Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project

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 14th year of operation to prevent the movement of groundwater contaminated with chlorinated hydrocarbons (CHCs) towards Botany Bay and ensure 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. Up to 6 mega litres (ML; million litres) a day of groundwater is processed at the GTP to remove and destroy contaminants. The recent exceptionally dry weather is affecting the amount of groundwater in the aquifer and has required the extraction rates to be reduced. After treatment approximately three quarters of the water is reused for industrial purposes on the BIP and by neighbouring businesses, offsetting demand on Sydney’s water supply. Since 2005, 24,990 ML of groundwater have been treated. 1,477 tonnes of CHCs have been destroyed. Extracted groundwater concentrations have dropped from 160 mg/L to 17 mg/L. For more information, go to www.orica.com/Botany.

International Experts Review

Every three years international experts have been invited to review the Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project and provide feedback on any additional solutions that could be applied to the cleanup. The next Strategy Review Workshop will be held in March 2020 and a public forum with the experts will follow to provide an opportunity for community members to hear about progress and ask questions of the experts.

Community Forum with International Groundwater Cleanup Experts

5.30pm – 7.30pm | Wed 4th March
Civil Engineering Building, Level 5, Room 501, UNSW Kensington Campus.

Export and Destruction of Waste Progressing

HCB (hexachlorobenzene) waste, a legacy from our past manufacturing, continues to be safely destroyed at treatment plants in Finland and Sweden with the approval of the Australian and receiving country governments. Work is underway to organise the next shipment.
WE ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTING BAYSIDE COUNCIL BY FUNDING $230,000 OVER THREE YEARS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT AND UPGRADE OF GRACE CAMPBELL RESERVE AND ADJOINING LAND.

Bayside Council plans to conduct works in 2020 to enhance and upgrade Grace Campbell Reserve and adjoining land with new play equipment, seating, improved disability access, landscaping and shade sails.

PAST LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

These great projects have recently benefited from our support

> The Shepherd Centre – supporting and educating parents of children recently diagnosed with hearing loss $4,500
> John Brotchie Pre-School – a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) program $4,500
> Windgap Foundation for a two-day workshop for Mental Health First Aid Training for their support workers $4,400
> Pagewood Primary School for STEM resources and training $4,600

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are now open for the first round of the Orica Botany community investment program for 2020. An application form is available on our website. Applications close on the 3rd April 2020.
WHO WE ARE

We are the world’s largest provider of commercial explosives and innovative blasting systems to the mining, quarrying, oil and gas, and construction markets, a leading supplier of sodium cyanide for gold extraction, and a specialist provider of ground support services in mining and tunnelling. In the past we also manufactured a wide range of plastics and industrial chemicals, some of which are still manufactured by others at Botany Industrial Park (BIP).

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 in a number of different areas in response to groundwater contamination that has occurred from a range of past manufacturing activities. Orica continues to treat groundwater in the Groundwater Treatment Plant to ensure there are no unacceptable health risks to the community.

For more information about the groundwater restriction zones in Sydney please contact the Water NSW Office on 1800 353 104.

ORICA NO LONGER HAS ANY CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AT BOTANY

For more than 75 years Orica and our predecessor, ICI, had manufacturing operations at BIP. During former operations environmental standards and regulations were not of today’s standards and contamination of soil and groundwater occurred. We no longer have any chemical manufacturing activities at the BIP and have sold lands that have been remediated. At Botany we are committed to safely cleaning up legacy contamination in consultation with government and the community.

AT BOTANY WE ARE COMMITTED TO SAFELY CLEANING UP LEGACY CONTAMINATION IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY
LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET INVOLVED?

The Orica Botany Liaison Committee Meeting (OBLC) 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.

APPLY TO BE A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN 2020

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

Our next community meeting will be held on **10 March 2020 at Orica Administration Building, Corner of Beauchamp Road and Denison Street Matraville from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.**

Meetings are open to the public. Come along to hear an update on the progress of our remediation projects, including the export of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) waste for safe and permanent destruction, the clean-up of groundwater contamination.

SITE TOURS

We are happy to organise site tours for interested residents and community groups. Call 1800 025 138 to register your interest.

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

Orica’s Community Feedback, Enquiries and Complaints Line
1800 025 138
www.orica.com/Botany
Write to botany.info@orica.com, or Community Matters, 16-20 Beauchamp Road, Matraville, 2036
Should you also wish to receive this newsletter electronically please email us at botany.info@orica.com

This newsletter has been distributed by Orica to residents in close proximity of our site and within the Groundwater Extraction Exclusion Area.