



KOORAGANG ISLAND COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

MEETING – 30 MAY 2022

Present

Paul Hastie (Orica)

Nicole Masson (Orica)

Nathan Robinson (Orica)

John Hayes (Correct Planning and
Consultation for Mayfield)

Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and
Consultation for Mayfield)

John Thacker (New West)

Terry McCauley (Islington Village Community
Group)

Lyn Kilby (GLOW)

Keith Craig (Stockton Community Group)

Apologies

Jennifer Anderson (PoN)

Brigid Kelly (PoN)

Meeting Notes to attendees, apologies plus:

Michael Punch (St Peters PS)

Jennifer Miller (Stockton PS)

Drew Janetzki (Fern Bay PS)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

N Masson welcomed meeting attendees.

Apologies were received from members and have been noted in the meeting attendance details.

2. MEETING NOTES

The February 2022 CRG meeting notes were accepted.

3. SITE STATUS

P Hastie provided an overview of site activities since March 2022.

- Over the last two months there were two maintenance shutdowns. The first one was on the ammonia plant to work on a heat exchanger. The second was on the No1 nitric acid plant to replace a gasket in the reheater.
- Demand for prilled (solid) ammonium nitrate (AN) has been low due to the weather and COVID-19.
- The price of ammonia on the global commodity market has increased significantly over the last 12 months.
- The old stack on the No1 nitric acid plant has now been removed.

J Thacker asked if the maintenance shutdowns were planned. P Hastie replied that they were both unplanned. He added that there was a planned maintenance shutdown for the No1 nitric acid plant and No1 ammonium nitrate plant in October 2022 and a planned maintenance shutdown for the ammonia plant in October 2023.

K Craig asked if the rain was causing low demand for prilled AN. P Hastie said it was, and that the mines preferred to use AN emulsion (made from liquid AN) during wet weather.

J Hayes asked if the war in Ukraine was affecting ammonia prices. P Hastie replied it was the war, in conjunction with global shipping and logistics issues, that was affecting prices.

R Banyard asked how much the ammonia price had increased. P Hastie answered it was more than 50 per cent per tonne.

K Craig asked if the cost of CO₂ had also risen. P Hastie said he was unsure.

4. OVERVIEW OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

N Robinson gave an overview of the safety and environmental performance of the site from March 2022 to May 2022.

- There were two injuries reported.
- There were no environmental non-compliances.
- There was one community complaint regarding litter arising from the delivery of the Community Report in Fern Bay. The matter had been addressed.
- The number of safety leadership interactions (SLIs) for the year to date were shared with the group. SLIs are opportunities for leaders to observe work and engage in conversations with frontline operations about their work and safety.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

N Robinson gave an update on the site's environmental projects including:

- The removal of the NAP1 stack: The project, which took around five days to complete, involved removing sections of the stack piece by piece.
- Tertiary Catalyst Abatement - Nitric Acid Plants: A project is underway to reduce N₂O

emissions by up to 95 per cent (from unabated levels); NAP1 reactor completed in Germany and on its way to Australia; abatement scheduled to be installed in NAP 1 in October 2022/NAP 2 in December 2022/NAP 3 in February 2023.

- Nitrates effluent pond replacement: A project is underway to replace a single-lined pond with a double-skinned tank; civil works now commenced; completion due November 2022.
- PM2.5 project (prill tower scrubber): A project is underway to install an irrigated fibre-bed scrubber in the prill tower; expected to reduce PM2.5 ammonium nitrate emissions by 95 per cent; design phase progressing and tendering commenced; construction preliminaries scheduled to commence late 2022 and construction expected to be completed late 2023.

R Banyard asked if the NAP1 stack had to be physically cut into pieces for removal. N Robinson replied yes and that after larger sections were brought down, they were then cut into even smaller pieces by a machine.

J Hayes asked what would happen to the waste. N Robinson replied that it would be taken to landfill as it was mostly covered with asbestos paint.

J Thacker asked if cutting the steel presented a hazard. N Robinson said there was minimal risk as the structure was snipped/cut and not grinded. In addition, there was an occupational hygienist on site to monitor for asbestos fibres and the top layer of soil was removed and disposed of appropriately.

R Banyard asked if the reactors for the tertiary abatement were made from a single unit. N Robinson said they were fabricated from a couple of different pieces. R Banyard also questioned the size of the reactors. N Robinson replied that they were around 8m long.

K Craig enquired as to the reaction process. N Robinson said the process involved converting NOx to nitrogen and water.

J Thacker asked if the area under the new effluent tank had been capped. N Robinson said it had not been capped for the purposes of contamination management. J Thacker also asked what would happen to the old pond. N Robinson said the pond would be drained and the area would possibly be converted to a hard stand or filled with soil and landscaped.

J Hayes asked what would happen to the material removed from the pond. N Robinson responded that it would be sent to landfill. J Hayes also asked what happens to the nitrates effluent. N Robinson said it was processed and discharged to the Hunter River in line with KI's EPL.

J Hayes asked if the scrubber being fitted to the prill tower was world's best practice. P Hastie said it was established, well-proven technology. J Hayes also asked if the technology was being manufactured in Australia. P Hastie said it was specialty technology that was being manufactured overseas but that KI will always engage with local manufactures when possible.

R Banyard asked if the scrubber would increase AN throughput capability. P Hastie said there would be no increase in production; the scrubber would only remove small particulates.

6. COMMUNITY UPDATE

N Masson gave an update on the site's community engagement activities including:

- Issue 2 of the community newsletter for 2022 was delivered around 28/29 February.
- The non-profit organisation Homestart-National has launched its 2022 Little Readers' Program, where volunteers help parents teach children aged 0 to five years literacy and numeracy skills.
- The Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation is currently undertaking a project that provides home cleaning services to breast cancer patients.
- Mentor Support Network recently held its presentation day where disadvantaged students are provided with educational scholarships.
- Miss Porter's House completed a project to repair brickwork, paint windows and preserve collections.

- Round 1, 2022 Community Investment Program Recipients were announced:
 - Bikers for Kids - \$10,000: The organisation will put the funds towards the annual Newcastle Toy Run, which will be held this year on Sunday 4 December. Around 10,000 bikers will ride from Stockton to Wickham Park, where there will be a community event featuring entertainment, market stalls, amusements, and a large motorcycle display.
 - Autism Spectrum Australia - \$10,000: The funding will be used by the Aspect Hunter School to create a sensory room for senior students. The space will feature autism-specific equipment and be an area where students can have a break from the classroom.
 - Bobs Farm Public School - \$10,000: The school will use the funding to improve an outdoor learning and play space. The project will include the construction of shelter, storage, pathways, seating, and a water play area.
 - Fern Bay Public School - \$10,000: The school will use the grant to purchase four smart TVs and trolleys for classrooms. Smart TVs will allow for more creative teaching, improving student engagement and motivation to learn.
 - Hunter Region Botanic Gardens - \$10,000: The gardens will put the grant funding towards the purchase of a mulcher. The new equipment will enable the gardens to significantly improve environmental outcomes by recycling green waste, rather than burning it.
 - Nova for Women and Children - \$10,000: The organisation will use the funding to help women and teens escaping domestic violence learn to drive or regain their licence. Having a driver's licence improves independence, confidence, socialisation and employment opportunities.
 - Young People's Theatre Newcastle - \$10,000: The organisation will put the funding towards the purchase of a new projector as well as a program to teach students about professional lighting design for theatre productions.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

L Kilby raised the issue of attracting younger residents to participate in the Community Reference Group.

Action: CRG members to provide Orica with the contact details of residents who are interested in joining the CRG.

R Banyard asked if Orica transported ammonium nitrate via train to the Hunter Valley as he had photographs of containers on trains with Orica signage. Question taken on notice.

Action: Orica to seek more information on AN transportation by train to/from Newcastle and report back to CRG.

8. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 7.02pm.

Attachment 1: Summary of outstanding actions

Reference (year/month/date and number)	Action	Who	When	Comments	Status
220530/1	CRG members to provide the contact details of residents who show an interest of joining the CRG	CRG members	August 2022		
220530/2	Orica to seek more information on transportation of AN via train from/to Newcastle	P Hastie	August 2022		

Legend

Green	Amber	Red	White
Action is now complete and will be removed.	Action has commenced. It may be running behind time but an explanation has been provided.	No action has been taken.	New action.