

Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	16 th March 2023, 5:15pm – 6:30pm
Location	Botany Mill
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), Lynda Newnam (LN), Karen Jones (KJ), Robert Carry (RC)
Apologies	John Viselli
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>	Apologies from John Viselli received post-meeting.	Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	No outstanding actions	Karen Jones
3	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a delay in completing the groundwork for the construction of the Rejects Handling Facility as the groundwater table was higher than anticipated. Approval for the temporary removal of the groundwater (water supply work approval through WaterNSW) is being sought. Also investigating staging the building – look at doing the ground floor only as a first stage, with capability to build 2nd story later. Don't have an end-use for the coarse rejects (plastics) waste stream, therefore the details of what equipment will be needed for next stage is still unknown, and the upper-level building design will be dependent on the equipment it will house. Expect to recommence groundwork in May. Final commissioning of works won't be this year as previously ground communicated due to the above delays. Action: LN asked for more detail on the groundwater permit that is causing the delays. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a relatively new requirement from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). More information on this can be found in the "Minimum requirements for building site groundwater investigations and reporting" document from the DPE, or the dewatering section on the WaterNSW website. 	Karen Jones
4	<i>Overview of main site issues</i>	<p>The machine good performance continued to close out the year with a new monthly production record in December (39,639T) and annual record of 435,500T.</p> <p>The downside was that the Mill was hampered by domestic logistics - Unable to get trucks to deliver our product outside of Sydney and as a result we had to go to external storage in Botany.</p> <p>More recently we have seen both international shipping and domestic availability returning to normal in terms of availability</p>	Robert Carry

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader															
		<p>No real change to paper prices since the last meeting, which are still at the lower end of the cycle. Firstly, this was due to China's Covid lockdowns and now more recently the cost-of-living pressures experienced around most of the world</p> <p>We are preparing for our Annual Major Shutdown (MSD) in May which starts on the 21st and has an estimated duration of 110hr (approx. 5 days) with major jobs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winder drum replacement and major overhaul ○ Several wetend roll changes ○ Feed conveyor chain and lamella replacement <p>We are experiencing a high level of people turn-over as an Opal business with numbers as high as 20% in some areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LN asked what jobs were the Opal employees leaving to take up? • RC gave the example of the mill Projects team, a number of Project Engineers have left the business to work for John Holland construction. • LN commented that Infrastructure Australia writes reports each year on the infrastructure market capacity, recently showing the shortfall in labour. There are a record number of infrastructure projects around Australia and labour scarcity is the single biggest issue faced by construction companies. So it isn't surprising that construction companies are taking employees away from manufacturing. 																
5	<i>Contacts Review</i>	<p>Community Contacts & Complaints (01/11/2022 – 15/03/2023)</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>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noise</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A lower number of odour complaints than reported at the last meeting, most likely due to the seasonal wind change. Nine of the twelve complaints were reported in November. Eight of the twelve complaints were from Chifley.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	6	6	Noise	0	0	Other	0	0	Total	6	6	Karen Jones
Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline																
Odour	6	6																
Noise	0	0																
Other	0	0																
Total	6	6																
6	<i>Odour Strategy Update</i>	<p>An air systems expert from Finland was engaged to check the ventilation and exhaust systems on site at the end of 2022, and he found a number of areas where ventilation and exhaust flows could be improved. The action list generated from his report is being worked through over the coming months, as much of it needs to be done during machine shut-down periods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LN asked why the expert had to be brought in from overseas. • KJ answered that paper machine ventilation and exhaust systems are very specialised, and there is a fine balance around optimum air flow and temperature for the best evaporation rates and energy efficiency. The expert is from the company that designed and built the paper machine. <p>As previously discussed, another focus for the mill is to increase the community's understanding of the Mill's operations by offering mill tours for the general public. Tours were offered in December, January and February, with six people in total coming along. A further two were to join the February tour, but it had to be rescheduled due to an unplanned maintenance shut, and they could not make the new date. Another four have said they are interested in attending but have been unavailable so far. A brochure has been developed for the tours.</p>	Karen Jones															

#	Item	Notes/Action	Leader
7	General Business	<p><u>Clean up Australia Day</u></p>  <p>For the seventh year running, Paper and Recycling staff at Botany Mill participated in Business Clean Up Australia Day this morning. A dedicated team of seven donned their gloves and helped clean up Purcell Park which is a community park owned by Botany Mill and used by the local residents.</p> <p>A significant number of trees and shrubs have been removed from the perimeter of the Park over the last 12 months, so while the team didn't collect the large furniture items that have been the feature of previous clean up events, seven large bags of litter were removed from the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PF would like to commend the efforts by Opal staff for Clean Up Australia Day. <p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>PF commented that a later meeting time would suit him, even 5:15pm instead of 5pm. Others may be finding it difficult to get to a 5pm start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Opal to organise later meeting start time. <p>LN asked whether Opal had done a vegetation survey of the site recently, and if not, could they do one. The NSW government has committed to achieve 40% urban tree canopy cover for Greater Sydney by 2036.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: Investigate whether Opal has done a vegetation survey of Botany Mill recently, and if not, investigate whether Opal could conduct a new survey – KJ 	Karen Jones
8	Conclusion	Next meeting – June/July 2023	
9	Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include more detail on the groundwater permit that is causing the delays in the rejects handling upgrade. – KJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details included in minutes in section 3. COMPLETE Opal to organise later meeting start time. – KJ Investigate whether Opal has done a vegetation survey of Botany Mill recently, and if not, investigate whether Opal could conduct a new survey – KJ 	