

Minutes from Community Forum #39  
29 October 2008  
Bob Druitt Training Centre



**Forum attendees:**

John Feddersen, Mike O'Neill, Phil Campbell, Mellissa Case, Ross Greenhalgh, Lew Fellowes, Brian Whelan, Errol Page, Kelvin Banks, Kevin Dyer, Sam Ricciu, Nick Ahrens.

**Apologies:**

Annemieke Grosser, Dulcie Benn, Bruce Hunt, John McGree, Grant Firth, Bevin Newitt, Brian Ross, Frank Bowen, Ron Heymer, Johann van Zyl

**Agenda:**

6.00pm BBQ and Networking  
7.00pm Forum Commences

Welcome and Introduction – Ross Greenhalgh

Standing items:

- Complaints database – Ross Greenhalgh
- Environmental Projects update – Mike O'Neill
- Community activities – Mellissa Case

Discussion items – John Feddersen

Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh

Meeting closes at 9.00pm

Minutes / Action	By Whom	By When
<p>Feedback information from the Forum meeting will be published in the Port Curtis Post, The Observer and on the QAL website.</p> <p>Phil Campbell was introduced as Managing Director, replacing Johann van Zyl as of October 1.</p>	Mellissa Case	15 November
<b>Complaints database – Ross Greenhalgh</b>		
<p>Presentation on community complaints including alkali, dust, noise and odour year to date. 78 complaints have been received to date, with 40% relating to odour and 39% dust.</p> <p>Recent dust complaints relate to fines escaping from transfer points at ship loader and FFE calciners. Work will continue for the next couple of months with upgrades to the dust systems, air slides and hoppers in the Calciners.</p> <p>Cascade chute continues to work well. Work is currently underway to recover 100,000t of dead storage from A frame sheds. Dead storage can be quite fine and causes problems at transfer points, however once removed there should be a significant improvement to dust levels.</p>		

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Queensland Rail is currently undertaking an extensive program to resolve dust issues from wagons, with a number of options currently being trialled. QAL and QR are investigating the installation of a facility to wash out empty wagons prior to leaving the plant.

Noise complaints in recent months are attributed to a hydroblasting incident at night and a deaerator out of service in the Boilerhouse which resulted in a steam relief valve relieving excess pressure. Deaerator is now back in service and future maintenance will involve equalising pressures to prevent reoccurrence.

Alkali complaints are decreasing which is encouraging but more work is still to be undertaken. Graph of Alkali measurements at Calciners was shown to group. Moon buggies have proved to be successful in reducing alkali emissions during hose out.

*Revegetation program*

Two tree plantings have been conducted so far. A further 2100 trees are planned for 2009.

**Environmental Projects Update – Mike O’Neill**

A summary of progress on major projects was provided.

Work on the train wagon cleaning station is due for completion at end of 2009. Station will use recycled water and be fitted with a filtration system to remove any coal particles.

Holding Tank vents – 50 % complete. Work is continuing.

Relief tank vents – looking at changing the way steam enters the tank as a way to reduce odour and alkali.

Hydrate Cyclone project commissioned by December. Hy tanks will be taken out of service.

Pump off Pumps in Precipitation – project to reduce misting will commence next year.

Residual Disposal Area earthworks 99% complete. Clarifier performance review currently underway. Mud distribution piping complete.

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Odour update – Ross Greenhalgh		
<p>Trial of lids on Causticiser vents complete. Vapour leaks closed and vents centralised.</p> <p>Project to cut emergency overflows at holding tanks and trial lids on vents after emergency overflows cut.</p> <p>Heater vents all connected to the thermal oxidiser and operational.</p> <p>Max HT now being used in all Digestion units, which has decreased flash tank pressure and therefore odour levels.</p> <p>Change to flash tank piping and swirlers acid system upgrade due for completion in December 2008. Flash tank bottom entry also due for completion December. Trials completed on 10 Oct indicate increased opportunity through temperature control on condensers.</p> <p>Pacific Air and Environment have been commissioned to conduct odour surveys, still awaiting results.</p>		
Community activities – Mellissa Case		
<p><i>MISC Training Awards</i> QAL was awarded the Leading Training Processes and Practices of the Year – Medium to Large Company at the 2008 Mining Industry Skills Centre Training Awards. Metalliferous Processing Trainee Genine Pritchard was also a finalist in the Processing Trainee of the Year category.</p> <p><i>Queensland Training Awards</i> QAL was awarded the Large Employer Award at the 2008 Central Queensland Training Awards Regional Final.</p> <p><i>New safety slogan</i> The new safety slogan Safe by Choice Not by Chance will be used as the safety focus of 2009. Entry was chosen from over 150 submissions from employees and contractors.</p> <p><i>QAL/CQU scholarship</i> Valued at \$5 000 per annum, the 2008 Scholarship was awarded to Jacinta Larney, studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Co-op). Runner up Awards of \$700 also</p>		

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<p>provided to Sophie Eastaway and Callum Duncan Kemp.</p> <p><i>Funds Raised for Cancer Research</i> Employees and Contractors at QAL raised \$12 000 at the recent Gladstone Relay for Life. It is the fourth time QAL recognised as highest fundraiser. In the last five years QAL employees have raised over \$120 000 for Cancer Council Queensland.</p> <p><i>Hay Donation</i> 1 000 round bales of hay donated to central Queensland farmers through a partnership with Calliope Agforce. The Rhodes grass harvested from buffer zone is valued at \$90 000.</p> <p><i>QAL Yaralla Golf Day</i> 129 golfers supported the 47th annual golf day. Over \$350 was raised in a raffle and donated to the Gladstone Tutorial Centre.</p> <p><i>Retirees Luncheon</i> Over 160 retirees attended the annual QAL sponsored luncheon in August.</p>		
<p><b>Discussion items – John Feddersen</b></p>		
<p><i>Managing Director</i> Forum members expressed their thanks to Johann and Christa for their involvement in QAL and the community over the last five years.</p> <p><i>Update on climate change</i> Discussions are still ongoing with the Government's Green Paper released in July. The follow up White Paper will be released in January. Emissions trading is proposed to commence in July 2010. QAL has had a number of meetings with the Government to discuss potential impact on aluminium industry.</p> <p><i>QAL/Rio Tinto integration.</i> Arrangement is still the same for ownership of QAL with Rio Tinto 80% and Rusal 20%. Research is being conducted in collaboration with other sites to look at opportunities for sharing of resources and synergies. The first will be the introduction of National Safety Solutions conducting generic blue card inductions for all of the Rio Group sites. Site specific inductions will still be carried out at the various business units.</p>		

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**Economic Climate**

Across the board in the mining industry prices are dropping and some industries which have high operational costs will need to cut down on production to remain profitable. Work will continue on Environmental improvement capital items (EMP's) as planned.

**Water Pipeline**

Water pipeline from Fitzroy River is a back up plan for the future. Government has allocated the corridor for pipeline and services, but construction will not commence until the need arises.

QAL is currently negotiating with Gladstone Regional Council to bring Boyne Tannum's treated effluent to the site for use in the process. The new treatment plant has already been constructed and there is an existing pipeline in place. 25% of QAL's current water usage is recycled water. Engineering is currently underway; however the plan is still dependant on Government assistance.

**Questions and answers – Ross Greenhalgh**

Clean and Healthy Air Study Benchmarking report for QAL has still not been released. EPA will issue when complete.

**Meeting schedules:**

The next community forum is scheduled for February in conjunction with a visit from the Board and will be confirmed closer to the date.

Meeting closed: 8.05pm

**Attachments:**

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