


Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	28 th July 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)
Apologies	Charles Abela, Michael Cattlin (EPA)
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"> - EPA invited, however they were unable to send anyone due to leave and other commitments. The EPA have also said that they may be able to attend future meetings to speak to clear and specific agenda items that necessitates the EPA input. <p>Send revised draft of Botany Mill Community Liaison Group Charter to the members for final comments and approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Botany Mill Community Liaison Group Charter finalised and emailed to group on 30th March. 	Karen Jones
3	<i>Botany Cogeneration Plant – Update on status</i>	<p>Veolia will review the new waste regulations over the next few months. Any activities related to the development will be on hold during this review period.</p> <p>If the Cogeneration project proves that it can’t continue, Opal will do something else with that site. It will not remain unused.</p> <p>PF asked if there would be any further community consultation related to the Cogeneration project. JC answered that further engagement would only be required if there is a pathway forward. With respect to the Environmental Impact study, all community consultation was completed for that process.</p>	Jacob Chretien
4	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	<p>As outlined in our previous CLG meeting, DA 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>The security entrance gate modification has been completed, which allows for construction of the rejects handling facility (see Item 2 in Figure 1).</p> <p>The first stage of the project will begin with the construction of the Rejects Handling Facility, which is due to commence August and is expected to be operational by the first quarter of 2023.</p>	Karen Jones

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		<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>	
5	<p><i>Overview of main site issues</i></p>	<p>The 2022 annual major maintenance shut was held from May 15th to May 20th. The shutdown period was a great success with 400 people on site completing 750 jobs. Safely and successfully. The critical path job for this period was to be the Winder drum replacement, but this has been delayed to next major shut due to logistical issues. A major capital project was installed – a web inspection system (lights and cameras) that picks up small defects in the paper as it is running and marks it. When they are cutting the paper on the winder it then slows down at the defect, resulting in less blow-ups/breaks on the winder.</p> <p>After the major shut the site had the second best production month ever.</p> <p>As previously discussed, freight is still expensive, but seeing first softening of market, as boat availability is improving. To give some context to the global shipping issues, 2 million containers were added to circulation during pandemic.</p> <p>Raw material procurement has been very difficult. The lockdown in China caused chemical delivery issues. The site is trialling alternate backups to ensure we are not impacted going forward.</p> <p>The site was impacted by two electricity load-shedding events of 9 hours each in June. The entire site was shut down during these periods to reduce the load in NSW due to electricity generation and supply issues.</p>	<p>Robert Carry</p>

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6	Contacts Review	<p>Community Contacts & Complaints (04/03/2022 – 27/07/2022)</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>19</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>19</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 "combination of foul paper mill burn off, toxic glue smell, and burning", "sulfur, bleach, chemical smell", "sour chemical", "rotten egg gas odour", "sour chemical, not gassy/rotten egg smell", "sewage smell" and "very strong ammonia odour".</p> <p>One noise complaint was received in June for an alarm sound, but this was later found to be related to the Ports crane alarms.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	19	3	Noise	0	1	Other	0	0	Total	19	4	Karen Jones
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7	Odour Strategy Update	<p>An update on the odour strategy was given to group.</p> <p>The odour sampling indicated that the decanter building (water treatment plant sludge dewatering) contributes approximately 40% of the odour impact in the residential area. Not only was the odour concentration very high, but it was also rated as "very unpleasant". The project team has been looking at different types of odour treatment, including an innovative UV treatment. Unfortunately trials of the UV treatment were not successful, so a two-stage treatment of biofilter with activated carbon has been chosen. We are in the early stages of this project, and there is a significant lead-time on the components, so it will not be commissioned during this winter period.</p> <p>As mentioned at the previous meeting, another focus for 2022 is to increase the community's understanding of the Mill's operations 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 has not received any.</p> <p>KJ asked if anyone from the local area received the community update newsletter in their letterbox in June? GO answered that he did receive the newsletter.</p> <p>LN suggested getting Randwick Council to post the mill tour opportunities on the RCC website. Could also approach local Probus and Senior Group (eg Coast Seniors)</p> <p>PF added that it would be beneficial for people not just from Matraville to see the Mill, but for people in the wider Randwick City community to know about the Recycling site.</p>	Karen Jones															
8	Noise	<p>A noise consultant was engaged to determine the noise contribution of Botany Mill in the residential area and to investigate low frequency noise on the site. To do this the consultants put together a computer model of the site and local surroundings and took noise measurements around the site for input into the model.</p> <p>Even during the worst-case scenario, the predicted noise contribution of Botany Mill at the nearest receivers is below the EPA licence limits, and Opal site noise characteristics were not considered to have a low frequency noise impact.</p> <p>This finding is consistent with our operations and equipment on site. Report submitted to EPA.</p>	Karen Jones															

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9	<i>General Business</i>	<p><u>Sponsorship</u></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> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Botany Mill held its 6th annual Business Clean Up Australia Day in Purcell Park on 17th. After a two week delay due to poor weather, a dedicated team of eleven donned their gloves and helped clean up Purcell Park.</p> <p>One of the locals walking in the park was shocked at the amount of rubbish the team was removing, as much of it was hidden behind the scrub! Two mattresses, two tables, two shopping trolleys, two chairs, a bar stool, baby car seat, a tarp and shovel were removed in addition to eight bags of litter.</p> <p>Clean up Australia Day is now the nation's largest community-based environmental event and has been running for over 30 years.</p> 	Karen Jones
11	<i>Conclusion</i>	Next meeting – November 2022	
12	<i>Actions</i>	None	