

**Minutes from Community Forum #31, 27 September 2006, Bob Druitt Training Centre**

**Forum attendees:** Bevan Newitt, Frank Bowen, Sam Ricciu, Errol Page, Kelvin Banks, Annemieke Grosser, Mike O'Neill, Johann van Zyl, Peter Forster, Mellissa Case, Ross Greenhalgh, Linda Evans

**Apologies:** John Feddersen, Lew Fellows, Grant Firth, Melissa Russell

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introduction – Ross Greenhalgh
- Standing items:
  - Complaints database – Annemieke Grosser
  - Update on tree planting – Annemieke Grosser
  - Environmental Projects update – Mike O'Neill
  - Community activities – Melissa Case
- Discussion items – Bevan Newitt
- Odour program – Peter Forster
- Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh

**Minutes and actions resulting from meeting**

Minutes / Action	By Whom	By When
<b>Welcome and introduction:</b>		
Feedback information from the Forum meeting will be published in the Port Curtis Post, The Observer and on the QAL website.	Mellissa Case (ongoing)	11 October
<b>Standing items:</b>		
<i>Complaints database – Annemieke Grosser</i>		
Presentation on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. Reported year to date is better than previous years with dust complaints significantly reduced following environmental improvements including the recent demolition of rotary and lime kilns. The highest proportion of complaints continues to be odour.		
De-stratification units have been operational at the Red Mud Dam since March. Units have been very successful in mixing the thermal layers of the dam and no odour events from the dam were recorded this winter. A presentation will be given at the next meeting	M Russell	November meeting
<i>Update on tree planting – Annemieke Grosser</i>		
Tree Planting committee's goal of 2100 trees for 2006 was achieved with 720 trees planted on 20 September. This was the final tree planting for 2006, with more planned in 2007.		
<i>Environmental Projects Update – Mike O'Neill</i>		
Six out of seven boilers have been fitted with baghouses.		

Fitting of Boiler 1 is due for completion in February 2007.

Three year EMP with EPA is now complete.

Modifications and trials have been conducted on the Alumina loaders in readiness for the installation of the cascading chutes next month.

Environmental monitoring system is now on line, providing current readings from various environmental monitoring stations.

Work has started on the Red Mud Dam with earthworks for Processing Facility and Access Road. Commissioning is scheduled for November 2007.

Package Boiler has arrived on site and will be commissioned in January 2007.

Alkali reduction trial on PFT tanks complete by end of October  
Fill tanks should be tied in by year end

*Community activities – Mellissa Case*  
Update on community activities presented.

CQU/QAL Scholarship of \$5000 awarded to Alexander Bletchly. Runner up awards of \$700 also presented to Andrew Williams and Joshua Worley.

Apprentice information night was held with 250 people in attendance. 170 applications for received for the 17 apprenticeships offered in 2007.

First year apprentices provided QAL career information at the Gladstone Careers and Training Expo.

QAL was awarded Peter Doherty Award for contribution to Science and Science education for their partnership with local schools and teachers.

Johann Van Zyl awarded Regional Professional Manager of the Year at the AIM Management Excellence Awards and will represent QAL and the region at the State finals in November.

150 retirees attended the annual luncheon which included a tour of Boyne Smelters

QAL employees raised \$16,313 and participated in the Relay for Life challenge.

**Discussion items:**

*Red Mud Dam*

Discussion was held about the potential for re use of red mud by products and how a wet season may affect the stability and holding capacity of Red Mud Dam. The discussion included an explanation of the change in

operating design from downstream to upstream containment structure. Forum members were advised that various studies are underway regarding the reuse of the product, and Red mud will be used in upstream wall raising in the future. The design is conservative and was developed in consultation with Engineers and the EPA and can withstand a 1 in 10,000 year seismic event.

#### *Odour*

Forum members mentioned the issue of recent odour from the plant. Complaints were lodged and dealt with satisfactorily. Peter Forster provided an update of QAL's odour reduction strategy later in the forum (*see Odour program – Peter Forster*)

#### **Odour Program – Peter Forster**

Peter Forster gave a presentation on the results of a recent study on odour, which included a measurement of hedonic tone of various point sources. Modelling has been completed to determine the impact of those point sources on receptors in the community. A plan of the engineering study to look at the feasibility of removing odour from those point sources was presented.

#### **Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh**

Nil

*Next meeting scheduled for 29 November 2006. A plant tour will be organised commencing at 5:45pm to be followed by a BBQ before the meeting starts at 7pm.*

Meeting closed: 8.10pm

#### Attachments:

- Draft of advertisement (for comment)
- Meeting agenda
- Complaints database – Annemieke Grosser
- Update on tree planting – Annemieke Grosser
- Environmental Projects update – Mike O'Neill
- Community activities – Mellissa Case
- Odour program – Peter Forster
- Community Forum Reference Sheet