

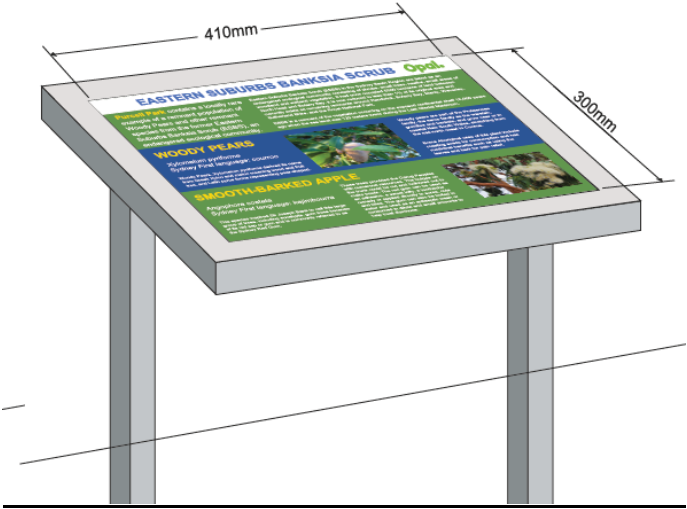
Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

Date & Time	30 th July 2024, 5:30pm – 6:40pm
Location	Botany Mill
Attendees	Peter Fagan (PF), Gerry O’Connell (GO), Kerri Baldwin (KB), Karen Jones (KJ)
Apologies	Lynda Newnam (LN), John Viselli (JV), 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>	Kerri Baldwin, the new GM Operations for Botany Mill was introduced to the group. Kerri has worked in paper mills for his entire career, most recently in the Netherlands, but also in the United Kingdom.	Karen Jones
2	<i>Actions from previous meeting</i>	ACTION: KJ to contact Anil from RCC after the annual shutdown to invite the RCC Sustainability team to a Mill tour. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anil said the Council team were busy in May and June, then he went on leave and said he would contact the mill in July when he returned from leave. Have not yet heard back. 	Karen Jones
3	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	Remediation of the roadway inside the mill entrance completed. Waste improvement project is currently back in the review process as costs have increased significantly since the CAPEX was approved. It is unlikely to go ahead this year.	Karen Jones
4	<i>Overview of main site issues</i>	<p>Production continues to good and is close to budget. The mill had a difficult month in June after the annual maintenance shut, but has had a much better production month in July.</p> <p>The annual site major maintenance shut down was completed in May and was executed safely. A notification was sent out to the nearest 100 residences, informing them of the activity. There were no community complaints related to the activity. A number of large rolls in the paper machine were changed, and the two wastepaper conveyors replaced. The site was able to restart a bit earlier than expected, after 5 days. The team were able to save some time over a few of the jobs, particularly the conveyor work which came in 24 hours ahead of plan.</p> <p>The mill remains profitable, but the packaging market is very challenging. The main contributor is that the price of raw material, OCC (Old corrugator cardboard), has increased significantly. This price increase is driven by the export market – Europe has been exporting less due to Red Sea shipping issues and paper mills in Asia are prepared to pay high prices, driving domestic prices for OCC up. Sales prices of finished product (paper) remains healthy, but prices into the Asian market are very tight.</p>	Kerri Baldwin

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5	Contacts Review	<p>Community Contacts & Complaints (03/04/2024 – 29/07/2024)</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>14</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noise</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>14</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The EPA has received 14 odour complaints regarding the mill since the last meeting. 1 was made in June from Chifley regarding a burnt rubber odour, and the other 13 complaints were made during the last two weeks of July.</p> <p>Most of the complaints are from Partanna Ave, with some from Moorina Ave and one in Moona Ave. They generally describe a chemical odour and some people are reporting headaches and a burning sensation in the throat. Opal representatives have conducted frequent odour surveys in these streets and have noted a few lacquer and acetone-type odours in Moorina Ave, a plastic odour in Partanna Ave, and some smoky odours in various locations during this time.</p> <p>The number of odour complaints received in the 2023/24 year was 14, which is significantly down on 53 in 2022/23 and 79 in 2021/22.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Environmental Complaints to Mill and EPA</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Noise</th> <th>Odour</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Waste</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2012/13</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2013/14</td><td>10</td><td>0</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2014/15</td><td>9</td><td>1</td><td>10</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2015/16</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2016/17</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2017/18</td><td>4</td><td>14</td><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2018/19</td><td>2</td><td>21</td><td>3</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20</td><td>1</td><td>27</td><td>5</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21</td><td>30</td><td>74</td><td>4</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22</td><td>32</td><td>79</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2022/23</td><td>1</td><td>53</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>2023/24</td><td>0</td><td>14</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The mill also received one complaint from a neighbouring business for litter, and another from a person regarding the Australian Government using the emissions from the mill to block the sun to reduce climate change.</p> <p>GO said no one has mentioned anything regarding odour to him, and most people in the area know that he is on the Opal Community Liaison group and he has always let them know to come to him if they have any issues so that he can pass them on to Opal. His daughter moved home 4 months ago from outside of Sydney and has not mentioned anything about odour.</p> <p>PF has not heard any complaints about the mill and has not noticed any odours, but has noticed some litter in McCauley St.</p> <p>Discussions with JV prior to the meeting noted that he had not noticed any issues with mill odours in Moorina Avenue, or the surrounding streets. He has not had anyone speak to him about odour issues.</p>	Category	To EPA	Mill Hotline	Odour	14	0	Noise	0	0	Other	0	2	Total	14	2	Year	Noise	Odour	Other	Waste	2012/13	7	0	10	0	2013/14	10	0	10	0	2014/15	9	1	10	0	2015/16	7	8	5	0	2016/17	7	0	3	0	2017/18	4	14	2	0	2018/19	2	21	3	0	2019/20	1	27	5	4	2020/21	30	74	4	0	2021/22	32	79	1	1	2022/23	1	53	1	2	2023/24	0	14	1	1	Karen Jones
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6	<i>Odour Strategy Update</i>	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 has been installed and is currently being commissioned. The mill is expecting to get around 90% odour reduction around the decanter area from this equipment. Testing of the odour around this location is booked in for the end of August.	Karen Jones
7	<i>General Business</i>	<p>Purcell Park Flora signs</p> <p>Opal has approval from Council to install a sign in Purcell Park providing information on the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and local flora examples. Opal is waiting on installation from the sign manufacturer.</p> <div data-bbox="331 680 1385 1420" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">  <h3 style="text-align: center;">EASTERN SUBURBS BANKSIA SCRUB Opal.</h3> <p>Purcell Park contains a locally rare example of a remnant population of Woody Pears and other remnant species from the former Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS), an endangered ecological community.</p> <p>Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) in the Sydney Basin Region are listed as an endangered ecological community consisting of shrubs, small trees, heaths, small areas of woodland and wetland vegetation. It had once occupied 5300 hectares of land between North Head and Botany Bay, it is now reduced to less than 1% of its original area and currently exists as remaining remnants around Randwick, Botany Bay, Manly, Waverley, Sutherland Shire, and the Royal National Park.</p> <p>ESBS is a remnant of the vegetation occurring on the exposed continental shelf 18,000 years ago when the sea level was 120 meters lower during the Last Glacial Maximum.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <h3>WOODY PEARS</h3> <p><i>Xylomelum pyriforme</i> Sydney First language: <i>courroo</i></p> <p>Woody Pears, <i>Xylomelum pyriforme</i> derived its name from Greek <i>Xylon</i> and <i>melon</i> meaning wood and fruit tree, and Latin <i>pyrus forma</i> representing pear-shaped.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Woody pears are part of the Proteaceae family, the same family as the waratah, grevillea and banksia, and grow near or in coastal New South Wales, stretching from the mid-north coast to Cooma.</p> <p>Some Aboriginal uses of this plant include roasting seeds for consumption and has medicinal benefits such as using the leaves and bark for pain relief.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <h3>SMOOTH-BARKED APPLE</h3> <p><i>Angophora costata</i> Sydney First language: <i>kajimbourra</i></p> <p>This species inspired Sir Joseph Bank to call this large group of trees, including eucalypts, gum trees because of its red sap or gum and is commonly referred to as the Sydney Red Gum.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>These trees provided the Darug Peoples with numerous resources. The bulges on the trunk could be cut and hollowed out to make bowls. The red gum can be used as an adhesive, a sweet lolly, a toothache remedy or applied directly to sores, cuts and bites. The gum can also be boiled in water and used as an antiseptic wash or consumed in dilute and small amounts to help treat diarrhoea.</p> </div> </div> </div>	Karen Jones



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		<p><u>Sponsorship</u></p> <p>Bondi Rotary, attendance for 10 local special needs children and their carers to attend Circus Quirkus.</p> <p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>PF said the members of the Bays and Beaches community precinct enjoyed the mill tour in June. One lady commented on the fact that she was impressed that it was two technical/engineering women who gave the tour. She suggested it would be good to offer the tour to senior school students, particularly girls, to see women in technical roles in operations. They group also enjoyed learning about the recycling process. He offered to ask his precinct committee for more people to come to tour.</p>	
8	<i>Conclusion</i>	Next meeting – October/November	
9	<i>Actions</i>	No actions.	