


Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	3 rd March 2022, 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Location	Microsoft Teams meeting
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), John Viselli (JV), Karen Jones (KJ), Robert Vukasinovic (RV), Jacob Chretien (JC)
Apologies	
Meeting purpose	To liaise with community members on topics relating to the operation of Botany Paper Mill

#	Item	Notes / Action	Leader
1	<i>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</i>		Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	<p>Invite EPA to next meeting to discuss the Botany Mill EPL conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry over to next meeting as there are some current changes that are still in draft. 	Karen Jones
3	<i>Botany Cogeneration Plant – Update on status</i>	<p>There is currently a draft to the regulation for Energy from Waste which is in the public forum for consultation. This is significantly different now from when the Cogeneration Plant project was started. Suez and Opal will not walk away from the project yet and will see it through the process and make a decision based on the outcome of the consultation, which closes on March 20th.</p> <p>Suez met with Dylan Parker, Randwick Council Mayor, yesterday, as they are the project proponent. Opal doesn't know the outcome of this meeting.</p> <p>JV stated that the project is getting a lot broader negativity as time goes on.</p> <p>PF added that while there are positives such as decreased waste to landfill, it is difficult to overcome the hurdle of burning waste in an urban environment.</p> <p>PF asked how the natural gas price is going with volatility in the market and shortages in Europe.</p> <p>JC answered that it is a challenge for Opal. The business needs to find an alternative to fossil fuels and that was what the Cogeneration plant was designed for.</p>	Jacob Chretien

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader
4	<p><i>Mill Projects Update</i></p>	<p>Modification #10 for the improvement to the solid waste storage and handling system and an extension to the Finished Product Store has been approved by the Department of Planning.</p> <p>Work has begun on modifying the security entrance gate to allow for construction of the rejects handling facility (see Item 2 in Figure 1).</p>  <p><i>Figure 1: Modification #10 works areas.</i></p> <p>Construction is planned to be completed in October 2022.</p>	Karen Jones
5	<p><i>Overview of main site issues</i></p>	<p>Botany Mill finished 2021 12,500 tonnes behind budget. This was generally as a result of increased paper breaks and unscheduled breakdowns. Around 60% of these breakdowns were due to poor performance on the Winder (where the large paper rolls are wound onto cores and cut to customer orders). Specialists in this area are located overseas, so with the border closures due to Covid19, these specialists couldn't come to site for the annual inspections. We have had a recent visit from a Winder specialist and the installation of some new equipment, so we have seen an improvement in this area.</p> <p>Shipping issues continue, but the site is getting better at managing them. There have been a number of weather events which have added to these issues, including floods in South Australia preventing product being delivered over land to Western Australia. Floods in Queensland closing one Queensland boxplant and cutting off access to another. There have also been raw material shortages which have resulted into changes to suppliers, but this has increased costs.</p> <p>Covid19 over the Christmas/New Year break resulted in around 20% of operators off at one point either with Covid19, or isolating as a close contact. The mill was able to keep running as many others who were not effected gave up their annual leave to keep up manning levels.</p>	Robert Vukasinovic

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader															
		The 2022 annual major shut is planned for the middle of May. As per previous years, the local residents will be notified in advance of this shutdown. The critical path job for this period will be the Winder drum replacement. This will take approximately five days as it is a high speed piece of equipment and so requires some very technical work in alignment and balancing after the physical replacement of the hardware.																
6	Contacts Review	<p>Community Contacts & Complaints (22/09/2021 – 03/03/2022)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>To EPA</th> <th>Mill Hotline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Odour</td> <td>20</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noise</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>21</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A significant decrease in odour complaints since the last meeting, but this is likely due to the change in wind direction over the summer months. 14 of these complaints were received in October.</p> <p>Descriptions of the odour include "rotten egg, plastic and glue", "strong sour odour", "sulfur, chemical smell", "strong congesting pesticide" and "rotten wet damp paper".</p> <p>One noise complaint was received in November for a "loud drumming/exhaust sound" that occurs irregularly for around 30 minutes or more each time and can happen any time 24/7 and has been unusually loud "for the past three months".</p> <p>Odour and noise improvement plans to be discussed over the next two agenda points.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	20	5	Noise	1	0	Other	0	2	Total	21	7	Karen Jones
Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline																
Odour	20	5																
Noise	1	0																
Other	0	2																
Total	21	7																
7	Odour Strategy	<p>An update on the odour strategy was given to group.</p> <p>30 points around the site were sampled for odour emissions by a team of air specialists, with the samples taken to an odour laboratory for analysis. As mentioned at the last meeting, odour is a complex thing to measure and cannot be accurately determined with a device in the way that noise can. The odour laboratory has a panel of trained people who smell the sample and note down what they think it smells like. They also rate whether they find it pleasant, offensive, or neutral. Concentration is determined by smelling the sample over a range of dilutions to determine at what dilution any odour in the sample can be detected.</p> <p>The odour sampling report has not yet been received, however some preliminary results have been forwarded to us indicating that the decanter building is the largest contributor to the odour impact in the residential area. The site has a process water treatment plant, which reduces the nutrients in the wastewater by using a biological aerobic (with air/oxygen) "sludge". This sludge grows as the biology eats the nutrients and multiplies, therefore the excess "sludge" must be continuously removed from the process. Water is removed from the sludge in the decanter building to form a solid material which is dropped into trailers and taken to farmland to be used as a soil improvement material. While the volume of air coming out of the decanter building is relatively small, the odour content was high and the tone was rated as "very unpleasant", so our project team have begun looking at how the odour from this source can be significantly reduced, including reducing the volume of air</p>	Karen Jones															

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader
		<p>the aerobic sludge comes into contact with, and how best to treat that air for odour reduction.</p> <p>Another source noted to have an abnormal character in the preliminary results was the winder pulper exhaust, which had a sewage/dead animal characteristic. The winder pulper has been inspected and cleaned out, with a new hatch installed to allow for cleaning on a more regular basis.</p> <p>For 2022 the following actions are planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working on odour reductions identified by the sampling conducted in 2021. • Increase the community's understanding of the Mill's operations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting Mill Tours for the general public. This unfortunately was put on hold due to Covid19 restrictions, but the mill is hoping to start small group tours during April. - Improve Botany Mill information on the Opal website. Ideas include fact sheets on topics of interest to the community and videos of processes on site. <p>JV commented that the wider public doesn't know the extra work the mill does to improve things. The mill needs to promote their positive news stories. Mill tours will help as since the new paper machine has opened; the site has generally been inaccessible to the general public and is now "less local" with less people working on site. Many people don't know what has been achieved by the site.</p> <p>PF added that starting Mill tours was really important. Many people say that Australia doesn't do any manufacturing anymore, but Opal does. Show people what Botany Mill does and what the challenges to manufacturing in Australia are.</p>	
8	<i>Noise Investigations</i>	<p>A noise consultant has been engaged to determine the noise contribution of Botany Mill in the residential area and to investigate low frequency noise on the site.</p> <p>It is easy to measure noise levels in the residential area, but very difficult to determine the sources of that noise, as often it is a combination of several sources.</p> <p>With low frequency noise being a particular issue in the local area, low frequency noise measurements will be taken at various locations around the site to determine if there are any significant contributors to low frequency noise outside the site boundary.</p>	Karen Jones
9	<i>Community Liaison Group Charter review</i>	<p>The reviewed and updated Botany Mill Community Liaison Group (BMCLG) Charter was presented to the group.</p> <p>The revised draft will be distributed to the BMCLG for final approval.</p>	Karen Jones
10	<i>General Business</i>	<p><u>Sponsorship</u></p> <p>Bondi Lions Club, attendance for 10 local special needs children and their carers to attend the World Festival of Magic show and funding for medical equipment for local children and the paediatric eye clinic at the Sydney Children's hospital in Randwick.</p>	Karen Jones

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader
		Other Botany Mill was planning on holding its 6 th annual Business Clean Up Australia Day in Purcell Park on March 1 st , however due to the poor weather this has been postponed to March 17 th . We hope to have photos of the day to share with you at the next meeting.	
11	Conclusion	Next meeting – June 2022	
12	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invite EPA to next meeting to discuss the Botany Mill EPL conditions.• Send revised draft of Botany Mill Community Liaison Group Charter to the members for final comments and approval.	Karen Jones Karen Jones