

# 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>	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2019, 6:20pm – 9:15pm
<b>Place</b>	B9
<b>Attendees</b>	Lynda Newnam (LN), Peter Fagan (PF), Gerry O’Connell (GO), John Viselli (JV), Sandi Chick (SC), Karen Jones (KJ), Jacob Chretien (JC), Natalie Heather (NH)
<b>Note-taker</b>	Karen Jones

#	Meeting Item	Notes/Action	Leader
1	<i>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</i>	Welcome and Introductions: Sandi Chick (representing Michael Daley, MP), Natalie Heather (SUEZ) Apologies: Charles Abela, Craig Nicol	Karen Jones
2	<i>Review Action List</i>	Orora to organise for a mill tour for the group members at the conclusion of the next meeting.	Karen Jones
3	<i>Investigating Energy at the Mill</i>	Information on SUEZ’s proposal to build and operate a Cogeneration Plant at Botany Mill was presented to the Group. The following notes were taken of the discussion throughout the presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PF asked whether the plant would provide all of Orora’s steam. JC and NH answered that it would provide 80-90% of the steam, due to the variable nature of the paper machine, and constant steam production of the Cogeneration plant.</li> <li>SC asked if plastic will be burned for fuel, and if so what percentage will be plastic. JC answered that plastic will be used as a fuel, but it isn’t clear at this stage exactly how much plastic will be part of the Process Engineered Fuel (PEF) from SUEZ. Any PEF would be processed to remove any hazardous materials prior to being used. NH added that the PEF facility will remove as much recyclable plastic (eg PET and HDPE etc) that it can for recycling.</li> <li>NH stated that they have a similar fuel-making facility in South Australia that produces PEF for Adelaide Brighton Cement. LN asked whether the cement facility was regulated by the SA EPA. NH answered that it is licenced with the SA EPA.</li> <li>PF asked how much of the Cogeneration plant will be mill residuals, and how much will be PEF. JC answered that the feed will be approximately 20% mill residuals and 80% PEF.</li> <li>LN asked how the PEF would arrive on site. JC and NH stated that it would arrive in 20-25, 40-foot hermetically sealed containers per day via truck. LN asked for clarification on whether that would be 25 trucks, or 25 truck movements. NH answered that 25 trucks would be 50 truck movements.</li> <li>LN stated that the Ports may not be happy due to the increased truck movements in the area. JC stated that a critical component of the project investigation phase</li> </ul>	Jacob Chretien

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will be a traffic study that will look at routes and how any potential impacts might be managed and minimised.

- SC asked how tall will the stack be. JC stated that currently the stack is at 60 metres, however the design requires more work and this will be done in consultation with the community.
- JC stated that the plant emissions will be designed to meet European Guidelines. SC asked whether the European Guidelines are stricter than the Australia Guidelines. JC and NH answered that yes, the European Guidelines are currently much stricter than the Australian Guidelines.
- LN asked if the NSW EPA have been consulted, and were they happy with the proposal? JC and NH answered that the NSW EPA have been consulted. The NSW EPA are looking for a sensible, positive project that meets their requirements and expectations, and this proposal looks to do that.
- PF stated that people are shocked to see that waste is being exported overseas and that Australia needs to look at how we can process our own waste.
- NH commented that SUEZ operates 55 facilities around the world, and this proposal is by far the smallest.
- JC stated that the flue gas treatment in the Cogeneration plant will take up two-thirds of the facility footprint. There will be 24-hour flue gas monitoring and monitoring data available on-line for viewing by the general public. NH added that anyone can look online at SUEZ facilities around the world and see their monitoring data.
- SC stated that in addition to Energy from Waste (EfW), Europe and Japan use nuclear power, so they have a different cultural mindset to Australians. NH answered that the UK has no nuclear power, but have many EfW facilities. JC noted that the Suffolk plant in the UK, which was commissioned by the Suffolk Council to replace landfill, was a good example to show the local community, although the fuel was different to what is proposed.

**POST MEETING CORRECTION:**

There are a number of aging nuclear plants in the UK, however the comparison to the United Kingdom for similar community attitudes regarding energy alternatives such as that proposed still stands.

- NH stated that SUEZ want the community to be involved in the design and visual impact of the facility. LN added that there are so many facilities in the area that are poorly designed with no thought to the environmental impact, including visual, vegetation and habitat impact. All agreed that it was a positive move to have a visually pleasing facility in the area.
  - PF stated that people might be upset with this proposal after they got rid of an incinerator in Alexandria/Zetland 20 years ago and they were really happy it was removed. They will not want another one. The challenge will be for SUEZ to explain how and why this is different. What are the benefits of this facility for the local area and residents? LN added that the proposal will need to determine how it can elevate the area.
  - GO stated that the project seems like a no-brainer, and that it is something that probably should have been done years ago.
  - JV stated that traffic is likely to be an issue with the local community.
  - SC stated that the benefit of the project needs to be proven to outweigh the increase in 25 trucks per day. Orora/SUEZ should think of how they can do something to improve the local community – is this being considered?
  - PF asked whether visible smoke will come of the stack. NH answered that in most circumstances, there will not be anything visible coming out of the stack. Occasionally, during certain weather patterns such as inversion layers, there may be water vapour visible.
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- PF asked if the stack emissions will be odourous. JC answered that no, the temperatures of the plant will be too high for odourous compounds to be generated.
  - PF asked if the residuals of the plant will be noxious. NH answered that the majority of the residuals will be bottom ash. This ash is proposed to be further processed and recycled for use in road construction (as commonly occurs in Europe). There will also be a much smaller amount of flue gas treatment residues. This waste is yet to be classified, but will be landfilled either as general solid waste or restricted waste.
  - GO asked how many facilities like this are operated worldwide (not just SUEZ). JC answered that there are hundreds in operation.
  - JV suggested that the proposal should promote its link to Orora Botany Mill, as the new mill has proven itself to match expectations. GO added that for the average Joe, the stink has gone, and so has the noise.
  - LN stated that Orora is a good news story, and that Botany Mill should have an Open Day to show the good work it is doing.
  - LN asked if there was any opportunity for expansion or a different feed source for the Cogeneration plant. JC answered that there were no plans to make it bigger – there is no need for more steam for the paper mill. JC stated that in terms of feed source, it would have to meet the emission guidelines if it were to be altered in the future. LN and PF stated that it was important that this proposal is not so that Orora can generate a new line of business, but is a need for mill operations and fit for purpose. It should not be turning the site into a waste facility or have plans to greatly expand its intake of waste.
  - GO asked whether anyone else in Australia operates this type of facility. NH answered that there are facilities being built in Kwinana and East Rockingham in Western Australia, however they will be using red bin waste, not engineered fuel like this Botany proposal.
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#### 4 *Mill Projects Update*

##### **Secondary water Treatment plant (SWTP)**

Karen Jones

- The SWTP continues to run at low throughput due to the biological processes involved.
- The team are currently working on bringing the SWTP back to full throughput over the coming months.

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

- The remainder of the B7 reel store will be demolished in September 2019.
  - The footprint of the former B7 paper machine building is being redeveloped with extra hardstand construction for paper storage, and the addition of a Maintenance warehouse.
  - Maintenance warehouse construction will be completed in September 2019.
  - Hardstand construction will be completed in December 2019.
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#### 5 *Overview of main site issues*

##### **Site Performance**

Karen Jones

The mill produced a record number of recycled paper tonnes last financial year 2018/19.

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Category	Number
Odour	2
Noise	0
Litter	0
Other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

Two odour complaints were received – one in May direct to the mill, and another in July via the EPA. Neither could be directly attributable to the mill, and during one event there was a very strong resin/fiberglass type odour in the area at the time.

One complaint was received during August via the Matraville Precinct committee for visual amenity - steam being lit up at night. This is not deliberate on behalf of Orora, and it is unclear as to whether it is constant or just during certain events.

Source separation bins were introduced to the kitchen areas of Botany Mill, with a separate bin for drink containers. Orora will be providing these drink containers to the Little Bay Cubs/Scouts for refunds through the Container Deposit Scheme.



**Sponsorship**

Sponsorship for 10 local special needs children to attend the Rotary Club “Circus Quirkus”, with funds also going towards a Neonatal Ventilator at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Randwick.

**Other Business**

GO and JV: The developers of the old Hangar Block have finished earth works and moved machinery off site.

LN has secured a grant through Sydney Water to hold a “Beat the Bottle” clean up event at Frenchman’s Reserve. LN will pass on details of the event to KJ if Orora would like to join in.

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**8** *Mill Tour*                      Community liaison group members were taken on a tour of the paper mill.                      Jacob  
Chretien

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**9** *Conclusion*                      Next meeting –                      November 2019 (or earlier TBA)

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