

Penrice Community Consultation Group

Meeting Summary – 23 July 2025

Location: Barossa Council Chambers

Chair: Piers Gillespie

Prepared by: Kim McCormack

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Piers Gillespie opened the meeting by reaffirming the PCCG's purpose: to provide a transparent platform for sharing information about Penrice Quarry operations and to gather community feedback. He emphasized the importance of respectful, inclusive, and topical discussion.

2. Attendees

Community Members and Stakeholders:

- Marie Waechter – Lights Pass
- Mark Mader – Lights Pass
- Andrew Shaw – Stockwell Road
- Phil Slotegraaf – Penrice Road
- Simon Cowhan – Western neighbour
- Robert Edwards – Saleyards & Penrice Roads
- Jack Scholz – Lights Pass
- Peter Scholz – Lights Pass
- Jeff Pinnery – Murdock Court
- Shiralee Reardon – Murdock Court
- Steven Kurtz – Lights Pass
- Neil Richardson – Lights Pass
- James Lindner – Stonewell
- Brian Lee – Moculta
- Melissa Lee – Moculta
- Amanda Mader – Lights Pass
- Louisa Rose – Hill-Smith Family representative
- Bill Plush – Stockwell Road
- Merv John – Lights Pass
- Lloyd John – Lights Pass
- Kelly Mattner – Penrice Road

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- Josie Shaw – Stockwell Road
 - Matt Taylor – Gibson Wines, Lights Pass
 - Aub Rochlach – Penrice Road
 - Craig Zubinick – Lights Pass
 - Cathy – Marananga, Barossa Region Residents Association
 - Neil Harn – Stockwell Road
 - Tony Hurn – Barossa Council, Penrice
 - Steve Falland – Barossa Quarries

Industry and Government Representatives:

- Adam Schutz – Quarry Operations Manager SA, Adbri
- Rodd Welsh – Quarry Manager, Penrice Quarry
- Kim McCormack – Penrice Quarry Staff
- Lauren Heinjus – Stakeholder Relations, Adbri
- James Rowe – SLR Consulting
- Simon Matthews – Department of Energy and Mining (DEM)
- Justin Richardson – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Darren Hurst – Barossa Council
- Matt Webster – Leader Newspaper, local resident

Apologies:

- Bruce Colombet

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from the 11 February 2025 meeting were approved without objection.

4. MPLA Briefing – James Rowe (SLR Consulting)

James Rowe provided a detailed overview of the Miscellaneous Purpose Licence Application (MPLA), which proposes relocating ancillary infrastructure (e.g., workshops, offices) to the former “Gerlach land.” Key points included:

- **Purpose of MPLA:** Not for extraction, but for supporting infrastructure.
- **Site History:** Former vineyard, now unused; includes one occupied and one defunct dwelling.
- **Current Stage:** Early in the MPLA lifecycle; scoping report underway.
- **Key Issues Identified:**
 - **Acoustics:** Due to hillside location.
 - **Air Quality:** Soil disturbance risks.
 - **Visual Amenity:** Prominent location in the Barossa Basin.
 - **Water Quality:** Proximity to Jaekali Creek and native vegetation.
 - **Traffic:** Updated counts and modelling in progress.
- **Community Engagement:** SLR welcomes input on visual impact locations and design feedback.
- **Social Impact Assessment (SIA):** First of its kind for a quarry; includes tourism, branding, and community wellbeing.
- **Traffic Study:** Preliminary data shows peak times remain consistent with historical trends; modelling to inform mitigation strategies.
- **Rehabilitation:** SLR also working on legacy sites like Stockwell Quarry.

5. Quarry Operations Update – Rodd Welsh

Rodd Welsh provided an update on operational activities and environmental management:

- **Western Rim Development:** Focused on removing lower-grade material to access new benches.
- **Dust and Noise Mitigation:**
 - New water truck and fogging cannon in use.
 - Noise buffer enhancements and revised blasting techniques.

- BAM monitors recorded 5 exceedances in 6 months; immediate response protocols in place.
- **Dust Management Plan:** Under review; includes visual monitoring and TARP protocols.
- **Community Engagement:** Local employment, sponsorships, and native plant rehabilitation highlighted.
- **Complaints:** Five complaints in six months, mostly noise-related.

6. Community Feedback and Concerns

The community raised a wide range of concerns and suggestions:

- **Visual Impact:**
 - Concerns about misleading compliance photos.
 - Requests for renderings and community-selected photo points.
- **Tourism and Branding:**
 - Potential impact on “Brand Barossa” and scenic values.
 - Calls for Barossa Tourism to be included in consultations.
- **Silica and Dust:**
 - Concerns about respirable silica and drag-out.
 - Clarification that Penrice’s silica content is low (<5%) and regulated by WorkSafe.
- **Water Management:**
 - Questions about dam capacity, aquifer recharge, and surface water retention.
 - Community support sought for water discharge to North Para River.
- **Traffic and Noise:**
 - Requests for noise-intensive work to be done during the day.
 - Concerns about increased traffic and road safety.
- **Social Impact Assessment:**
 - Questions about consultant qualifications and ethnographic sensitivity.
 - Assurance that assessments are conducted by qualified social scientists.
- **Communication:**
 - Need for clearer meeting advertisements and broader stakeholder inclusion.

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- Suggestions for letter drops, QR codes, and local noticeboards.

7. Action Items and Follow-Ups

- DEM to include overburden and water runoff in MPLA.
- Adbri to improve communication and share Q&A from previous meetings.
- EPA and DEM encouraged use of noise diaries.
- Silica and visual impact concerns to be addressed in assessments.
- Acronym list and presentation slides to be made available online.
- Consideration of microphone use at future meetings for better audibility.

8. Closing

- Rodd Welsh announced his resignation from Adbri, effective 25 August 2025.
- Next meeting date to be confirmed; suggested within 4 months due to complexity of topics