

Minutes from Community Forum #41
7.00pm, 22 July 2009
Bob Druitt Training Centre



Forum Attendees:

Phil Campbell, Ross Greenhalgh, Mike O'Neill, Colin McDonald, Mellissa Case, Lewis Fellowes, Sam Ricciu, Brian Ross, Errol Page, Col Chapman, Brian Whelan, Ron Heymer, Bruce Hunt, Kevin Dyer.

Apologies:

John Feddersen, Frank Bowen, Frank Barker, Paul Tooker, Kelvin Banks, Neil Lymberry, Allan Shaw, Dulcie Benn

Note: Bevan Newitt no longer resides in Gladstone and has resigned from the committee.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introduction – Ross Greenhalgh
- Standing items:
 - Complaints database – Ross Greenhalgh
 - Environmental Projects update – Colin McDonald
 - Community activities – Mellissa Case
- Discussion items – Lew Fellowes
- 7 Digester NRV Incident – Ross Greenhalgh
- Thermal Oxidiser – Colin McDonald
- Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh
- Meeting closes at 9pm

Minutes / Action	By Whom	By When
Feedback information from the Forum meeting will be provided to QAL Community Forum Members and published in the Gladstone Observer, Port Curtis Post and on the QAL website.	Mellissa Case	10 August
Complaints Database - Ross Greenhalgh		
<p>Presentation on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. 90 complaints have been received with a large percentage relating to the incident in January. Majority of complaints relate to odour and alkali.</p> <p>The increase in odour complaints since the installation of the thermal oxidiser is believed to be related when the equipment is offline for maintenance and unscheduled outages.</p> <p>QAL has reviewed procedures for the loading of alumina in alignment with industry best practice. Loading is now stopped when wind speed reaches 22 knots or when load out rate is less than 800 tph. A screen was trialled to reduce wind load however it proved to be unsuccessful and further trials are continuing. Pockets of fines in the A frame sheds are gradually being moved through.</p>		

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Revegetation program:

700 trees were planted in June. The next tree plantings will be held in August and October which will complete 2100 trees planned for 2009.

Environmental Projects Update – Colin McDonald

A summary of progress on major projects was provided.

Dust reduction:

Work on the train wagon cleaning station is continuing. QAL is continuing negotiations with Queensland Rail and Gladstone Ports Corporation to determine if spraying the empty wagons with a dust suppressant polymer is acceptable.

A consultant has been engaged to devise improvements to the Gas Suspension Calciner's dust handling system. A trial of a seal pot system will be carried out during unit 3 shut down. If successful will be rolled out to other units.

Alkali Reduction:

Work is continuing on the Holding Tank vents. The flap valve installed on holding tank nine requires modifications to the design and it is expected to be installed by next meeting.

Work is also continuing on the Precipitation pump off pumping system to reduce emissions.

Community Activities – Mellissa Case

Queensland Training Awards:

Acting Pump Crew Supervisor Michael Pope was awarded Central Queensland Trainee of the Year. QAL was also awarded Central Queensland Large Employer of the Year. The State Awards will be held in Brisbane Friday 11 September

Gladstone Tutorial Centre:

QAL employees have been mentoring children at the Gladstone Tutorial Centre over the last semester and the graduation for students was held on 12 June.

Retirees Luncheon:

Annual QAL Retirees luncheon was held on 16 July with over 180 people in attendance. Some travelled from Brisbane to attend. Luncheon has been held for over 17 years and once again a great success.

Boyne Tannum Hookup:

QAL again a major sponsor of Boyne Tannum Hook Up with the prize of a junior boat. QAL employees the driving force behind the committee and the event was once again a great success.

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Strategic Planning:

QAL is currently developing a 10 year Strategic Community Relations Plan which will set the standard for Community Relations into the future, based on research and consultation. Integral part of the plan is to involve employees and Community Forum members in the process. A workshop will be scheduled before the next Forum meeting for interested members.

Ecofest:

Ecofest was again a great success with over 7 000 people in attendance. QAL provided free trees and a variety of hands on activities. The Betty Bauxite and Al Alumina quiz show was again popular.

HSEC Report:

2008 Health Safety, Environment and Communities Report has now been released in both soft and hard copy.

Discussion items – Lew Fellowes

Health Risk Assessment Report:

The PAE Health Risk Assessment Report has been presented to employees at Team Days and communications sessions. The response has been good to date and questions have been positive. The report is available on QAL and GILG websites.

Fire Management:

QAL will be conducting controlled burns for the month of July at South Trees Island and other areas around the plant.

Visible emissions:

Visible dust from the Calciners last weekend could have been due to the failure of two units which may have emitted dust when being cleared. The first Response Team was also burning off around the Calciners at the time discussed.

7 Digester NRV Incident – Ross Greenhalgh

7 Digester Non Return Valve Incident::

On 25 May a small slurry emission was noticed from a bauxite slurry non return valve on Digester 7. Immediate action was taken to shut the unit down. The emission was quelled using a fire hose from the site fire engine.

The Crisis management team was assembled and notification process was commenced. Community feedback has been recorded and no confirmed complaints were received.

DERM was also notified and QAL was issued with and Environmental Protection Order which required the submission of

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<p>an engineering report on the asset integrity of the unit before the unit could be restarted.</p> <p>Report was submitted and accepted and unit was restarted on 29 May. QAL is also conducting an engineering assessment of the integrity of Digestion units 1 and 2. Unit 1 was shut down to carry out additional maintenance as a precautionary measure.</p> <p>Detailed engineering investigation and air dispersion modelling is currently underway and is expected to be completed by 29 July. A further integrity review of the three digestion units and previous risk assessment studies has also been commissioned.</p> <p>The valve was scheduled for replacement in three months time and had been NDT tested by manufacturer. All valves are also quality inspected at QAL before installation.</p>		
<p>Thermal Oxidiser – Colin McDonald:</p>		
<p>The thermal oxidiser is currently off line for an upgrade with two projects in progress to enhance odour destruction and reliability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in Quench air which will decrease trips associated with high chamber temperature > 900°C. This will be commissioned in the next couple of days ▪ Air-cooled condenser temperature regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Install Variable speed drive on fans – Reduce odour carryover into condensate stream – Increase volume of Odour compounds reporting to the Thermal Oxidiser for destruction – Completion due November 2009 <p>Forum members suggested that QAL advertises and informs members when the Thermal Oxidiser is off for maintenance.</p>	<p>Mellissa Case</p>	<p>Subsequent outages</p>
<p>Meeting schedules:</p>		
<p>The next community forum is scheduled for September and will be confirmed closer to the date.</p>		

Meeting closed: 8.10pm

Attachments:

- Draft of advertisement (for comment)
- Complaints Database
- Environmental Projects Update
- Community Activities.