



**KOORAGANG ISLAND COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP**  
**MEETING – 28 NOVEMBER 2022**

**Present**

Paul Hastie (Orica)

Nicole Masson (Orica)

Nathan Robinson (Orica)

Paul Cunsolo (Orica)

John Hayes (Correct Planning and  
Consultation for Mayfield)

**Apologies**

Keith Craig (Stockton Community Group)

John Thacker (New West)

Terry McCauley (Islington Village Community  
Group)

Lyn Kilby (GLOW)

Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and Consultation  
for Mayfield)

**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 August 2022 CRG meeting notes were accepted.

## 3. SITE STATUS

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

- The turnaround for the No.1 nitric acid plant and No.1 ammonium nitrate plant was successfully completed.
- During the turnaround, the old gas start-up heater in the No.1 nitric acid plant was replaced with a new electric one; the tertiary abatement system on the No.1 nitric acid plant was commissioned and is now removing > 95 per cent of nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions; a new valve was constructed at a local Beresfield engineering company.
- Demand for solid ammonium nitrate (prill) has been low due to the wet weather. Demand for ammonium nitrate solution (ANSOL) has been strong.
- A number of issues regarding an air compressor, water jacket leak and governor valve resulted in the ammonia plant being off-line for three days.
- The site was announced as a finalist in the 2022 NSW Sustainability Awards.

J Hayes asked if there would be a cost difference when switching from a gas start-up heater to an electric one.

P Hastie replied that the new electric heater would save on running costs and be more reliable.

J Hayes noted the positive messages regarding the turnaround.

P Hastie provided a response to the action: *Orica to seek more information on why abatement vessels were delivered to Port Kembla and not Port of Newcastle*. He explained that the equipment supplier was responsible for the shipping and engaged a carrier that delivered to Port Kembla.

## 4. OVERVIEW OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

P Cunsolo gave an overview of the safety, health and environmental performance of the site from September 2022 to November 2022.

### Injuries

- Serious injury case rate remains 0
- No lost-time injuries
- Two contractors received physiotherapy following unexpected movement of the Alimak lift
- One contractor sustained muscular strain in their back during a team lift, resulting in medical treatment
- One worker received an adrenalin shot after being stung by a bee

### Drug and alcohol testing

- 10-20 per cent of normal workforce tested each month
- During the turnaround, over 300 drug tests and 4,000 alcohol tests were conducted

### Environmental non-compliance

- No environmental non-compliance events

## Community complaints

- One community complaint regarding noise was received and was attributed to the ammonia plant shutdown/start-up.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

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

- 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); NAP1 abatement system installed and operational; NAP2 and NAP3 abatement systems to be installed during 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 March 2023.
- Drain repairs – AN1: During the turnaround, the drains in the No.1 ammonium nitrate plant were repaired.
- 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; fabrication of equipment commenced; construction preliminaries scheduled to commence early 2023; construction expected to be completed mid-2024.

## 6. COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

- Issue 4 of the community newsletter for 2022 was delivered around 26/27 November.
- Hunter Region Botanic Gardens: The gardens have put a \$10,000 grant towards the purchase of a new mulching attachment.
- Stockton Historical Society: The organisation put a \$10,000 grant towards publishing Volume 4 of *Stockton Over the Years*.
- Fern Bay Public School: The school used a \$10,000 grant to purchase four smart TVs for classrooms.
- Hunter Wetlands Centre: The organisation put a \$27,000 grant towards building a new maintenance complex and used a \$10,000 grant to replace the main deck.
- Miss Porter's House: The organisation used \$10,000 in grant funding to repair brickwork, paint windows and conserve collections.
- Young People's Theatre: The local theatre company used a \$10,000 grant to purchase a new projector, which is helping to teach students about professional lighting design for theatre productions.
- The successful recipients of Community Investment Program grants from Round 2, 2022 were:
  - Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation
  - Foundation #1
  - NCYC Radio Yacht Squadron
  - Friends of the School Master's House
  - Stockton Junior Rugby League Club
  - Got Your Back Sista
  - Marine Rescue Newcastle
  - Newcastle High School
  - Stockton Jellyblubbers

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**8. MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 6.14pm.

**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		
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.