



KOORAGANG ISLAND COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP
MEETING – 28 AUGUST 2023

Present

Paul Hastie (Orica)

Lyn Kilby (GLOW)

Nathan Robinson (Orica)

John Thacker (New West)

Nicole Masson (Orica)

Keith Craig (Stockton Community Group)

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)

Allyson Corrigan (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 May 2023 CRG meeting notes were accepted.

3. SITE STATUS

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

- In June, the ammonia plant was brought offline to repair a valve.
- In July, Minister Chris Bowen (Fed), Minister Jenny Aitchison (NSW), Sharon Claydon MP, Cr Declan Clausen, Orica CEO Sanjeev Gandhi and Origin CEO Frank Calabria attended the site to mark the completion of the tertiary abatement (decarbonisation) project. Minister Bowen also announced a Federal Government investment of \$70 million in the Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub.
- The new tertiary abatement equipment installed on the nitric acid plants is reducing 99.8% of nitrous oxide emissions from NAP 1, 99.7% from NAP 2 and 99.998% from NAP 3. This equates to 48 per cent of the site's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Hunter Valley Hydrogen Hub (HVHH) project is on public exhibition and submissions can be made through Planning NSW's online portal.
- The next step in the proposed HVHH project would be the order/purchase of an electrolyser.
- The KI site acknowledged National Reconciliation Week with Aunty Theresa performing a smoking ceremony and spiritual cleanse.
- In June, the editor and a journalist from the Newcastle Herald visited the site for a briefing on the various projects underway.

K Craig asked how long the catalyst lasted in the tertiary abatement vessels. N Robinson replied there was a two-year guarantee and a 10-year expected life.

J Hayes asked where the electrolyser would come from. P Hastie said a number of options were being considered.

L Kilby noted the \$70 million federal grant for the HVHH was taxpayer funding and there was discussion around public investment in new renewable energy projects.

K Craig asked if there was any other project in Australia similar to Orica's tertiary abatement project at Kooragang Island. P Hastie said it was an Australian first and that Orica was looking to install the same technology at its facility in Gladstone Queensland.

4. OVERVIEW OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

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

First aid injuries

- one burn
- two skin irritation
- one NOx exposure

Environmental non-compliance

- Localised NOx leak

Community complaints

- One complaint re ammonium nitrate particulates from prill tower – unjustified as plant was not operating
- One complaint re noise associated with ammonia plant venting

5. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

P Hastie gave an update on the upcoming ammonia plant turnaround:

- The turnaround will be conducted in two stages – Oct 23 and Feb/Mar 24.
- Stage one will take around 20 days (plus start-up and shutdown) and will include statutory inspections, valve overhauls, heat exchanger cleaning, rotating machine work, and replacement of a vessel and a heat exchanger.
- Stage two will take around 28 days (plus start-up and shutdown) and will include replacement of the top section of a carbon dioxide removal vessel as well as maintenance on the reformer.

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

- Tertiary catalyst abatement - nitric acid plants: Project is complete. NAP1 reducing N₂O emissions by 99.8%, NAP2 by 99.7% and NAP3 by 99.998%.
- Nitrates effluent pond replacement: The new tank has been installed and is operational. The decommissioning of the pond has commenced and should be completed by end September 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 nearly complete; civil construction progressing, a large crane will be installed later in the year to lift equipment into place; construction expected to be completed mid-2024.
- Ansol supply line: A project is underway to install a new pipeline for onsite management of ammonium nitrate solution; development approval obtained; construction to commence October 2023.

J Hayes asked where the new section of the carbon dioxide removal vessel was being fabricated. P Hastie said it was being fabricated at UGL Bennetts Green. J Hayes also asked if the old section of vessel will be recycled to which P Hastie replied that it would.

L Kilby asked how the new section of vessel would be transported to site. P Hastie said it would be transported via truck.

R Banyard asked why there was so much ammonium nitrate being imported by ship – around 100,000 tonnes in the last eight months. P Hastie said Orica had imported some AN when a nitric acid plant was shutdown and will import some additional AN when the prill tower is offline for the scrubber installation. However, he said other companies were likely to be importing AN for their mining operations.

L Kilby asked where the sludge from the decommissioned effluent pond was taken. N Robinson said it was taken off site by a licenced contractor as a liquid waste.

K Craig asked if the new abatement technology on the nitric acid plants would eliminate NOx that is emitted during start-ups. N Robinson replied that unfortunately, NOx would still be emitted during start-ups but there was a limit to these emissions under the environmental protection licence.

L Kilby asked why Orica had the confidence to spend so much money on site projects. P Hastie said Orica has long-term plans for the site, especially with the potential to produce and export low-carbon (green) ammonia.

6. COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

- Issue 3 of the community newsletter for 2023 had been delivered to homes.
- The annual Community Investment Program breakfast was held in July.
- NAIDOC Week: Orica funded the Newcastle community day in July.
- Foundation #1: Orica funded workshops delivered to school children aimed at improving wellbeing and emotional resilience.
- Nova for Women and Children: Orica funded the purchase and installation of defibrillators in Nova refuges.
- St Pius High School: Orica funded First Nations cultural education workshops for students.
- Jashan: Orica helped to fund an arts and cultural event for the local Indian community.
- The CRG was advised that Round 2 of the 2023 Community Investment Program was open during September and that application forms were available on orica.com/kooragang

7. OTHER BUSINESS

J Hayes advised the group:

- Noel Pearson had addressed the local Catholic Dioceses regarding the Voice to Parliament
- there may be an upcoming opportunity for industry to assist Newcastle Art Gallery in acquiring art works
- of an upcoming public forum on climate action in Newcastle.

L Kilby advised the group that GLOW:

- will be holding an International Men's Day event
- had assisted in fundraising for Got Your Back Sista
- had contacted Rail Assets about issues with fires/sheds in the Wickham area.

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.