



CHRONICLE

August 2016

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www.acncg.info

Altona Chemical Complex Community Alarm Will Adopt Digital Technology



Residents in the Altona community may notice that things are a little quieter as of the first Sunday in October 2016.

The Altona Chemical Complex will cease operation and testing of the existing community emergency siren system.

Instead, it will change over to the national 'Emergency Alert' telephone warning service under the direct control of the Victorian emergency services (MFB and Police).

The Altona Chemical Complex is made up of the Qenos, Dow and BASF manufacturing facilities located in Kororoit Creek Road Altona which have been operating within the municipality for more than fifty years.

Transitioning to the community warning system follows nearly eighteen months of detailed consultation with members of the

Hobsons Bay Municipal Emergency Management Committee, the MFB and Victoria Police. Local residents and the Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group (ACNCG) were also consulted in relation to determining whether or not to adopt this new technology.

The warning system includes a 'Location Based Emergency Phone Alert' warning capability. This phone based warning system sends voice messages to land line telephones and text messages to mobile telephones within a specified area that is defined by the emergency service organisation issuing the emergency warning message.

The community warning system will be more effective than the current siren and will allow communication of specific warning messages to residents and visitors within the Altona neighbourhood. It will also help to

avoid any confusion that may occur from operating two separate systems.

These messages will come directly from the official emergency co-ordinators and will provide information on what to do during the emergency.

The Altona Chemical Complex will transition to this new emergency warning system effective 1st October 2016 with the last community test siren to be sounded on the 4th September.

If you have any queries relating to this change please contact Mr Les Harman, Altona Chemical Complex Environmental Co-ordinator on 0409 418987 or les.harman@qenos.com.

Further information on the new emergency warning system can be found at www.emergencyalert.gov.au.

Update on BASF's Manufacturing Operations at Altona



Founding member of the Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group, BASF Australia Ltd, informed the community in December 2015, that the company had taken the difficult decision to close its manufacturing facility at Altona.

The decision followed a decline in local market demand for the dispersions and resins manufactured at Altona, combined with the increased cost and complexity of importing bulk monomers and rising domestic freight cost.

In June 2016, BASF ceased production at its Altona site. The company is now in the decommissioning phase, progressing a detailed closure, demolition and remediation plan to ready the site for sale.

Gordon Fleming, BASF Australia's Head of Operations and Site Management, said: "For nearly five decades BASF has been an integral part of the Altona Chemical Complex,

and we are extremely proud of the achievements of our company and staff during this time. Although we no longer manufacture on site, we remain committed to playing an active role in both the complex and the local community."

BASF, then Badacol Chemicals, originally established its site at Altona in 1967 as an expanded polystyrene plant with a production capacity of 8,000 tonnes per year.

Between 1967 and 1995, the plant produced expandable polystyrene beads (Styropor®), polymer dispersions and a range of auxiliary products.

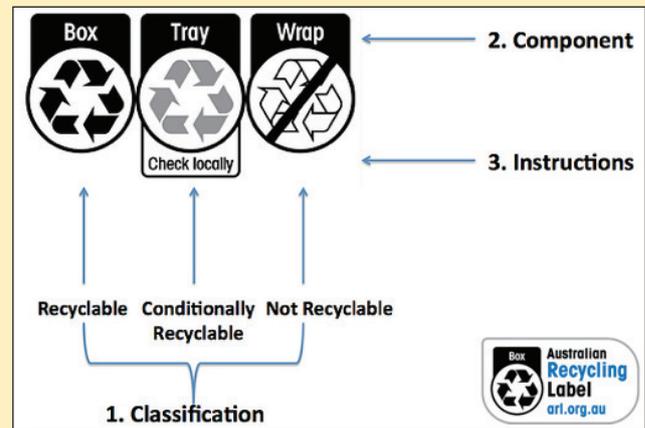
In 1995, BASF converted the plant to manufacture styrene butadiene dispersions for backing of carpets and paper coatings, as well as acrylic dispersions for paint and adhesive applications. It was in this configuration that the site played a key role in BASF's global development of low odour and low volatile compound paint grades.



Recycling is about to get a whole lot easier

by Rachel Hart,
Qenos Market Segment Manager

Have you ever stood in front of your recycling and rubbish bins, bottle with plastic wrapper in hand, and thought... Which bin? Do I take off the lid? What about the wrapping? We all have the best intentions at heart when it comes to recycling, however sometimes it is a bit tricky.



Packaging items can be far more complicated than just a straight cardboard box or a HDPE bottle these days. We now have multilayer structures; combined material types; and different components in lids, labels and wraps.

Queue the new Australian Recycling Label (ARL). Planet Ark has recently launched a standardised recycling label system that is evidence-based specifically for Australian recycling systems. The ARL shows, by component, what is recyclable at kerbside, what is conditionally recyclable and what is not recyclable. For example, if a bottle is recyclable but the cap is not, the label will indicate this.

The conditionally recyclable label allows brand owners to take into account the availability of local collection services as well as any actions a consumer may need to undertake to make the packaging recyclable – i.e. “rinse bottle”. In time, it is expected that the label will be enhanced to allow for more information like store drop off to improve material recovery.

In order to be approved to use the new ARL, brand owners, Qenos’s downstream customers, will need to evaluate the actual “recyclability” of their packaging. Commissioned by the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC), Planet Ark and Green Chip have developed the Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal

(or PREP, prep.org.au), a simple tool that can be used for these evaluations.

As a proud supplier of quality polyethylene to the Australian packaging industry, Qenos encourages this development from Planet Ark, initiated by the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) and the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC).

No longer do we have to stand furrow browed in front of the recycling bin. The ARL promises to simplify and make recycling a whole lot easier for consumers.

TO ALL RESIDENTS AN INVITATION to... **ACNCG NEXT MEETING**

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10th 2016
COMMENCING AT 5:30pm
with a light tea at DOW

For further details refer to www.acncg.info

If you

- Have an interest in the activities of the Altona Chemical Complex
 - Would like to understand more about the Complex operation.
 - Have a concern about the Complex operations.
- Then come along to the next meeting and
- Hear reports from the Companies about their performance and plans
 - Get status updates from regulators about their liaison with the companies.
 - Have an opportunity to ask questions.

ACNCG Members

RESIDENTS/COMMUNITY

Judy Hindle OAM	9395 8565
Chris Rider – Deputy Chair	9398 1830
Kimberley Foss	9734 6966
Troy Ryan	0409 859 660
Frank Quosdorf	

COMPLEX

BASF – www.basf.com	
Iwona Wlodarczyk	9281 6335
Dow Chemical – www.dow.com	
Patrick Pedrotti	9226 3537
Qenos – www.qenos.com	
Andrew Lake	9258 7333

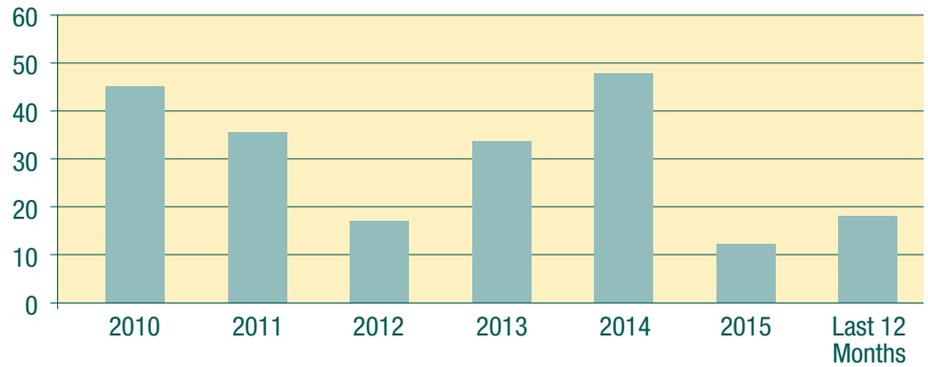
COUNCIL

Cr Sandra Wilson – Chairperson	9922 1044
Brendan Murphy	9932 1034
Sarah Bartolo (Minutes Secretary)	

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Environment Protection Authority	
TBA	1300 372 842
Worksafe Victoria	
TBA	
City West Water	
Joe Messina	9313 8202

Annual Complaint Trend 2010 – 2016



There have been fifteen calls to the Environment Action Line (EAL) to the end of July in 2016.

Each call related to a separate circumstance with five of the complaints related to noise with ten related to odours. Each complaint was investigated and the results published on the ACNCG website which can be viewed at www.acnccg.info/complaints

Three of the noise complaints were attributed to Qenos flare operation with no specific source being identified on the other two occasions.

Four of the odour complaints were accepted by Qenos as being related to the operation of the waste water

treatment plant at the South East corner of the site which is north of the Charles Road Area. One odour complaint was confirmed as being from a source to the North of the complex. Three of the five complaints classified as source unknown were considered unlikely to have a Complex origin with the other two classified as Source Unknown Plausible Complex.

2016 Complaint Classification



- Inside Complex
- Outside Complex
- Unknown Plausible Complex
- Unknown Unlikely Complex

Altona Complex Community Siren

If you hear this siren outside of the specified test time of 10.00am on the first Sunday of every month, do not attempt to evacuate, unless told to by Emergency Services.

1. **Go Inside any building:-** Close external doors and turn off air conditioners.
2. **Close windows and shut curtains and blinds.**
3. **Turn on the radio STEREO 97.4 (97.4FM) or television ABC Channel 2 for Police messages**
4. **Remain indoors until you are given the all clear.**
5. **Avoid using the telephone:-** Unless it's really urgent
6. **Co-operate fully with emergency services**

The warning siren is an undulating two tone siren (similar to an air raid siren). The all clear is a continuous siren.



يرجى الاتصال بمركز ويستغيت لموارد المهاجرين هاتف 93913355 للحصول على الترجمة الفورية للمعلومات أعلاه.

Za pojašnjenje gore navedenih informacija kontaktirajte Westgate Migrant Resource Centre (Centar za pitanja emigranata Westgate) na 9391 3355.

Για διευκρίνιση των παραπάνω πληροφοριών, επικοινωνήστε με το Μεταναστευτικό Κέντρο Πληροφοριών Westgate στο 9391 3355.

Per un aiuto nell'interpretazione delle informazioni sopra riportate, si prega di rivolgersi al Westgate Migrant Resource Centre al numero 9391 3355.

Ikkuntattja liċ-Centru tar-Rizors ta' l-Immigrant ta' Westgate, 9391 3355, għall-interpretazzjoni ta' l-għirif li jidher hawn fuq.

Свяжитесь с Вестгейтским Центром Мигрантских Ресурсов (Westgate Migrant Resource Centre) по тел. 9391 3355 для выяснения вышеуказанной информации.

Контактирајте Вестгејт центар за пружање поддршке доселеницима (Westgate Migrant Resource Centre) на 93913355 ради интерпретације горе наведених информација.

Muốn nhờ dịch thông tin ở trên, xin điện thoại cho Trung Tâm Tiễn Ích Di Dân Westgate qua số 9391 3355.

FOR NUISANCE ODOURS OR NOISE SUSPECTED OF COMING FROM THE COMPLEX, REMEMBER THE QUICKER YOU CALL THE BETTER THE CHANCES TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSE QUICKLY . . .

**EPA POLLUTION WATCH LINE
1300 372 842**

**CITY OF HOBSONS
BAY COUNCIL
9932 1000**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
24 HOUR ACTION LINE
1800 061 050**