

Wood supply issue

As a result of the unplanned cessation of VicForests wood supply in late 2022, Opal made the difficult decision in February 2023 to stop producing white paper at the Maryvale Mill.

Although the Mill is no longer producing white copy paper, it will continue to manufacture brown paper and board to meet the growing demand for fibre packaging including for cardboard boxes and paper bags and sacks.

Development Licence (DL)

Opal submitted a DL application to the EPA on 22 June 2023. After thorough review process including public consultation, the EPA approved Opal's application on 8 January 2024.

This is now publicly available on the Engage Victoria website <https://engage.vic.gov.au/paper-australia-pty-ltd-app027019>.

The DL allows for:

- The permanent reconfiguration of the Maryvale site from three pulp plants to two pulp plants, and to transition to the preferred Continuous Kraft Mill and Neutral Sulphate Semi Chemical Mill operating configuration.
- The changes required to operating licence and discharge limits associated with the above changes.

Benefits

The planned changes at the Mill will provide benefits including:

- Delivering on-going pulp capacity requirements for brown packaging paper production.
- Utilisation of modern pulp processing technology in the Continuous Kraft Mill.
- Improvement in product quality and process stability and efficiency with consistent continuous pulping.
- Overall reduction of site environmental and human health risks – including water use, energy and odour sources.

Operating licence changes

The assessment of changes to the Mill's Operating Licence (OL) considered both best practice and the general environmental duty.

The DL issued by EPA on 8 January 2024 includes changes to emission limits (both increases and decreases) relevant to operational changes.

The removal of redundant licence discharge points and limits from the OL will occur during the DL implementation period.

Changes to air discharge limits are:

- Recovery Boiler R6 air emissions of oxides of sulfur (as SO₂) maximum increased from 2,500 g/min to 5,000 g/min. The 90th Percentile air emission limits for oxides of sulfur (as SO₂) will increase from 500g/min to 1500g/min.
- Site bubble limit – Carbon monoxide maximum decreased from 4500g/min to 3500g/min.
- Site bubble limit – Oxides of Nitrogen maximum decreased from 3000g/min to 2500g/min

- Removal of Discharge points 34 (Chlorine Dioxide Generator), 35 (Recovery Boiler 5) and 57 (Bleach Scrubber Stage) as these are no longer required based on changes to the Mill's operations - to be removed from Operating Licence post Development Licence period.

Changes to water discharge limits are:

- Discharge to Latrobe River colour increased from a daily maximum of 200mg/L to 230mg/L, annual median increased from 140mg/L to 170mg/L.
- Annual discharge to the Latrobe River flow decreased from 20,130ML/year to a total of 14,600 ML/year.
- Daily maximum discharge to Latrobe River sulphate decreased from 500mg/L to 400mg/L.
- Removal of wastewater discharge parameters (adsorbable organohalogen (AOX) and dioxins and furans) which are related to the pulp bleaching process that is no longer carried out at Maryvale - to be removed from the Operating Licence post Development Licence period.

All other discharge emissions licence limits and conditions will remain unchanged.

- Questions about Opal Australian Paper's Operating Licence can be emailed to: communications@opalanz.com
- For further updates please visit our website <https://opalanz.com/news-media/>

