



KOORAGANG ISLAND COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

MEETING – 27 FEBRUARY 2023

Present

Paul Hastie (Orica)

John Hayes (Correct Planning and
Consultation for Mayfield)

Nathan Robinson (Orica)

John Thacker (New West)

Nicole Masson (Orica)

Terry McCauley (Islington Village Community
Group)

Paul Cunsolo (Orica)

Apologies

Keith Craig (Stockton Community Group)

Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and
Consultation for Mayfield)

Lyn Kilby (GLOW)

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 November 2022 CRG meeting notes were accepted.

3. SITE STATUS

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

- In January, the No. 2 nitric acid plant was shut down to repair an air compressor. The plant is now operating steadily.
- In January, the No.3 nitric acid plant tripped due to a waste heat exchanger leak.
- Last week, repairs were carried out on the ammonia plant's refrigeration compressor.
- Also last week, the Orica Board and some of the Executive team visited the site to get a first-hand look at all the projects underway including the Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub, tertiary abatement in the nitric acid plants and the prill tower scrubber.
- In April, the ammonia plant will be shut down for one week to carry out planned maintenance activities.

J Hayes asked if the maintenance issues mentioned were caused by the age of the plants. P Hastie responded that certain equipment would show wear over time and that the majority of repairs are carried out during shutdowns (turnarounds).

J Thacker asked how many members were on the Orica Board. P Hastie answered that there were nine Board members.

4. OVERVIEW OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

P Cunsolo gave an overview of the safety, health and environmental performance of the site from December 2022 to February 2023.

Injuries

- Compound fracture to finger
- Exposure to ammonia
- Musculoskeletal injuries / aggravations

Environmental non-compliance

- Process solution to ground – ANP1 dry building doorway
- Effluent leak to ground – underground pipe to effluent transfer pit
- Effluent monitoring station – flowmeter failure

Community complaints

- One odour complaint from Tighes Hill not attributable to Orica

J Hayes asked if the leaking pipe was made of earthenware. N Robinson confirmed the pipe was earthenware and that while much work had been done to replace this type of pipe across the site, some earthenware pipes remained.

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 N₂O emissions by up to 95 per cent (from unabated levels); NAP1 abatement system installed and operational; initial results for NAP1 show emissions reduction greater than 99 per cent; NAP2 and NAP3 abatement systems to be installed during 2023; piling works for NAP2 commenced.
- Nitrates effluent pond replacement: A project is underway to replace a single-lined pond with a bunded tank; tank has been installed; tie-ins progressing; cutover scheduled for April 2023; pond decommissioning expected to take place in May 2023; completion due July 2023.
- 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 commenced, including piling works; ducting delivered to site; construction expected to be completed mid-2024.
- AN1 solution supply system: A project is underway to improve the flexibility and reliability of ANSOL (ammonium nitrate solution) production; modification application submitted; scheduled for completion end 2024 subject to funding approval.
- Caustic dosing system upgrade: A project is underway to lower the amount of nitrogen discharged from the site: the tank and bund delivered to site; completion expected April 2023.
- MCi Carbon demonstration plant: MCi Carbon is set to construct a carbon capture and utilisation plant at the site; a lease agreement has been signed and site assessment has commenced.

J Hayes asked if components for the prill tower scrubber would be delivered via the Port of Newcastle. P Hastie replied he would have to take the question on notice and report back.

J Hayes also asked if Orica could consider implementing a policy to import equipment via the Port of Newcastle where possible.

Action: Orica to find out which port will take delivery of the prill tower scrubber equipment and if consideration can be given to utilising the Port of Newcastle where possible.

J Hayes asked if the ANSOL supply project was due to an increased demand for ammonium nitrate solution. P Hastie replied that the project would improve site operations, not result in increased production of ANSOL.

J Hayes asked if the MCi Carbon pilot plant currently at the University of Newcastle would be moved or shut down. P Hastie said the pilot plant would likely continue operating at the university.

J Thacker asked about the timeline for construction on the MCi Carbon demonstration plant. P Hastie said construction is expected to begin this year and be completed in 2024.

J Hayes asked how the MCi Carbon plant would be powered, noting that it should use renewable electricity to enhance its 'green credentials'. P Hastie responded that it would connect to the existing grid on Kooragang Island.

6. COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

- Issue 1 of the community newsletter for 2023 due to be delivered to homes in the week beginning 27 February 2023.
- Bikers for Kids: The organisation used a \$10,000 grant to help deliver the annual Newcastle Toy Run.
- Newcastle All Blacks: The Indigenous rugby league club will put a \$10,000 grant towards staging the 2023 Koori Knockout.
- Curious Legends: The organisation is using a \$30,000 grant to run a youth mentorship program for 12 months.
- University of Newcastle Engineering Societies: The site is sponsoring the Chemical Engineering and Engineering Societies at the University of Newcastle.
- The first round of the 2023 Community Investment Program opens 1 March.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 6.32pm.

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		
230227/1	Orica to find out which port will take delivery of the prill tower scrubber equipment and if consideration can be given to utilising the Port of Newcastle where possible.	P Hastie	May 2023		

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.