



QAL Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting 8

5.30pm Wednesday 8 February 2017

ATTENDEES:	
<i>Mike Dunstan</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Simon Rice</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Grant Costello</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Ross Greenhalgh</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Kylie Devine</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Jessica Ksiazek</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Lee Hackney</i>	<i>QAL Representative</i>
<i>Representative</i>	<i>Kareeba Scout Group</i>
<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>	<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>
<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>	<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>
<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>	<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>
<i>Barney Point Resident</i>	<i>Barney Point Resident</i>
<i>Barney Point Resident</i>	<i>Barney Point Resident</i>
APOLOGIES:	
<i>State Member for Gladstone</i>	<i>State Member for Gladstone</i>
<i>School Principal</i>	<i>School Principal</i>
<i>School Principal</i>	<i>School Principal</i>
<i>Barney Point Resident</i>	<i>Barney Point Resident</i>
<i>Barney Point Resident</i>	<i>Barney Point Resident</i>
<i>West Gladstone Resident</i>	<i>West Gladstone Resident</i>
<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>	<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>
<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>	<i>South Gladstone Resident</i>
<i>Community Representative</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>

Introduction – Kylie Devine (Specialist – Communication and Communities)

- Welcome extended to forum attendees.
- Emergency evacuation information was supplied to forum attendees
- Amenities location was supplied to forum attendees
- Introduction to Simon Rice, Redside Manager. Simon gave the forum a brief overview of his working history.
- Safety share – Committee member retold incident relating to the use of a grinder which cut through an extension lead. Care should be taken with the operation of all power tools.



- Review previous actions ('Operation BBQ' A3 review)

Actions (rolling between meetings)	Responsible	Status
Continue to test E-nose and report back to committee. Offer to host unit and committee members' property in February	K Devine	Agenda item
Committee to provide feedback on content for myths and facts website	K Devine	Kylie thanked the committee for their input. The site is ready to go live, presently working through a few technical issues.
Actions (long term)	Responsible	Status
Implementation of alkali reduction projects and communicate to committee	M Dunstan	Agenda item
Grant and GPC to meet and discuss new technology used by GPC to monitor and model coal dust impacts	G Costello	Grant has been in contact with GPC and has been advised on what they use for dust suppression.
Installation of CCTV camera to measure success of dust reduction program	K Devine	Ongoing – the installation has taken a little longer than initially planned. Presently ensuring the correct technology and working with Graincorp for access.

Update on E-Nose

QAL is presently working with the E-Nose specialist to change the algorithms to match QAL's signature. At present, we are not getting a consistent pattern of data as the organic odour is difficult to detect.

Due to the unavailability of the E-Nose specialist we are unable to move the unit to the South Gladstone resident who offered his home as a location during February. This may be an option for next year.

South Gladstone resident advised of a Catalina Heights resident complaining of an odour every afternoon between 2pm – 5pm. QAL encourages residents to send through complaints. Kylie is to follow up on the aforesaid odour complaint.

South Gladstone resident asked what QAL wanted to achieve with E-Nose technology. Kylie explained that it was hoped to be used as an early internal notification system to be able to pre-empt and stop emissions.

Kylie advised at this point they will be discontinuing with the E-nose trial. QAL is hopeful the technology may be continued to be developed to improve the accuracy of the system.

Mike advised the more short term focus for QAL would be stopping odour at its source by proactively executing reduction projects.

Odour Strategy Update

Simon gave an update on QAL's action plan to eliminate odour.

Project 3 – Removing knock out pot condensate from bad condensate stream – trial pump installation was completed in Unit 2 and commissioned. Data was gathered November 2016 to January 2017. No detectable impact identified at the RDA or in



waste tanks. Data will be used to scope, specify and order equipment for permanent installation. Commissioning of permanent installation has been scheduled Unit 2 – Q2 2017 with Units 1 & 3 in Q4 2017.

Project 4 – Destruction of evaporation vapour. It was identified that condensate is QAL's next highest odour on the plant. Trial is presently in progress.

Barney Point resident asked if QAL had for anything additional than the thermal oxidiser to reduce the odour like burning of the bauxite before it is sent to QAL. Yes, this has been looked in to but cost prohibitive. Washing does not work. Adding of chemicals to counteract the odour is not considered. Mike advised that QAL is focussed on projects that will eliminate the odour, to find out the root cause and fix the problem.

South Gladstone resident asked how much odour will be reduced. Ross explained this would be done by measuring odour units and explained to the committee how odour units are determined.

A UQ Masters student has been working with QAL for 6-8 months and has been focusing on examining the processes holistically from different angles and put forward new ideas.

South Gladstone resident said that the odour levels have definitely improved. Another resident suggested that QAL supply the reported odour intensity levels as a way of determining if the odour intensity is showing an improvement.

Barney Point resident advised that he had found comfort in the amount of progress being made and the goals that are being kicked by QAL. He felt the odour was less frequent and less strong than in the past and is pleased that QAL is getting to the root cause.

South Gladstone resident asked if other plants had the same odour issues. Resident was advised that this is a problem across all refineries internationally.

Presentation on Alkali Strategy

Ross gave the committee an overview of QAL's recent court hearing.

Ross gave an update on the alkali project timeline and status report on the scope of work identified in the final report which was to identify and risk assess all potential sources of alkali release. A list of projects in order of risk reduction was identified and work has commenced. The expected completion date is December 2019 at an estimated cost of \$4m.

A shutdown is planned next Tuesday and the containment separators will be replaced. The units will be checked to see what has accumulated over the last year and to assess the efficiency of the new design.

Ross advised that the erosion of pipework is mainly the root cause of most problems with alkali events. Ross also explained further on release identification in other areas of the plant.

Update of Dust Management

Grant Costello explained the cause of a dust incident which occurred last week and the process involved in identifying the cause and steps undertaken to ensure it does not recur.

The committee was advised that robust guidelines are in place with regard to the loaders and wind speed.

Resident asked if we have matched complaints with wind speed.



South Gladstone resident asked what damage to humans can the white dust cause?
The dust is abrasive but not harmful to the respiratory system.

Market & Business Update

Mike Dunstan gave an overview on the Alumina Open Market Price which has shown a quite noticeable reversal. QAL's aim is to be cash positive at the lowest alumina price. The business is now cash positive.

QAL made considerable savings in 2016 mainly from the areas of Contractor Cost Reduction, Working Capital Inventory, Accounts Payable (extended payment terms, renegotiated contracts), Organisation Changes and Process Optimisation.

The role reductions were very calculated and based on work performed ensuring safety was never compromised.

2016 was a record year for QAL, even with all the dramatic changes in the plant, with the lowest number of serious recordable injuries in QAL's history, improved operating cost which achieved target of being cash positive and for the first time in 11 years QAL achieved or exceeded the production plan.

Barney Point resident asked how long the alumina prices are going to stay up. Mike advised that it was not possible to predict as the prices are entirely controlled by the Chinese market, Mike further went on to explain market drivers.

Barney Point resident asked when QAL would be employing again. Kylie advised that we have started recruiting again taking on 5 apprentices and 2 boiler house trainees and tradesmen. We are only replacing personnel through natural attrition.

2016 QAL was a year focused on survival. 2017 will be focussing on the future, making the plant more sustainable and putting in place things that are building us for the future.

Barney Point resident asked if there will come a day when there will be additional jobs. Mike explained that we have been a high cost producer in the past, in 2016 we made great improvements but we now need to stay ahead of the cost curve to be able to introduce new capital projects and attract future investment from our owners.

Committee Questions and Feedback

Q. South Gladstone resident asked how the fines were determined at the recent court case and who decided on the organisations who were recipients of some of this money.
A. Kylie advised that the court and the government determined the amount of fines and the distribution. Three community groups were chosen – Gidarjil Development, Port Curtis Harbour Watch and Conservation Volunteer each receiving \$50k.

Q. The representative from the Kareeba Scouts asked what happened to the boundary fence in front of the hall. The adjacent land seems to be attracting a lot of motorbikes and stolen car activity.

A. QAL will take this question on notice, investigate further and report back at the next meeting. Both QAL and GRC own land in that vicinity.

Q. South Gladstone resident requested information regarding a recent accident at QAL which made the newspaper regarding a contractor fall.

A. Newspaper reports were incorrect with their reporting. Mike explained how the accident occurred and how the investigation is proceeding. QAL has no problems with the reporting of the accident, just that the media should have the correct facts before putting to print.

Next suitable meeting date & summary of follow-up actions

Wednesday 17 May, 2017 was agreed upon for the next meeting.



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- Kylie to give South Gladstone resident her details for the Catalina Heights resident to contact to talk further on the odour complaint.
- Kylie to look in to educating the public around QAL's ROCs system
- Kylie to supply intensity ranking with the complaints summary
- Look into fencing of boundary near Scouts hall
- Look into correlation of wind speed and complaints

Meeting Closed at 7:30pm