

Minutes from Community Forum #46  
7.00pm, Wednesday 10 November 2010  
Bob Druitt Training Centre



**Forum Attendees:**

Phil Campbell, Ross Greenhalgh, Mike O'Neill, Dianna Bozzetto, Dulcie Benn, Brian Ross, Bruce Hunt, Les Wilson, John Feddersen, Errol Page, Courtney Brown, Mellissa Case, Brian Whelan, Bruce and Robyn Hunt, Frank Bowen, Kurt Heidecker

**Apologies:**

Ron Heymer, Neil Lymberry, Allan Shaw, Kevin Dyer, Paul Tooker, Ros Tooker, Col Chapman, Kelvin Banks, Sam Ricciu, Frank Barker.

**Agenda:**

5.00 sharp – Bus departs Bob Druitt Training Centre for Residual Disposal Area tour

6.15pm – Bus returns to Bob Druitt Training Centre and dinner is served

7.00pm – Forum commences

- Welcome and Introduction – Ross Greenhalgh
- Standing items:
  - - Complaints database – Diana Bozzetto
  - - Environmental Projects update – Mike O'Neill
  - - Community activities – Mellissa Case
- Discussion items – John Feddersen
- Red Mud Dam presentation – Mike O'Neill
- Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh
- Meeting closes at 9pm

Minutes / Action	By Whom	By When
Minutes of the Forum meeting published in the Gladstone Observer, Community Advocate and on the QAL website.	Mellissa Case	26 November
<b>Complaints Database – Diana Bozzetto</b>		
<p>Presentation on community complaints was provided, including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. A total of 85 complaints have been received so far with the majority odour at 47% and dust at 29%.</p> <p>The tree planting sessions for this year are completed with four planting held to achieve the target of 2 800 trees. The project will continue next year.</p> <p>Forum member commented that they had perceived a decrease in coal dust around Barney Point since the coal fired ships had been decommissioned.</p> <p>Forum member enquired about dust from coal wagons. Callide mine now sprays coal wagons that come to QAL with a dust suppressant to minimise dust levels during transportation.</p>		

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<p>Forum members would like to see complaint numbers shown in graphs so improvements can be easily identified.</p>	<p>D Bozzetto</p>	<p>Next Forum</p>
<p><b>Environmental Projects Update – Mike O’Neill</b></p>		
<p>A summary of progress on major environmental improvement projects was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relief Tanks - Two external groups are looking at options and a visit to site by one group to review practicality is proposed.</li> <li>▪ Shiploading - Upgrade to Cascade Chute shutdown planned for 23-27 November.</li> <li>▪ Calciner Dust System Upgrade - Unit 1 and 3 operational, Unit 2 tie in November 2010.</li> <li>▪ Island A frame Airslide Improvement - Design being done</li> <li>▪ Wharf Alumina Transfer - Options being investigated and evaluated.</li> <li>▪ Precipitation Pump off Pumps - Use of wash tanks as accumulation storage. A trial design is being completed which will be constructed and will be installed in H1 2011</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Community Activities – Mellissa Case</b></p>		
<p>QAL received the Award for Best Processes and Practices – Company at the Mining Industry Skills Centre Training Awards. David Smith will be competing in the National Training Awards for Vocation Student of the Year next week.</p> <p>The QAL lookout was officially launched on Tuesday 9 November and is now open to the public.</p> <p>Girls Night In raised \$7 000 for Queensland Cancer Council and a team of employees participating in Movember, hope to match the amount.</p> <p>Recently participated in Inter-industry Golf and cricket 20/20 carnival. Cricket team raised \$2 500 for McGrath Foundation.</p> <p>QAL environment and laboratory teams participated in the science challenge with school students on site carrying out experiments and studies.</p> <p>Employees completed voluntary health risk assessments</p>		

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<p>checking for type 2 diabetes with a free healthy lunch.</p> <p>Safety week held on site recently, held a week of activities celebrating successes, focusing on safety improvement initiatives.</p>		
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**Discussion items – John Feddersen**

<p><b>CHAMP update</b> GILG CHAMP program rolled out to employees at QAL and other GILG sites in November 2009. Over 150 ideas and projects submitted to date and some are already underway. The majority were around dust emissions and a case study was presented on reducing alumina emissions from A-frames. The next stage of the project will be the sharing of ideas between GILG sites.</p> <p><b>Q1</b> Project is progressing well and team have made reasonable progress in a number of technical areas with either production or cost benefits. Work to refine maintenance and work management activities is underway and 5S has been introduced to site.</p> <p>QAL production has decreased due to steam limitations. A second package boiler is due to arrive in January which will assist to recover annual production levels.</p> <p><b>Mercury emissions at QAL</b> A presentation was provided on mercury levels at QAL. Bauxite and coal primary are inputs of mercury at QAL with the majority being caught in collection pots. There are some stack emissions through Boilerhouse (coal) and digestion (bauxite) and minor emissions via fugitive air and even smaller in water. This data goes into QAL's NPI reporting.</p> <p>For the 2009/2010 reporting year, total emission to air was 27kg/year or 0.000007kg/t (alumina).</p> <p>In 2009/2010 QAL recovered and recycled 230kg of mercury, mostly through the thermal oxidiser and the cleaning of pipes where mercury had accumulated over the years.</p> <p>QAL does not do any estimation in NPI data submission</p> <p><b>Comments on whistle blower article</b> DERM is investigating the matter.</p>		
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**Residual Disposal Area Presentation – Mike O'Neill:**

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<p>An overview of the Hungary disaster where an alumina refinery's Red Mud Dam wall failed was presented to the group.</p> <p>The failed dam wall was constructed with fly ash since 1942 which is strong but quite brittle. Current dam was in operation since 2002. This incident occurred after a period of heavy rain.</p> <p>QAL dams are designed and operated to ANCOLD guidelines and downstream construction is currently used which means the walls have a low gradient.</p> <p>Unlike the dam in Hungary, QAL's red mud is neutralised to a pH 8 to pH 9 which is the same as sea water.</p> <p>A full investigation is underway on the incident and QAL is watching this closely.</p> <p><b>Agenda for next meeting</b> Review format and desired outcomes of committee for future forum meetings</p>	<p>M Case</p>	<p>Next meeting</p>
<p><b>Meeting schedule:</b></p>		
<p>The next community forum will be held February in conjunction with the QAL board.</p>		

Meeting closed: 8:30pm

**Attachments:**

- Summary of presentations