



Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	3 rd November 2022, 5:15pm – 6:30pm
Location	Botany Mill
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), Lynda Newnam (LN), Gerry O’Connell (GO), Karen Jones (KJ), Robert Carry (RC), Jacob Chretien (JC), Charles Abela (CA), John Viselli (JV)
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 and Apologies</i>	No apologies received	Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	No outstanding actions	Karen Jones
3	<i>Botany Cogeneration Plant – Update on status</i>	<p>Opal and Veolia (previously Suez) have notified stakeholders that due to a legislation change, the businesses have had to walk away from the Cogeneration plant project.</p> <p>While the B8 building site won’t be used for the Cogeneration plant, it will be developed at some stage in the future. As recycling opportunities and developments occur, new project ideas will come. The land is very valuable, so Opal does not want to give it up or leave it unused. The site sits under the Three Ports SEPP, so if Opal did sell, it could only go to Ports supportive industries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LN commented that the site is now under the Transport and Infrastructure State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) 2021, so Opal should check how that impacts the site. <p>PF asked if future projects would be done in partnership with other businesses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JC answered that if a project is within the mill expertise (eg recycling), the Opal would do it on our own, but if it is a service or external to paper making, then Opal would partner with another company. <p>CA asked whether the mill recovers condensate from the steam system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC answered that yes, condensate has a 92% recovery rate. <p>LN asked how the paper price is going.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC answered that the global paper price is declining as people are spending less, so buying less items that require boxes to be made. <p>JV stated that the 1901 Botany Road development has put in a new development application for the land. The developers are requesting to build to 7-8 storeys high. The current buildings still appear to be unoccupied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JC asked if there has been any drop in noise levels since the construction of the new buildings on the 1901 Botany road site. GO answered that they didn’t really get much noise from the mill, so it hasn’t made much difference. 	Jacob Chretien

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader
4	<p><i>Mill Projects Update</i></p>	<p>As outlined in our previous CLG meetings, DA modification #10 for the improvement to the solid waste storage and handling system and an extension to the Finished Product Store was approved by the Department of Planning.</p> <p>Groundwork for the construction of the Rejects Handling Facility has begun with the facility expected to be operational by the third quarter of 2023. There have been some delays due to cost increases requiring a re-scope and re-tender.</p> <p>Construction will occur during the following hours only: Monday to Friday, 7am to 5pm Saturday, 7am to 1pm</p>  <p><i>Figure 1: Modification #10 works areas.</i></p>	Karen Jones
5	<p><i>Overview of main site issues</i></p>	<p>The Mill continues to increase in operational performance which has been steadily improving since the major shutdown (MSD) in May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new monthly production record was set in October – 39,515 Tonnes • October also saw the best maintenance shut in terms of duration vs plan • Reliability of the secondary water treatment plant (SWTP) also continues to improve. <p>International paper prices have seen a significant drop as discretionary spending (goods requiring packaging) is restricted with increasing inflation seen in Europe and the US. This poses a challenge for us a lot of our input costs are sky rocketing – whether it be chemicals, gas or electricity. To combat the rising energy costs we are currently scoping a project to update the burners and burner management system on our four gas-fired package boilers.</p> <p>We are also seeing a shortage on the people front, particularly in the blue-collar workers. Truck and forklift drivers in particular are very sought after currently. This is adding pressure to the supply chain in an already very busy period for the business which peaks domestically in the lead up to Christmas.</p>	Robert Carry

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader															
6	Contacts Review	<p>Community Contacts & Complaints (28/07/2022 – 30/10/2022)</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>18</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noise</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>18</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A similar number of odour complaints as reported at the last meeting.</p> <p>Descriptions of the odour include “foul acidic odour”, “sour chemical smell” and “putrid offensive odour”. 14 of the complaints to the EPA are from the one resident in Chifley.</p> <p>One noise complaint was received on July 28th for a “loud thudding noise, possibly an engine”. It was related to a noisy ship at the Ports.</p> <p>CA stated that he has noticed odour driving past the Veolia waste facility in Military Road, and that may be the cause of the odour complaints in Chifley. He has also been there, and it has been very smelly.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	18	3	Noise	0	1	Other	0	0	Total	18	4	Karen Jones
Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline																
Odour	18	3																
Noise	0	1																
Other	0	0																
Total	18	4																
7	Odour Strategy Update	<p>The NSW EPA has added an Odour Emissions Reduction Program to the site Environment Protection Licence. This Program requires Opal to implement the recommendations identified within the Odour Study that the mill conducted in 2021. This includes further investigations into the odour emissions and appropriate mitigation strategies at the Decanter Building and Heat Recovery Towers, and an investigation into the flow rates at the Former Exhausts and Winder Pulper.</p> <p>As discussed at the last meeting, Opal has been working on investigating the best treatment for odour reduction at the Decanter building and has chosen a two-stage treatment of biofilter with activated carbon. We are in the final design stages of this project and as there is a significant lead-time on the components it will likely be commissioned in the second half of 2023.</p> <p>An air systems expert from Finland has been engaged to check the ventilation and exhaust systems on site at the end of this year, with investigations to continue into early 2023.</p> <p>The Winder Pulper was cleaned out and a new hatch installed closer to the winder pulper which allows for cleaning on a more regular basis.</p> <p>As previously discussed, another focus for 2022 is to increase the community’s understanding of the Mill’s operations. One way to do this is by conducting mill tours for the general public. A community update newsletter was delivered to the local area (closest 1000 residences) in June, which included asking for expressions of interest in mill tours, however the mill did not receive any responses. The newsletter was redistributed in August to Murrabin Ave, Partanna Ave, Moorina Ave and Moona Ave as many residents said they didn’t receive the first newsletter. One resident contacted the mill regarding a mill tour as a result of this second delivery.</p> <p>As per Lynda’s suggestion at the last meeting, the mill will look into approaching local senior groups regarding tour opportunities.</p> <p>Opal is also putting together fact sheets with details about the mill operations which will be available on the Opal website.</p> <p>The group also suggested including the tour opportunities on the Randwick City Council newsletter and the Little Bay Community facebook group.</p>	Karen Jones															

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader
8	Noise	No further issues to report regarding noise.	Karen Jones
9	General Business	<p><u>Purcell Park</u></p> <p>The signage in Purcell Park has been updated with the new Opal and Ausgrid logos, replacing the old Amcor and Energy Australia logos.</p>  <p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>LN mentioned that the 2061 Future Transport Strategy was published, and that IPART were seeking submissions for the review of the NSW Rail Access Report.</p>	Karen Jones
11	Conclusion	<p>Opal Botany Mill wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a wonderful 2023!</p> <p>Next meeting – February 2023</p>	
12	Actions	No new actions.	