

## Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023, 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Location	Botany Mill
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), Gerry O’Connell (GO), John Viselli (JV), Lynda Newnam (LN), Charles Abela (CA), Robert Carry (RC), Karen Jones (KJ),
Apologies	
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 last meeting of the year.	Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	Contact Randwick Council to enquire about putting information signs in Purcell Parks about the Woody Pear trees – KJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COMPLETE. Council are happy with Opal to provide a proposed design for their review and approval and addition of Council logo.</li> </ul>	Karen Jones
3	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	Relocation of a sewer line and road remediation near the mill entrance re-started this month. Further delays were encountered since the last meeting as an open, redundant Sydney Water pipe was discovered in the works area. This line will be capped, with the remainder of the work to be completed in around 4 weeks.  As discussed during previous meetings, the Decanter building was found to contribute to 40% of the odour in the residential area. Odour reduction equipment consisting of a biotrickling and carbon filter is due for delivery in January 2024. Installation and commissioning will follow over the subsequent three months.	Karen Jones
4	<i>Overview of main site issues</i>	Production during 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 2023 has been much better than first half. The site is on track to make the same number of tonnes as last year.  The packaging market continues to be soft, due to continuing financial pressures on households. The moving of parcels and packages is significantly down. In addition the upcoming Chinese new year in early 2024 will add pressures. The indications from Europe are that this will continue until the second half of 2024. We will continue to be as efficient as possible and aim for more domestic market share to reduce the global market impacts. A part of this strategy includes the opening of a new boxplant by Opal in Barnawartha (Albury Wodonga) in November.  The site will continue production over the Christmas and New Year period as it does each year.	Robert Carry

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5	Contacts Review	<p><b><u>Community Contacts &amp; Complaints</u></b> (19/06/2023 – 22/11/2023)</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>8</td> <td>9</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>8</b></td> <td><b>9</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The mill has received 17 odour complaints since the last meeting. 4 complaints were made in June, 10 in July, 1 in August and 2 in September (none in October, or month-to-date in November). There were no noise complaints.</p> <p>This is less than the 30 complaints made during the same time last year, and significantly less than 2022 when there were 49 odour complaints over this same period.</p> <p>GO and CA have not noted any odours in the area. They also haven't had anyone mention odour issues to them.</p> <p>LN has had a contact mention odour in the local area. She will forward on the details.</p> <p>PF has a friend who initially lived in Little Bay, but moved away, then back to Matraville and is renting in Australia Ave. They have been concerned by the odour and are worried about health impacts. PF will either pass on their contact details or ask them to contact the mill for more information.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	8	9	Noise	0	0	Other	0	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	Karen Jones
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6	Odour Strategy Update	<p>Odour sampling of the machine building, and process exhausts is being done this month. This is to compare current air emissions with the odour sampling conducted in 2021. Samples are taken from each source and sent to an odour lab where they determine the concentration and characteristics (what does it smell like, is it pleasant, unpleasant or neutral in tone?).</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 to the Little Bay Seniors group in October and November, however there was no interest. Opal will speak to them again in February 2024.</p> <p>The Opal website now has fact sheets about the mill's operations available for viewing and download. The factsheets cover the papermaking process, air emissions, circular economy, and noise. Recent Botany Mill Community Liaison Group meeting minutes are also available, as is information on how to register interest in a mill tour. Below is the website link for this information:</p> <p><a href="https://opalanz.com/divisions/opal-paper-and-recycling/opal-paper-recycling-botany-mill/">https://opalanz.com/divisions/opal-paper-and-recycling/opal-paper-recycling-botany-mill/</a></p>	Karen Jones															
7	General Business	<p><b><u>Purcell Park Flora Information signs</u></b></p> <p>LN suggested renewing the plan to install interpretive signage in Purcell Park for Eastern Suburbs Banksia scrub, which includes the Woody Pear trees.</p> <p>Action: LN to check whether Doug can provide assistance in signage information.</p>	Karen Jones															

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		<p><b><u>Sponsorship</u></b></p> <p>Matrville Chamber of Commerce is resuming the Matrville Christmas Carols this year after an absence of a few years due to Covid19. Botany Mill is once again very happy to be a sponsor for this great community event.</p> <p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>The new Industrial estate behind Partanna and Moorina is operational. There are still further buildings to be constructed along Botany Rd and behind Moorina Ave.</p>	
8	<i>Conclusion</i>	Next meeting – March/April 2024	
9	<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LN to provide her contact regarding odour concerns with KJ's details for follow-up – COMPLETE following meeting.</li><li>• KJ to provide Opal website link for Mill fact sheets – COMPLETE (given as part of these minutes).</li><li>• LN to check whether Doug can provide assistance in Purcell Park flora signage information.</li></ul>	