



## KOORAGANG ISLAND COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

MEETING – 29 MAY 2023

### Present

Paul Hastie (Orica)

Lyn Kilby (GLOW)

Nathan Robinson (Orica)

John Thacker (New West)

Nicole Masson (Orica)

Keith Craig (Stockton Community Group)

### Apologies

John Hayes (Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield)

Rick Banyard (Correct Planning and Consultation for Mayfield)

Terry McCauley (Islington Village Community Group)

### 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 2023 CRG meeting notes were accepted.

## 3. SITE STATUS

P Hastie provided an overview of site activities since March 2023.

- The site's ammonia bottling plant, known as Triella, underwent a planned maintenance shutdown in March. Triella provides cylinders of anhydrous ammonia to various sectors, including the food and beverage industry for use in commercial refrigeration.
- Piling works for the installation of the prill tower scrubber have been completed. In total, there are 45 piles that extend 19m underground.
- There are two upcoming turnarounds planned for the ammonia plant – one in October 2023 and one in February 2024. The total length of the turnarounds will be around 60 days.
- On Thursday 25 May, the tertiary abatement system in the No.3 nitric acid plant became operational and was reducing nitrous oxide emissions from the plant by 99.7 per cent. The tertiary abatement system in the No.2 nitric acid plant is due to become operational in July.
- There has been a 50-tonne reduction in nitrogen in effluent over the last year.
- Orica has introduced a new employee reward and recognition program called Bravo.

L Kilby asked how much anhydrous ammonia was provided to customers. P Hastie said at least a couple of thousand tonnes per annum.

J Thacker asked how long the Triella plant had been operating. P Hastie responded around 30 years.

K Craig asked how the nitrogen in effluent reduction was achieved. P Hastie said it was the result of recapturing nitrogen from various operational areas around the site.

L Kilby asked if the nitrogen in effluent reduction gets reported. P Hastie said it was reported internally and also externally to the NSW EPA.

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

N Robinson gave an overview of the safety, health and environmental performance of the site from March 2023 to May 2023.

### Injuries

- Hand burn
- Minor hand injuries (splinters/cuts)
- Musculoskeletal injuries/aggravations

### Environmental non-compliance

- Minor ammonia release during venting of Triella aqua tanks, no community complaints (Notified to EPA)
- Ammonia main cooling tower C Cell hot well overflow

### Community complaints

- Six complaints to Orica about noise regarding relief valve lifting event – EPA also received some complaints

J Thacker asked about the progress of the worker who was injured after being exposed to ammonia in February. N Robinson said the worker was back on site but still undergoing some rehabilitation.

K Craig told the CRG the Stockton Community Group (SCG) had written to Orica seeking more information on the relief valve lifting event. In addition, there was concern expressed on the Stockton Facebook page and a local media outlet had made enquiries. N Masson said the SCG had been provided with a reply and added that numerous calls were answered via the Orica Community Hotline on the night of the incident.

K Craig asked if the valves involved in the lifting incident were not configured properly. N Robinson said the valves activated as designed but that human error was involved.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

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

- Nitrogen management: A project to reduce nitrogen in effluent had resulted in a 50-tonne nitrogen reduction over a 12-month period.
- 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 and NAP3 abatement systems installed and operational; initial results show emissions reduction greater than 99 per cent; NAP2 abatement system to become operational in July 2023.
- Nitrates effluent pond replacement: A project is underway to replace a single-lined pond with a bunded tank; tank has been installed; cutover scheduled for June 2023; pond decommissioning expected to take place in 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; civil construction commenced, including installation of 45 piles, foundation formwork and reinforcing; ducting delivered to site; construction expected to be completed mid-2024.
- Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub: Orica and Origin have partnered to build a 55MW electrolyser on Kooragang Island, which will produce green hydrogen from renewable electricity and recycled water; Environmental Impact Statement to be provided to Department of Planning in coming months; construction scheduled to begin 2024 and completion of the project expected in 2025.

K Craig asked if the MCi Carbon demonstration plant was still going ahead. N Robinson said it was progressing and that the project had recently received development approval from Newcastle City Council. Construction was expected to commence around August/September 2023.

## 6. COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

- Issue 2 of the community newsletter for 2023 due to be delivered to homes in the week beginning 29 May 2023.
- Variety the Children's Charity: Orica sponsored the Family Fun Day at Newcastle Foreshore Park to welcome home cars from the Variety Bash event.
- Stockton Jellyblubbers: Orica funded the installation of a new handrail at the Stockton Surf Life Saving Club to improve access to the beach.
- Bobs Farm Public School: Orica funded improvements to an outdoor learning and play space.
- Carrington Public School: Orica funded the fit-out of a new learning area.
- Nova for Women and Children: Orica is funding a program to help women and children escaping domestic violence to get their driver's licence.
- Stockton Surf Life Saving Club: Orica funded the purchase of a new inflatable rescue boat.
- The CRG was advised of the recipients for Round 1 of the 2023 Community Investment Program (details available in the newsletter).

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

L Kilby informed the group there was an old Orica sign at the Samaritans' centre in Wickham. N Masson said the sign related to a previous Orica-funded project and that she would contact Samaritans to have the sign taken down.

L Kilby and K Craig told the CRG they had written to the NSW EPA, the City of Newcastle and Tim Crakanthorp MP to ask that the NCCCE be started up again. J Thacker asked to receive the correspondence. L Kilby suggested that Orica could also write to the EPA; P Hastie said he would consider the request.

L Kilby suggested Orica should be represented at the Port of Newcastle's Liaison Committee (PLC). J Thacker said he would write to the PoN to request that Orica be represented.

L Kilby also stated she would ask PLC members if they are interested in joining Orica's CRG.

K Craig enquired about the status of SafeWork NSW's paper on ammonium nitrate separation distances. P Hastie responded that Orica made a submission and was waiting to hear about next steps from the regulator.

N Robinson responded to the action **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.*

Decisions are usually determined by the project manager in consultation with the freight forwarder dependent on type/size of cargo, services available at the relevant ports, cost, and lead time. Large breakbulk items are best delivered to Port of Newcastle due to their size and reduced road transport. This includes most of the prill tower scrubber equipment. Containerised shipments usually go via Sydney; roll-on roll-off cargo usually goes via Port Kembla.

## 8. MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

**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	Response provided at May 2023 meeting	

**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.