



## **KOORAGANG ISLAND COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP**

**MEETING – 29 AUGUST 2022**

### **Present**

Paul Hastie (Orica)

Nicole Masson (Orica)

Nathan Robinson (Orica)

Sarah Ticknell (Origin Energy)

Nick Faulkner (Origin Energy)

Rob Catchpoole (Origin Energy)

Simon Murphy (GHD)

Sonya Pascoe (GHD)

John Hayes (Correct Planning and  
Consultation for Mayfield)

Keith Craig (Stockton Community Group)

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.

Orica CRG members, Origin and GHD attendees introduced themselves to each other.

## 2. MEETING NOTES

The August 2022 CRG meeting notes were accepted.

## 3. PRESENTATION BY ORIGIN ENERGY

Origin Energy attendees gave a presentation about the proposed Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub. By background, Orica and Origin are currently partnering to undertake a feasibility study into the proposed hub. The presentation included information on the following:

Background on Origin:

- Electricity and gas providers
- Has recognised hydrogen as an important enabler for transition to clean energy
- Has recognised opportunities for Newcastle due to location, existing infrastructure, and skilled workforce

Project concept:

- Proposal to deliver safe, reliable, commercial-scale, renewable hydrogen to assist in decarbonisation of the Hunter economy

Project details:

- 55MW capacity electrolyser powered by renewable energy and sustainable water
- 4 Ha site
- Loading/re-fuelling facilities
- Pipeline to Orica
- Future options include power generation, connection to gas network and expanding the electrolyser

Planning:

- Applying as a state significant development
- Environmental Impact Statement to be developed in 2023
- Approval sought for end 2023

Benefits:

- Employment
- Investment
- Hunter seen as a world leader (one of Australia's first hubs)
- Decarbonising Hunter industry

Safety:

- Hazard and risk will be assessed and reported on during different project phases including feasibility, design, construction, and operation

L Kilby asked what type of employment opportunities would be available. S Ticknell replied that during the construction stage, 100 to 200 jobs would be created. Once operational, there would be around 10 full-time positions available at the facility.

J Hayes asked if Origin could share the slide pack. S Ticknell said they would consider the request.

K Craig asked how much hydrogen Orica would take a day. P Hastie said they would start off slowly

and could ramp up, depending on hydrogen availability. Using more hydrogen would reduce the ammonia plant's consumption of natural gas.

K Craig asked if changes would need to be made to the ammonia plant. P Hastie said there would need to be minimal changes made to begin taking hydrogen.

K Craig asked if Orica would consider exporting green ammonia to Japan. P Hastie said the business was keeping options open and is currently working on a development application for a new, 30,000-tonne ammonia tank that could support export opportunities. He noted that the Kooragang Island site currently ships half of the ammonia it makes to the Orica Gladstone site in Queensland.

J Hayes asked if the electrolyser would be located on the Orica KI site. P Hastie responded that the location hadn't been finalised but would more likely be closer to the Stockton bridge.

K Craig asked how long it would be until the electrolyser facility could reach full commercial scale. P Hastie said he thought it would be at least 10 years. R Catchpoole said the electrolyser modules are very repeatable and could be made larger, but the project would be constrained by the size of the site and the availability of renewable energy and sustainable water.

#### **4. SITE STATUS**

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

The ammonia plant has been running steadily; the next turnaround for the ammonia plant is scheduled for October 2023.

The nitric acid plants have also been running steadily; the next turnaround for NAP1 and AN1 is scheduled for October 2022.

Due to the wet weather, there has been a greater demand for ANSOL (ammonium nitrate solution) rather than the solid prilled product. ANSOL is transported to Orica's Kurri Kurri and Liddell facilities where it is made into ammonium nitrate emulsion.

The tertiary abatement vessels have arrived on site and will be installed/commissioned over the coming months.

An ammonia tanker returning to the KI site to refill was involved in a collision with a coal train on Cormorant Road. The tanker was successfully emptied without incident and has been taken for repairs.

The all-worker recordable injury case rate is zero, the lowest it's ever been.

Orica Kooragang Island was a finalist in the Hunter Business Awards – Excellence in Sustainability category.

J Hayes asked why the abatement vessels were shipped to Port Kembla rather than the Port of Newcastle. P Hastie said he would make enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

**Action:** Orica to seek information on why abatement vessels were delivered to Port Kembla and not Port of Newcastle.

#### **5. OVERVIEW OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**

N Robinson gave an overview of the safety, health and environmental performance of the site from June 2022 to August 2022.

##### **Injuries**

- No serious injuries
- No lost time injuries
- One restricted work case arising from aggravation of an existing back concern
- One minor injury requiring first aid

## **Environmental non-compliance**

- Loss of containment from old effluent system connected to stormwater
- Exceedance of volume limits on site transpiration/sewerage system

## **Community complaints**

- Query raised to SafeWork NSW from an anonymous person regarding future project work potentially involving lead/asbestos

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

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

- Chemical storage improvements: eight additional IBC bunds arrived this week to improve the management of cooling tower chemicals; they include rainproof roller doors, 200L day tank to allow the in-service IBC to be fully drained, dry break couplings for safer connection and disconnection, and liquid level display.
- Tertiary catalyst abatement - nitric acid plants: A project is underway to reduce N<sub>2</sub>O emissions by up to 95 per cent (from unabated levels); all abatement vessels delivered to site; NAP 1 access structure with analyser house being built; abatement scheduled to be operational in NAP 1 in October 2022/NAP 2 in April 2023 and NAP 3 in February 2023.
- Nitrates effluent pond replacement: A project is underway to replace a single-lined pond with a bunded 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.
- AN1 solution supply system: A project to provide an alternative supply of ANSOL from AN1 plant to the existing ANSOL tank is underway; it involves pipework, support structures and a buffer tank; an Environmental Assessment is being prepared.

L Kilby asked who was designing the prill tower scrubber. N Robinson said local consultants Worley were responsible for the design.

K Craig asked if the new AN solution supply line would be double contained. N Robinson said they were still working through the detail.

## **7. COMMUNITY UPDATE**

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

- Issue 3 of the community newsletter for 2022 was delivered around 27/28 August.
- Hunter Region Botanic Gardens: The gardens have put a \$10,000 grant towards the purchase of a new mulching attachment.
- NCYC Sailing Academy: The academy put a \$6,000 grant towards the purchase of new sails and rigging for the boats utilised in the Little Tackers program.
- Dress for Success: Orica has donated \$40,000 to the charity after it launched an appeal through the Newcastle Herald.
- Run DIPG: The charity is putting a \$5,000 grant towards their annual flagship running event that raises funds for childhood brain cancer research.
- Soul Café Social Worker: Support of the Soul Café social worker position will continue for a second year with another \$30,000 in funding.
- Curious Legends: The non-profit theatre company will put a \$30,000 grant towards an arts internship program for young people.
- Applications for Round 2 of the 2022 Community Investment Program are now open.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

J Hayes followed up on a number of questions on behalf of R Banyard.

*Did Orica transport ammonium nitrate via train to the Hunter Valley as he had photographs of containers on trains with Orica signage?*

N Masson advised that four containers of AN prill are transported to Tasmania each week. Two are freighted by Orica and two by a third party.

*Do the trains go through tunnels?*

N Masson said they went through tunnels because via rail there are no diversions available, as there are typically on road tunnels.

*Would Orica consider making AdBlue?*

P Hastie said the commercial team advised it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars to convert our operations for the manufacture of AdBlue, as we make ammonium nitrate and AdBlue is made from urea.

*Does Orica know about the ammonium nitrate coming via ship from Gladstone and China?*

P Hastie advised the AN from Gladstone was Orica's and was a special "melt grade" that goes to the Kurri Kurri and Liddell sites. He also advised that the AN from China was not Orica's but would likely be imported by a Hunter Valley mine operator.

## **9. MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 7.13pm.

**Attachment 1: Summary of outstanding actions**

| Reference<br>(year/month/date<br>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   |          |        |
| 220829/1                                     | Orica to seek more information on why abatement vessels were delivered to Port Kembla and not Port of Newcastle | P Hastie    | November 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. |