

Minutes from Community Forum #42
7.00pm, 14 October 2009
Bob Druitt Training Centre



Forum Attendees:

Phil Campbell, Ross Greenhalgh, Mike O'Neill, Colin McDonald, Mellissa Case, Dianna Bozzetto Sam Ricciu, Brian Ross, Errol Page, Kevin Dyer, Bruce Hunt, Col Chapman

Apologies:

John Feddersen, Frank Bowen, Frank Barker, Paul Tooker, Kelvin Banks, Neil Lymberry, Allan Shaw, Dulcie Benn, Lewis Fellowes, Brian Whelan, Ron Heymer,

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introduction – Ross Greenhalgh
- Standing items:
 - Complaints database – Ross Greenhalgh
 - Environmental Projects update – Colin McDonald
 - Community activities – Mellissa Case
- Discussion items – Sam Ricciu
- Greenhouse presentation – Ross Greenhalgh
- 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	31.10.2009
Complaints Database - Ross Greenhalgh		
<p>Presentation on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. 95 complaints have been received with a large percentage relating to the incidents in January and May. Majority of complaints continue to relate to odour.</p> <p>Graph in odour complaints show that odour levels experienced in the community are consistent with the seasons with more complaints received in summer and less in winter. This can be attributed to the typical meteorological conditions during that period.</p> <p>In response to a recent dust complaint from forum members, details of a ship loading alumina were provided. At the time of the complaint wind speed and flow rate were within QAL's guidelines for loadout (see forum 41 minutes), and there were no issues with loading experienced. A preliminary investigation suggests the dust release was from the alumina loader while the chute was changing hatches.</p> <p>Tree planting: 1400 trees have been planted to date and Kareeba Scouts will be</p>		

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<p>earning their environmental badge planting the remaining 700 trees for 2009 this month.</p>		
<p>Environmental Projects Update – Colin McDonald</p>		
<p>A summary of progress on major projects was provided.</p> <p>DERM have agreed to a dust suppressant polymer being sprayed on empty coal wagons. Still negotiating with Queensland Rail for their approval.</p> <p>Calciner dust handling system modifications are progressing well. Six projects have had funding approved and will be completed by 2012. An expert in dust handling systems has been employed full time at QAL to develop solutions to dust handling issues. Also working on solutions for Island A frame.</p> <p>Work with the Precipitation pump off pumps has had limited success. Temporary solutions have not been effective and work is continuing.</p> <p>The Thermal oxidiser quench air project has been implemented. Performance since quench air installed has been good with fewer trips experienced.</p> <p>Two trial vents installed on holding tanks 7 and 9. Tank 9 showed a 60 – 80% reduction in emissions so tank 7 flap design will be modified to the same as tank 9. Vents installed on remaining tanks will be completed during turnarounds. Project to be completed by October 2010</p> <p>Modifications have been made to the hose arm during tertiary tank hose outs. By using a concrete pump arm, the time taken to empty a tank has significantly reduced as has associated alkali emissions.</p>		
<p>Community Activities – Mellissa Case</p>		
<p>Mining Skills Industry Awards: QAL was awarded the Leading Processes and Practices – Medium to Large Company Award. Rebecca Sinnott Metalliferous Trainee of the Year Award. Megan Castles was also a finalist in the Metalliferous Trainee of the Year Award</p> <p>Scholarship: Former Tannum Sands State High school student Joshua Ward was awarded the annual QAL/CQU scholarship. Currently five students on scholarship program.</p>		

Port Open Day:

QAL was one of the many industries in attendance at the CQPA Port Open Day.

Skin Cancer Checks:

QAL offered a free skin cancer check to all employees and their families in 2008. 1 062 people had 890 treatments where either pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions were identified and removed.

Of the treatments performed, there were:

- 533 non cancerous, non malignant
- 167 biopsies
- 129 non melanoma skin cancers
- Five melanomas

Safety ALP:

QAL has introduced a new safety focussed ALP module 'What's the Risk.' It is one of seven free, practical ALP modules delivered by QAL's experienced scientists, environmental specialists and safety officers for free at local schools. To date 883 students have participated in the program this year.

Tool Torque:

Tool Torque was held over two days at QAL and demonstrated the very latest innovations in tools with a focus on ergonomics and anti vibration. 10 marquees of suppliers had over 1000 visitors. A variety of QAL inventions were also on display.

QSafe BBQ's:

In the last couple of weeks Managers and Superintendents have cooked over 1200 free sausages for an employees breakfast treat and opportunity to get people thinking about safety at the start of their shift.

Service Awards:

QAL's 2009 Service Awards functions have now come to an end. 198 employees recognised this year achieved an impressive combined total of 2 965 years of service

Focus Group feedback:

Community Forum members participated in a focus group last month. Information gathering will be used as a reference for the development of QAL's strategic community relations plan. Summary will be provided once all written responses have been received.

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Discussion items – Sam Ricciu

Thermal oxidiser:

Thermal oxidiser is now taking all odourous non condensable gases from the Digestion section apart from the relief tanks. Once technology is found to capture the steam from the relief tanks the installation of an additional thermal oxidiser will be investigated.

Rusal's IPO listing:

QAL has not been provided with any information from Rusal regarding the proposal for public listing of the company on the Hong Kong stock exchange.

Dust particle monitoring:

QAL's onsite monitoring equipment measures particulates less than PM10. The South Gladstone monitoring station also measures PM2.5.

Gladstone Industry Leadership Group – Phil Campbell:

The forum was presented with an introduction to the Gladstone Industry Leadership Group and the Clean Healthy Air Management Plan currently being rolled out at membership sites.

Emissions Trading Scheme – Phil Campbell:

The forum was provided with an overview of the proposed Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and its potential impact on the aluminium industry and QAL.

Meeting schedules:

The next community forum is the final for the year and scheduled for December. A BBQ will be held in conjunction with a tour of the South Gladstone Monitoring Station by DERM. A final date will be confirmed once tour arrangements have been made.

M Case

Meeting closed: 9.00pm

Attachments:

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