

Botany Mill Community Liaison Group

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| Date & Time | 26 th August 2025, 5:30pm – 7:00pm |
| Location | Botany Mill |
| Attendees | Peter Fagan (PF), Lynda Newnam (LN), Kerri Baldwin (KB), Karen Jones (KJ), Jun Wu (JW) |
| Invitees | Charles Abela (CA), Gerry O'Connell (GO), |
| Apologies | 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 | Welcome and Apologies | | Karen Jones |
| 2 | Actions from previous meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Next meeting will discuss the Community Liaison Group Charter – KJ to send out the CLG members for review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter sent out for review with minutes of last meeting. ✓ KJ and KB to discuss with Opal to determine if Opal can provide any parking spaces for caravans/boats/vehicles (for a fee). Any suggestions for other businesses that have space in the area that can also do this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opal unable to offer parking for recreational vehicles. Ausgrid easement behind mill appears to be currently used for parking of recreational vehicles. Information passed onto PF. • KB to find out if we have a contact at Ausgrid. ✓ KJ to look at whether any Keep Australia Beautiful awards are relevant for energy improvement projects the mill is currently working on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change mitigation and adaptation award is relevant. Circular Economy award may be relevant for future waste projects. Resource recovery award relevant for water projects. KJ has subscribed to KAB awards updates. ✓ KJ to check whether work Opal is doing on Odour investigations and reductions is available for community members to find? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the newsletters delivered to the local residents, CLG meeting minutes are available on the Opal website, which give details on this information. https://opalanz.com/divisions/opal-paper-and-recycling/opal-paper-recycling-botany-mill/ | Karen Jones |
| 3 | Review of CLG Charter | <p>Charter updated with suggestions from committee members and approved.</p> <p>LN suggested sending charter to EPA for their review.</p> | |
| 4 | Mill Projects Update | <p>No capital works projects currently underway.</p> <p>Solid waste improvement project – no change since last meeting, project is currently with Opal Corporate for review as costs have increased significantly since the CAPEX was approved. The</p> | Karen Jones |

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| | | <p>mill is considering an interim phase and has been running some trial to reassess reject sorters to recover fibre and reduce moisture content to enable potential for alternatives to landfill.</p> <p>As part of our Net Zero roadmap a boiler burner management system upgrade project has been approved. The aim of this project is to improve the efficiencies of the boilers and will therefore reduce natural gas usage and greenhouse gas emissions. It will also allow for future use of different gases (eg hydrogen). Planning to start work on the first boiler by the end of the year.</p> <p>LN suggested inviting Matt Thistlethwaite to site for presentation of projects on improvement to energy use.</p> <p>The mill had a visit from the site's natural gas supplier, Jemena recently. The purpose of the visit was looking at future biomethane and biogas usage options as a replacement for natural gas.</p> <p>LN asked whether Opal employees were interested in Sustainability and were they actively asking for improvements in this area. KB and KJ answered that Opal has recently started working more on Sustainability as a business, not just individual sites. Head Office has recently expanded their Sustainability team, and are working not just on energy, water and waste reduction projects across the business, but also working to raise awareness and improve the overall Sustainability culture within Opal. A Sustainability video has been filmed and should be released shortly, which outlines all the great work already being done across Opal sites, and that innovation is a key component of our business.</p> | |
| 5 | Overview of main site issues | <p>2025 has presented its share of challenges; however, B9 achieved significant production milestones in May and July, each exceeding 40,000 tonnes. This marks a major achievement for the site, as such volumes had only previously been reached in July 2024. Our full-year outlook remains positive, with a target of 445,000 tonnes for the year.</p> <p>Production output is likely to be impacted by changes in product mix at the mill. To reduce packaging, many customers want lower grammage paper in their boxes, and in addition there is some optimisation of product mix between the two Opal paper mills (Maryvale Mill is in Victoria) delivering paper to internal customers. Both these changes will lead to lower grammage (grams of paper per square meter) paper being made, which generally leads to lower overall paper production in tonnes.</p> <p>Market conditions continue to be volatile, largely influenced by fluctuating consumer confidence and global economic uncertainty. In response, our strategic focus remains on increasing domestic volumes and developing new products for emerging markets.</p> <p>Opal is working on building relationships with wastepaper suppliers and looking for new supply options. Recently visited a new waste facility in Blacktown with state-of-the-art waste separation technology and will be trialling some material from their facility. Opal also looked at their fire mitigation and firefighting systems as part of investigations into possible improvements at the mill.</p> <p>PF asked if it was possible to detect batteries in the wastepaper? KB answered that most of our material comes in bales, and we are unable to detect small batteries in that type of material. The new waste facility in Blacktown could sort out lots of different types of waste as it is all on conveyors and loose.</p> <p>In June, the site successfully completed its major maintenance shutdown safely and within the scheduled timeframe. The bulk of the work concentrated on essential repairs and maintenance, including re-lining the pulper and replacing corroded framework in 4th dryer group. Several smaller projects were also completed to support ongoing efficiency improvements at B9.</p> | Kerri Baldwin |

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| | | <p>Additionally, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiations with B9 operators have concluded. An in-principle agreement has been reached, with the ballot process scheduled for completion by the end of August.</p> <p>As a follow up from the fire incident in October last year, the mill continues to operate on restricted wastepaper stock levels in the wastepaper yard as an interim fire mitigation measure. Opal engaged a fire consultant to review wastepaper storage and fire mitigation measures and is progressing with actions from this review. CAPEX has been approved for additional firefighting water cannons and a mobile firefighting unit, wastepaper storage guidelines have been updated, and automatic fire detection technology is being investigated.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Contacts Review | <p>Community Contacts & Complaints (08/04/2025 – 25/08/2025)</p> <table><tr><th>Category</th><th>To EPA</th><th>Mill</th></tr><tr><td>Odour</td><td>4</td><td>4</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>4</td><td>4</td></tr></table> <p>The EPA has received 4 odour complaints since the last meeting, and the mill has also received 4 complaints. One in April, five in May, one in June and one in July.</p> <p>The five complaints in May were over a period of five days at the end of the month from Moona and Moorina Avenues, and Chifley.</p> <p>The complaints in June and July were from JV and PF respectively.</p> <p>KJ asked PF if he had noticed any further odours since July, and he stated that it was just that one morning.</p> <p>Odour complaints in the 2024/25 period increased when compared with 2023/24. This was due to 48 complaints being made between July and October in 2024. The trend seems to be much lower this year so far.</p> <div><p>Environmental Complaints to Mill and EPA</p><table><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>0</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>0</td></tr><tr><td>2022/23</td><td>1</td><td>53</td><td>0</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>2023/24</td><td>0</td><td>14</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2024/25</td><td>1</td><td>62</td><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr></tbody></table></div> | Category | To EPA | Mill | Odour | 4 | 4 | Noise | 0 | 0 | Other | 0 | 0 | Total | 4 | 4 | Year | Noise | Odour | Other | Waste | 2012/13 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 2013/14 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 2014/15 | 9 | 0 | 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 | 0 | 2022/23 | 1 | 53 | 0 | 2 | 2023/24 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 2024/25 | 1 | 62 | 5 | 0 | Karen Jones |
| Category | To EPA | Mill | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Odour | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Noise | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year | Noise | Odour | Other | Waste | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2012/13 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2013/14 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2014/15 | 9 | 0 | 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 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2022/23 | 1 | 53 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2023/24 | 0 | 14 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2024/25 | 1 | 62 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| # | Item | Notes/Action | Leader |
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| | | <p>Odour Complaints to Mill and EPA 2019-2025</p> | |
| 7 | Odour Strategy Update | <p>An alternative biocide treatment has been trialled at the mill since March and will continue until the end of September. The biocide helps the mill continue to recycle large amounts of water by keeping the bacteria and algae growth low, similar to the chemistry added to keep swimming pools fresh.</p> <p>Odour sampling and testing of six site process emission sources was conducted during June, showing a reduction in odour concentration from 5 of the 6 sources. It showed an increase in volatile organic compounds when compared with 2024, but still a decrease when compared with 2021 VOC levels. However, sulfur gas results showed an increase on both 2021 and 2024 levels. This was due to the trial biocide chemistry have a sulfate base and pH levels low. pH levels have since been optimized.</p> <p>The site is also continuing to work on improving former exhaust flowrates to increase dispersion of the wet paper odours.</p> | Karen Jones |
| 8 | General Business | <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>LN: The NSW Government released its Industrial lands action plan in January 2025.</p> <p>LN: The High Court is going to hear action against NSW Ports as Mayfield Development alleges NSW Ports denied its opportunity to develop a container terminal at the Port of Newcastle. It will test the State Government's immunity to competition laws.</p> | Karen Jones |
| 9 | Conclusion | Next meeting – November/December 2025 | |
| | Actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send charter to EPA for their review - KJ. Determine whether the site should invite Matt Thistlethwaite to site for a presentation of projects on energy reduction and sustainability – KJ/KB | |