


Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	4 th April 2024, 5:30pm – 7:10pm
Location	Botany Mill
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), Lynda Newnam (LN), Robert Carry (RC), Karen Jones (KJ),
Apologies	Charles Abela (CA), Gerry O'Connell (GO), John Viselli (JV),
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>	Welcome everyone to the first meeting of the year.	Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LN to provide her contact regarding odour concerns with KJ's details for follow-up – COMPLETE following meeting. KJ to provide Opal website link for Mill fact sheets – COMPLETE (given as part of these minutes). LN to check whether Doug can provide assistance in Purcell Park flora signage information. 	Karen Jones
3	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	Relocation of a sewer line near the front entrance completed. Next step is remediation of the roadway inside the mill entrance.	Karen Jones
4	<i>Overview of main site issues</i>	<p>Botany Mill set a new production record in 2023 of 436,800 tonnes, beating the previous production record by over 1000 tonnes. This quarter's production continues to good and close to budget.</p> <p>The annual site major maintenance shut down is occurring this year again in May, from Sunday May 5th to Saturday May 11th. A notification will be sent out to the nearest 100 residences, informing them of the activity. A number of large rolls in the paper machine are being changed, and the two wastepaper conveyors are being replaced. The aeration tank in the water treatment plant is also being cleaned.</p> <p>Botany Mill has employed a new General Manager – Operations, and he is expected to be in attendance at the next CLG meeting. He has previously worked in the UK and the Netherlands.</p> <p>There have been recent job losses at Opal across salaried roles company-wide. While Botany Mill performance continues to be good, 2023 saw poor financial performance for Opal overall, particularly with a low global sales price. In addition, the transition out of white paper in Maryvale also contributed to Opal's financial performance. This situation is not an isolated one – Amcor announced it was shedding 2000 jobs in February and mills with high production costs are being shut down worldwide. Botany Mill is extremely efficient, so is in a good position for ongoing operation.</p> <p>After explosion of packaging production during Covid19 (where globally there was little travel, so many people shifted their spending to online purchasing), and the demise of other types of paper (eg newsprint), many paper mills converted to packaging and new mills were built. Then inflation hit, and everyone stopped spending. This has resulted in</p>	Robert Carry

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		<p>lots of paper mills flooding the market with packaging paper, and with demand down (as online purchases decrease), less packaging is needed, so the paper price dropped. This is the reason for many high-cost mills shutting down.</p> <p>The packaging market has recently seen a slight recovery after a prolonged period of very low prices with the first price increase in the US in over 2 years.</p> <p>The new boxplant in Barnawartha (Albury Wodonga) opened, and production is going well and ramping up.</p>																
5	Contacts Review	<p>Community Contacts & Complaints (23/11/2023 – 03/04/2023)</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>3</td> <td>0</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>3</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The mill has received 3 odour complaints since the last meeting. 2 complaints were made in January and 1 in February.</p> <p>One of these complaints was for an off burnt smell in January, which coincided with a grass fire in the local area. And the EPA stated that they think it is unlikely that Opal was the source of the odour complaint in February.</p> <p>The number of odour complaints received in 2023 was 35, which is significantly down on 57 in 2022 and 112 in 2021. 2023 was also the first calendar year where no noise reports were received.</p> <p>LN forwarded KJ's details to two members of the Randwick City Council (RCC) Sustainability team after the last CLG meeting, suggesting they contact the Mill regarding any odour concerns, and also recommended taking their team for a mill tour. The RCC team did not contact Opal.</p> <p>ACTION: KJ to contact Anil from RCC after the annual shutdown to invite the RCC Sustainability team to a Mill tour.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	3	0	Noise	0	0	Other	0	0	Total	3	0	Karen Jones
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6	<p><i>Odour Strategy Update</i></p>	<p>As discussed during previous meetings, the Decanter building was found to be the most significant source of the mill's odour impacts in the residential area, contributing approximately 40% of the maximum odour impact. Odour reduction equipment consisting of a biotrickling and carbon filter was delivered recently in March. Ducting and extraction to be completed following the major shutdown in May. The system is expected to be in operation by the end of May 2024. The mill is expecting to get around 90% odour reduction from this equipment.</p> <p>The reactor has two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological media • Carbon filter <p>Air is pulled from the trailers in the decanter building upward through the biological media, where the microorganisms metabolise the majority of the odorous compounds. Following the biological system, the air passes through a carbon filter, where the activated carbon media adsorbs the remainder of the odorous compounds from the air.</p>  <p><i>Odour reduction unit for Decanter building.</i></p> <p>Odour sampling of the machine building and process exhausts was conducted in November 2023. Samples were taken from each source and sent to an odour lab where they determine at what dilution factor (resulting in an "odour unit" figure) they can detect the odour and the characteristics (what does it smell like, is it pleasant, unpleasant or neutral in tone?). The samples were also tested for concentration of sulfurous and other odourous compounds. While the "odour units" for many exhaust points increased, the sulfide and other odourous compound concentrations decreased compared with the 2021 sampling.</p>	Karen Jones

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7	General Business	<p><u>Clean Up Australia Day</u></p> <p>Botany Mill participated in Business Clean Up Australia Day in Purcell Park for the eighth year in a row. A dedicated team of eight donned their gloves and helped clean up Purcell Park which is a community park owned by Botany Mill and used by the local residents. The team removed enough litter from the park to fill six large garbage bags.</p>  <p>This has been published on the Opal LinkedIn page.</p> <p><u>Sponsorship</u></p> <p>Bondi Lions Club, attendance for 10 local special needs children and their carers to attend the Lions World Festival of Magic show and funding for medical equipment for local children and the paediatric eye clinic at the Sydney Children’s hospital in Randwick.</p>	Karen Jones
8	Conclusion	Next meeting – July/August	
9	Actions	ACTION: KJ to contact Anil from RCC after the annual shutdown to invite the RCC Sustainability team to a Mill tour.	