historical paper that said there was cedar here originally.

Q: With the water – will you always have to pump it out?

A: Yes. While we're thinking we will create a big lake, we'll still always need to pump water out. The level that NorthConnex has now filled the quarry to, is over 20 metres below the level of the nearest watercourse and therefore will continually fill with groundwater. However, there's always the potential to use this water for irrigation of green spaces and other fit-for-purpose uses.

Q: Is it spring water?

A: No, its ground water and rain water. The bottom of the quarry was 8 metres above sea level.

Q: Where is the fill now?

A: About 55 metres above sea level.

Stop 4: Northern Mound and Hornsby Quarry void.

Council staff:

"At stop 1 we mentioned the need for micro-piling as the soil is slowly eroding. Looking across the quarry (points) you can see (from here) what we mean. You can see the soil over there on top of the rock face below. – that's stop 1 (pointing). Unfortunately, the rock doesn't go all the way up to the level of the track.

One of the areas for the instability is behind us (northern mound). There is a scalloped area in the northern mound that has previously slipped down. They put spoil material there and there is a creek line that has been blocked off by the mound. The worst thing you can do for instability is add water. So after significant rain, it can be very unstable. That's what happened at Thredbo. It was rain and groundwater. For Council to open the site up to the public, we have to unblock the creek and allow it to drain again. A drainage line was placed by the quarry operators but it was only temporary being a galvanised iron pipe, which has now rusted and totally collapsed.

In our DA we've outlined that we want to construct an access road, to lower the area to drain. To build a roadway, we will need to build an underground stormwater pipeline. The pipeline will take minor rainfall events and the roadway will take the heavier events.

There are some other minor areas towards the eastern end of the northern mound that are too steep and at risk of landslide. These areas will be removed as part of the works.

In terms of general drainage, the three mining diversion channels have kept stormwater and other overland flows out of the quarry void from the catchments that drains from houses and roads. The water in the quarry is groundwater and rain so it is very clean. The tests undertaken prior to the filling activities show it is almost drinkable".

Q: What would the access road do?

A: Firstly, as a construction access to work on the mound, then drain it, and the road serves as an overland flow path.

Q: The Manor Road water drains here?

A: Yes.

Council staff:

Drainage and stabilisation work on the northern spoil mound will mean that some of the trees that have grown on the mound created by the mining operations will be removed.

Q: What are the pink ribbons for?

A: We have looked at dozens of ways of doing it. We mapped individual trees so we could see all schemes and looked and how we could assess the trees and the impact

Q: But what does the pink ribbon actually mean?

A: That the tree has been surveyed. It does not mean that they will necessarily will be removed. They all have numbers. In the EIS it says the Blue Gum High Forest is impacted. The only way we can stabilise this area is to impact part of the mapped Blue Gum but we are hoping to reduce the impact even further during the detailed design stage.

Q: The 5 Blue Gums with the small hollows?

A: [Not sure where the trees with the hollows are but yes, if they are in the impact area]. This is in an area that has been mapped where the Blue Gum will be impacted. We will be putting new, manufactured soil from the area there and re-planting. Tree losses will be offset.

Q: Is sandstone runoff an issue?

A: It's not an issue, as it's natural. It's the natural process that created the Blue Gum Forest.

Q: Will you need to go to the rear of properties?

A: No. Council owns a parcel of land in between.

Q: That will remain Council owned?

A: Yes.

Q: Are there any plans to change the use of the land?

A: We will keep it and turn it into a haul road and then provide access.

Q: Will there be a viewing platform in that area?

A: We are conscious of the drama of the site and one of the best views is from up there.

Q: Any animals?

A: There are wallabies and echidnas and other animals. Some animals will be wary of the activities and move further away during construction but are likely to return once the land is rehabilitated.

Q: What about acoustics of traffic?

A: The proposal at the moment is about earthworks and stabilising the site. Later when we are designing the park there will be further work and we will be going to the community to find out what they want to do.

Stop 5 Quarry Void

Council staff:

"We have several principals we are working from.

1st Principle: Diatreme wall is a strong feature and we want to make it a focal point.

2nd we want to build a lake.

3rd we want an amphitheatre – a graded landform rising from the water's edge to where the fuel tanks are that we walked past. Behind us it will stay as it is. But we are also aware of rock fall. There isn't a 'global instability' issue, but a natural process. To make the area safe we are proposing to have an exclusion zone at the base of cliffs."

Q: Will that be another fence at the base of the quarry?

A: Possibly but we would like to create a wetland edge, a series of cascading ponds running back to the lake at the base of the southern and eastern cliff faces. We think we can take the problem and solve it with creating an attractive feature with water flows and habitat potential.

4th Principle – create an accessible path. We want to have as long an accessible path as possible – we won't be able to get up to the Crusher Plant as it's so steep but we will be able to go around much of the site.

C: I like the idea of a wetland to attract more animals to the valley.

A: we have a large park to work with and a good opportunity to demonstrate Blue Gum Diatreme at various stages and ages.

Q: It has the potential to be beautiful but there is the potential for you to stuff it up, but I don't think you will. We are all worried about noise though.

A: The DA is to create a landform. It will be flexible but we haven't decided what activities will be where. It is important work creating the landform – we only want to do it once.

Q: Man has set up enormous beauty here. Why won't the lake be bigger?

A: There was an idea at one stage to fill it up with water but it will still be unstable and the lake would not be able to be used. We also looked at filling the hole up to the top but it would take 4 times the amount of fill. That would be at least 8 years of truck movements. Also, we can see the value in the visuals of the quarry so we have decided to fill it to a level that provides stability.

Q: Will we be able to swim in it?

A: Perhaps but there will be operational issues that need to be considered.

Q: Will this site tour be an annual event?

A: Yes, I think so

Comment – thank you.

Addendum: In relation to an annual site tour, Hornsby Shire Council would like residents to be aware that once earthworks/construction commence, access to most of the site will not be possible. Council is committed to holding site visits before this time, and will continue to keep residents informed once works begin.

