

# Minutes

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**Meeting title**                      **Botany Mill Community Liaison Group**

<b>Purpose</b>	To liaise with community members
<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2019, 6:25pm – 7:35pm
<b>Place</b>	B9
<b>Attendees</b>	Lynda Newnam (LN), Peter Fagan (PF), Charles Abela (CA), Gerry O’Connell (GO), John Viselli (JV), Karen Jones (KJ), Craig Nicol (CN)
<b>Note-taker</b>	Karen Jones

#	Meeting Item	Notes/Action	Leader
1	<i>Welcome and Apologies</i>	Apologies: Mark Hanemann (NSW EPA)	Karen Jones

2	<i>Review Action List</i>	Karen Jones to organise for an article to be published in the Southern Courier about the Energy Awards – Orora corporate communications team are drafting an article.	Karen Jones
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Community Members to suggest any local areas that may benefit from an Orora team organising a Clean Up Australia Day event at the site. – Purcell Park was chosen as the Orora Clean up Australia Day site.

3	<i>Mill Projects Update</i>	<b><u>Secondary water Treatment plant (SWTP)</u></b>	Karen Jones
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- The SWTP was temporarily shut down in mid-December due to pressure variations causing short periodic releases of biogas from the SWTP. Since the plant was re-started it has been running at significantly reduced feed flows. This has also resulted in low biogas production which has meant the cogeneration engine has also not run since that time. A cross-functional team from Botany Mill, along with a number of external companies are currently working on bringing the SWTP back to full throughput over the coming months. The SWTP is a biological process, and therefore the stabilisation time and commissioning process has a much longer timeframe than a mechanical process.
- Orora continues to work towards a circular economy. Earlier this month the first load of aerobic biomass was delivered to farm land as part of the new waste exemption Botany Mill received from the EPA to enable this material to be applied directly to land as a soil amendment material.

The secondary water treatment plant generates around 8000 Tonnes of aerobic biomass sludge each year. It is full of organic matter and nutrients that are beneficial for agricultural land to improve soil conditions and replace the need for fertilisers.



*Aerobic biomass (dark material in above photo) being delivered to farm land in the NSW Southern Highlands*

- PF asked how the material was land applied. KJ replied that it is ploughed into paddocks so that it is well mixed with the soil. It can also be used in composting.
- CA asked whether it is used for the growing of food crops. KJ responded that the biomass is not used for growing food for human consumption, but is for pasture. There is also a requirement for a 90 day livestock withholding period after the material is land applied.

#### **B7 Reel Store demolition**

- Demolition began in the second week of January. A community notification was sent out at the end of December.
- Half of the B7 reel store has been demolished and the noise wall extension is complete.
- The remaining section of the reel store will be demolished in July-August 2019.
- Work continues on the B7 concrete slab area in preparation for maintenance warehousing.
- There have been no complaints received for this work to date.
- KJ asked if anyone in the group had any issues with the demolition work. JV noted that there is a lot of noise currently coming from the excavation and earth-moving work on the old Hangar block, so there is no noise noticeable from the mill.

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#### **4** *Overview of main site issues*

##### **Site Performance**

- Continual improvement program being implemented across production and maintenance areas.
- The mill is still on track to produce a record number of recycled paper tonnes this financial year.
- Price and quality of wastepaper (feedstock to the mill) has been greatly effected on a global scale by the China National Sword policy and the China-USA trade negotiations. The China National Sword policy was brought in by the Chinese government in January 2018, when they began to stringently enforce restrictions on the importation of recycled materials, including waste paper/cardboard. This policy has impacted the global market for recyclable material, causing major swings and instability in pricing.

Craig Nicol

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Category	Number
Odour	12
Noise	2
Litter	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

Over two days in December the secondary water treatment plant suffered from biogas control issues which resulted in periodic short releases of biogas from the safety relief valves. Biogas contains a small amount of hydrogen sulfide, (rotten egg gas), which is very odourous. The majority of odour complaints occurred over these two days before the water treatment plant was shut down.

One noise complaint was received for a starch delivery at 7:30am on the Australia Day public holiday. The starch delivery company was reminded that on public holidays there should be no starch deliveries before 8am.

The second noise complaint came via the EPA for a fan-like noise at night for about a week during the annual shut (four days, February 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>). As the noise complaint was anonymous, it was difficult to get more detailed information, however this may have been due to cleaning work that was done with vacuum trucks during the maintenance shutdown.

KJ asked if the committee had any further issues they would like to raise with regards to complaints. GO said he didn't have any problems in his street, and the local residents he speaks with also don't have any complaints.

LN and CA both had noticed odour when driving past the mill in December when there were issues with the biogas releases, but nothing else.

6 *General Business*

**Sponsorships**

Bondi Lions Club, attendance for 10 local special needs children and their carers to attend the World Festival of Magic show and funding for medical equipment for local children.

**Other Business**

• **Woody Pears in Purcell Park**

LN contacted Randwick council regarding the protection of the Woody Pears in Purcell Park. Randwick council have put mulch around the base of all the trees in Purcell Park, including the Woody Pears, so that they are not damaged by the use of whipper snippers. In the cooler months they will look at planting suitable understory plants to provide some added protection.

Next steps are to put up interpretive signage in the park for Eastern Suburbs Banksia scrub, which includes the Woody Pears. LN has contact with an expert in this field who can provide direction as to what information would be appropriate for these signs.

Orora also has Randwick Council approval to update the Purcell Park signage with the Orora logo. KJ is having some difficulty finding a contact in Ausgrid willing to approve a change in their logo as well.



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- **Clean up Australia Day – Purcell Park, February 26<sup>th</sup> 2019**

For the third year in a row, Paper and Recycling staff at Botany Mill participated in Business Clean up Australia Day. 29 team members donned their gloves and helped clean up Purcell Park which is a community park owned by Botany Mill and used by the local residents.

In addition to the 25 bags of litter collected, one couch, three chairs and a Makita mitre saw stand were cleaned up.



- **International Women’s day – March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Botany Mill celebrated International Women’s day on Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> with a morning tea and asked team members to wear purple in support of the day. The event was not only celebrated at Botany Mill, but globally throughout Orora. The Paper and Recycling Group General Manager, Chris Rosser, and General Manager for Supply Chain, Sharyn Martin, shared what this year’s theme of “Balance for Better” meant to them and the business. Diversity continues to be a key area of focus for the Orora business.



7 *Conclusion*

Next meeting –

June/July 2019

ACTIONS	COMMENTS
Conduct a mill tour for the group members at the conclusion of the next meeting - Orora.	