



Groundwater Treatment Plant

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

This newsletter has been prepared by Orica to share information about our Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project and news of our local support for the community.

BOTANY GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROJECT



Groundwater Treatment Plant

THE BOTANY GROUNDWATER CLEANUP PROJECT IS A LONG-TERM PROJECT TO MANAGE HISTORICAL CONTAMINATION AT THE BOTANY INDUSTRIAL PARK (BIP).

The Groundwater Treatment Plant (GTP) is in its 19th year of operation and effectively prevents groundwater contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons (CHCs) from reaching Botany Bay and other environmental receptors.

In doing so, it ensures there are no unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

Groundwater is pumped from extraction wells, which are aligned in three containment lines, to the GTP. Approximately 6 million litres (ML) a day of groundwater is processed at the GTP to remove and destroy CHCs. Significant periods of wet or dry weather can affect aquifer levels. The extraction rates required for effective hydraulic containment of the

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS REVIEW

Every four years, international experts on groundwater investigation and remediation are invited to review the Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project and to make recommendations to expedite cleanup. The next Strategy Review Workshop is planned for May 2024. A public forum with the experts will follow the Workshop to provide an opportunity for community members to hear about cleanup progress and to ask questions of the experts.

COMMUNITY FORUM WITH INTERNATIONAL GROUNDWATER CLEANUP EXPERTS

4.00 pm-6.00 pm, 24 May

UNSW Kensington Campus, Valentine Annexe Room 121 (K-H22-121)

To register your interest in attending, please call 1800 025 138, email botany.info@orica.com or register online www.orica.com/botany/upcoming

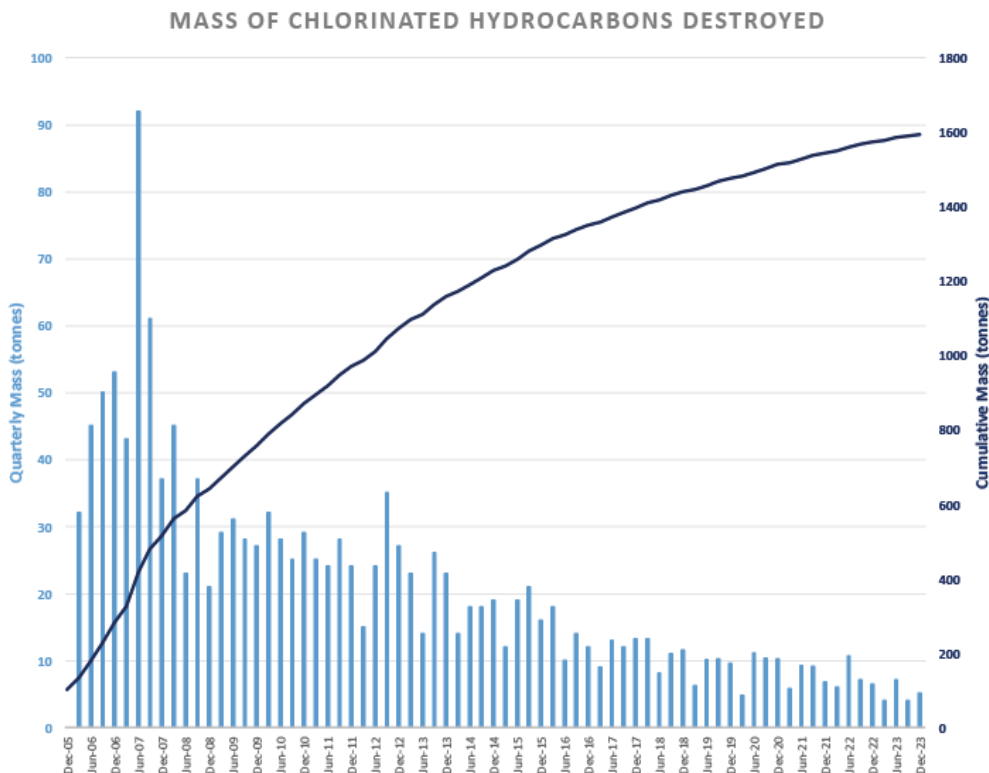
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impacted groundwater are automatically adjusted at the GTP. Approximately three quarters of the groundwater processed is recovered as Treated Water, which can be used for industrial purposes on the BIP and neighbouring businesses. This helps to offset demand on Sydney’s water supply.

Since 2005, approximately 31,852 ML of groundwater has been treated and 1,595 tonnes of CHCs have been destroyed.

AS A RESULT OF GTP OPERATIONS, THE CONCENTRATIONS OF CHCS IN GROUNDWATER HAVE DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

For more information, go to www.orica.com/Botany.



ORICA’S RONNIE HARDING PRIZE RECIPIENTS

Since 2005 Orica has been awarding the Ronnie Harding Prize to the two top performing graduating students from the UNSW Master of Environmental Management Course. The prizes, valued at \$1,000 each, are named in recognition of Dr Harding, who established the Environmental Masters course at UNSW and



Ronnie Harding Prize recipient, Brittany Hannouch

chaired the Botany Groundwater Community Liaison Committee (CLC), a voluntary posting she held from 1996 to her retirement in 2005.

The 2023 Ronnie Harding Prize was awarded to: Brittany Hannouch and Margarita Shirokova.

Brittany says: *“The Master of Environmental Management course has opened my eyes to the value of connection and communication have in solving complex ecocultural issues. By reconnecting with nature in my own life, and sharing this connection with other humans, we bring a sense of responsibility and care for other species that spurs us to act. I have learnt to creatively consider and understand diverse perspectives on environmental issues, which has made me a better communicator, mediator and problem solver.”*

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO INDEPENDENT ADVICE ON REMEDIATION PROJECTS

Orica acknowledges the community's desire and need to have independent expert advice on a range of technical issues associated with the GTP and its operations. Professor Denis O’Carroll is the Independent Monitoring Committee (IMC) Hydrogeologist available to assist community meetings.



Professor Denis O’Carroll IMC Hydrogeologist



MEET MICHAEL NEW GTP PLANT MANAGER



Michael Selleck, Plant Manager

Michael Selleck joined the GTP in January 2006 when the GTP commenced processing groundwater. Over the 8 years that followed, he gained a wealth of knowledge and experience. In 2014 he departed Orica to work in roles at Terminals in Port Botany and Sydney Water at North Head. Michael rejoined the Orica team in April 2023. Michael's appointment as plant manager came at the time when GTP operations, that were managed by Ixom under a Service Agreement from 2015 up to 6 April 2023, were transferred back to Orica.

Michael is excited by the progress made by the Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project and the opportunities to expedite the cleanup and has high hopes for the future, saying: "Resuming management of operations of the groundwater treatment plant is an important part of Orica's strategy of reducing our environmental impact and engaging positively with the local community. I'm inspired to work with the team on improving our environmental stewardship, while optimising operations for local businesses through water recycling at the same time."

Michael lives in the Bayside LGA and enjoys spending time with his wife and two primary school aged children. In his leisure time he enjoys freediving in the coastal areas of Gordons Bay, La Perouse and Little Bay.



Windgap participants enjoying yoga and AFL sessions

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Windgap Foundation was the successful recipient from Orica's 2023 Botany Community Investment program, receiving \$9,000 towards their Wellness and Fitness Program. The Program is tailored to participants of Windgap living

with intellectual disabilities, providing them with a range of activities to learn about the mind body connection and to enhance their physical health and mental well-being.

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are now open for the Orica Botany community investment program for 2024. An application form is available on our [website](#). Applications close on 27 May 2024.

FORMER CHLORALKALI REMEDIATION PROJECT

Between 2013 and 2017, Orica safely remediated mercury-contaminated soil at the site of the Former ChlorAlkali Plant (FCAP) at the Botany Industrial Park. The areas which have been remediated are shown as Blocks A, M and G in the photographs below. This was carried out in compliance with an EPA Management Order.

Ongoing maintenance and monitoring are conducted under the Long-term Site Environment Management Plan.

The biannual hydraulic monitoring reports, which are issued to the NSW EPA, conclude that the effectiveness of the containment system in Block G continues to be demonstrated.



Former ChlorAlkali remediation area at the BIP in 2011



On-site containment cell and new salt mound at the BIP in 2022

EXPORT AND DESTRUCTION OF WASTE PROGRESSING

HCB (hexachlorobenzene) waste, a legacy from our past manufacturing, continues to be safely destroyed at treatment plants in Europe with the approval of the Australian and receiving countries' governments. Work is underway to organise the next shipment.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BAN ON DOMESTIC BORE WATER USE?

Since 2003, the NSW Government has had a ban on domestic bore water use within Area 1 of the Temporary Water Restrictions Order (2018) for the Botany Sands Groundwater Source. Area 1 was previously referred to as the Groundwater Extraction Exclusion Area (GEEA). For more information about this zone and other groundwater restriction zones in Sydney please contact **WaterNSW on 1300 662 077 or email Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au**.

WHO IS ORICA?

In 2024 we are proudly celebrating 150 years of operations.

Founded in June 1874 as a supplier of explosives to the Victorian gold fields in Australia, Orica has grown to be one of the world's leading mining and infrastructure solution providers, with more than 12,500 employees operating in over 100 countries around the globe.

From the production and supply of explosives, blasting systems, mining chemicals and geotechnical monitoring to our cutting-edge digital solutions and comprehensive range of services, we sustainably mobilise the earth's resources.

ORICA NO LONGER HAS ANY CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AT BOTANY

For more than 80 years, Orica and our predecessor, ICI, had manufacturing operations at Botany. During former operations, environmental standards and regulations were not the same as today's and contamination of soil and groundwater occurred. At Orica, we are committed to safely cleaning up legacy contamination in consultation with government and the community. Along the way we will continue to sell land that has been remediated and is surplus to our needs.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET INVOLVED?

The Orica Botany Liaison Committee (OBLC) meeting is an open meeting to discuss our legacy projects with us, government representatives and other interested community members. You may be interested in attending a meeting and considering applying to be a committee member. Visit our website or call the hotline for an application form.

2024 OBLC MEETING DATES

19 March, 16 July and 19 November

Sign up to receive e-newsletters

This newsletter has been distributed by Orica to our email database subscribers and to residents in close proximity to our site and within Area 1 of the Temporary Water Restrictions Order for the Botany Sands Groundwater Source. Should you also wish to receive this newsletter electronically, please email us at botany.info@orica.com

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

19 MARCH 2024
5.30 - 7.30 PM

Register your interest

Ph: 1800 025 138

Email: botany.info@orica.com

Online:

www.orica.com/botany/upcoming

INTERPRETATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

If you know of someone who would like information about our remediation projects at Botany in a language other than English, please phone 131 450 to arrange for an interpretation. Please advise the interpreter to contact the Community Relations Team on 1800 025 138 or 02 9381 8115.

CONTACT US

Call Botany Industrial Park
Community Feedback,
Complaints and Enquiries Line
1800 025 138

Write to botany.info@orica.com,
or Community Matters,
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Matraville, 2036