

## Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023, 5:45pm – 7:00pm
Location	Botany Mill
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), Gerry O’Connell (GO), Robert Carry (RC), Karen Jones (KJ)
Apologies	John Viselli, Lynda Newnam (LN), Charles Abela (CA)
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>	John Viselli, Lynda Newnam and Charles Abela gave their apologies post-meeting.	Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include more detail on the groundwater permit that is causing the delays in the rejects handling upgrade. – KJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details included in meeting minutes for March in section 3. COMPLETE</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Opal to organise later meeting start time. – KJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June meeting organised to start at 5:30pm instead of 5:00pm. COMPLETE</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Investigate whether Opal has done a vegetation survey of Botany Mill recently, and if not, investigate whether Opal could conduct a new survey – KJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last vegetation survey conducted in 2006 prior to the construction of B9. Some large trees would remain, however there have been more planting as part of B9 landscaping.</li> <li>• A new vegetation survey is currently not on the environmental priority list.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Karen Jones
3	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	<p>As outlined in our previous CLG meetings, DA modification #10 includes 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"> <li>• Due to an increase in projects costs, there will be a pause on the majority of the project work.</li> <li>• Relocation of sewer line and road remediation going ahead.</li> <li>• Road should be finished in four weeks.</li> </ul>	Karen Jones
4	<i>Overview of main site issues</i>	<p>Botany Mill has had a rough start to the first half of this year in terms of production, particularly leading into the major shut in May. There was a significant amount of unplanned downtime in May.</p> <p>There is a decreasing demand for packaging globally. This trend started in the last quarter of last year and has further declined since. This is as a result of higher inflation, resulting in reduced discretionary spending. Some mills in US have announced closures. Many mills in Europe are taking downtime. There is over 1,000,000 tonnes of packaging paper making capacity currently sitting idle in China</p>	Robert Carry

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		<p>Botany Mill had the Annual Major Shutdown (MSD) in May from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. Excellent safety performance for the duration of the shut. There were in excess of 500 contractors on site and no injuries. Moving the shut from February to the cooler months has had a positive impact on the health and safety of team members. Unfortunately, due to unplanned downtime the site had to shut 15 hours earlier than planned.</p> <p>The major jobs included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Winder drum replacement and major overhaul</li> <li>○ Several wet end roll changes</li> <li>○ Feed conveyor chain and lamella replacement</li> </ul> <p>We have restarted information sharing sessions with the whole site in June – Business breakfasts. Four sets of speakers presented on “safe sustainable tonnes” to promote projects and operations on site.</p>																
5	Contacts Review	<p><b>Community Contacts &amp; Complaints</b> (16/03/2023 – 18/06/2023)</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>9</td> <td>7</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><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>9</b></td> <td><b>7</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The mill received sixteen odour complaints since the last meeting. Twelve of these complaints were made in May, three in April and one in March. There were no noise complaints.</p> <p>This is roughly the same number of complaints made during the same time last year, but significantly less than 2021 when there were 47 odour complaints over this period.</p> <p>GO stated that he has been going to Purcell Park frequently and chatting to neighbours. No one has mentioned anything regarding odour, and he has not noticed any odour issues.</p> <p>PF stated that he has not noticed any odour from the mill in his local area.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	9	7	Noise	0	0	Other	0	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	Karen Jones
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6	Odour Strategy Update	<p>Significant cleaning of ventilation and exhaust systems was conducted during the annual major shutdown. In addition, a damaged heat exchanger on a machine exhaust which was causing reduced air flow was also replaced. Some improvements have been seen in the exhaust flows, however further work needs to be done in these areas to restore air flows back to their design specifications for optimum dispersion.</p> <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 April and June, with one resident coming along in April.</p> <p>Opal is also finalising fact sheets about the mill’s operations which will be uploaded to the Opal website for education purposes. The factsheets will cover the papermaking process, air emissions, circular economy, and noise.</p>	Karen Jones															
7	General Business	<p><b>Sponsorship</b></p> <p>Bondi Rotary, attendance for 10 local special needs children and their carers to attend Circus Quirkus whilst also raising money for a neonatal ventilator for the Royal Women’s Hospital in Randwick.</p>	Karen Jones															

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		<p><b>Uniform Recycling</b></p> <p>Next month we will be sending our old uniforms for recycling in Melbourne with Upparel. Upparel recycles everything onshore, with nothing being shipped overseas. As these items are branded, none of them will be fit for reuse, so all will be shredded down into fibre and made into new materials such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction materials (wall and ceiling insulation, flooring underlay, acoustic panels)</li> <li>• Pillow filling for decorative pillows and toys</li> <li>• Furniture cushioning used in seats and couches</li> <li>• Pet beds</li> <li>• Protective packaging</li> </ul> <p>You can find out more about Upparel at <a href="http://upparel.com.au">upparel.com.au</a></p> <p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>GO spoke about the new industrial units behind them in Partanna Ave. There are some tenants, but still some construction going on for Stage 2. It is not noisy, and the landscaping has been done between the units and the houses.</p> <p>GO also stated that there have been some recent noise issues reported in Jennings Street from Ports trains. It is described as a squeaking/squealing noise. KJ commented that there had been no noise reports to the mill.</p> <p>PF said there were no issues raised around Little Bay area related to Opal. The cruise ship terminal project is currently on pause. However, the Kamay Ferry Wharves project is still going ahead.</p> <p>RC discussed the Maryvale paper machine closures. Due to the unplanned end of VicForests wood supply last year, Opal has decided to end white pulp and paper manufacturing at Maryvale Mill, which includes Reflex copy paper. This will result in the closure of two of the five paper machines at the site. Maryvale Mill will continue to make brown paper and board for fibre packaging.</p> <p>Opal have built a new converting line (corrugator) near Albury which is due to open in August this year. This plant converts packaging paper, including paper made at the Botany and Maryvale Mills, into corrugated cardboard packaging.</p> <p>There are emerging issues for fibre recycling as businesses move away from plastic packaging towards fibre packaging to meet sustainability goals. Unfortunately, when businesses require a water-proof box (for example meat and seafood packaging) they will add a plastic film to the outside of the box. This fine plastic film is very difficult to separate from the fibre in our stock preparation plant, so Opal is looking at installing extra separation equipment to remove this emerging plastic contaminant.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting discussion with Lynda Newnam</b></p> <p>LN asked whether Opal could put the signage for the Woody Pears in Purcell Park back on the agenda for the Community Liaison group.</p>	
8	Conclusion	Next meeting – October/November 2023	
9	Actions	Contact Randwick Council to enquire about putting information signs in Purcell Parks about the Woody Pear trees – KJ	