

**Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group (ACNCG)**

Held on Thursday 9 May 2019  
Qenos, 473 Kororoit Creek Rd, Altona  
Commencing at 6.00pm

**Present:**

**ACNCG/ Resident Members**

Chris Rider  
Mark Furlan  
Troy Ryan

**Resident visitors**

Erin Finnegan  
Tim Simmonds

**DOW**

Justin Jones  
Camillo Coladonato

**EnviroPacific**

Tristan Roberts

**QENOS**

Andrew Lake  
Nick Young  
Rod Coughlin  
Les Harman

**Council Representatives**

Sandra Wilson

**City West Water**

Not Present

**WorkSafe**

Not Present

**EPA**

Not Present

**Apologies**

J Messina CWW  
B Murphy Hobsons Bay  
Kim Sayall Hobsons Bay  
Bikash Rai EPA

**1. Welcome**

Sandra Wilson opened the meeting at 6.05 pm and welcomed everyone. With two residents attending for the first time everyone was invited to introduce themselves with some background context of their history and function within the ACNCG.

**2. Invitation for comments by visitors**

Erin and Tim are nearby residents who want to understand more about the Chemical complex. They have experienced some odours of recent times and have called EPA hotline. Would like to understand if there are potential health concerns related to living close to a chemical complex and being able to access data in relation to this is of interest to them. They had seen an amount of chatter in local social media about this. Erin noted that it took them a while to find the ACNCG website and that social media could be better utilised. Tim indicated that he would like access to more data about the complex operations.

Erin also noted that it was not clear who to call about complaints and had recently called EPA hotline.

Sandra observed that Hobsons Bay had had a long term relationship with industry and that forums like the ACNCG were a good process that assist the long term co-existence of industry in Hobsons Bay.

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting Held 8 November 2018**

The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, 8 November 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous minutes on 8 November 2018.**

Sandra Wilson had two matters arising

1. Advertising ACNCG meetings on the Councils website. Had discussions with Jennifer Legge, Acting Manager Communications on 9th May 19 to ensure that Council was promoting ACNCG meetings via Council's Facebook page.
2. Have discussions with the ACNCG companies about pest management and supply a link to the Biodiversity policy. This will be discussed in General Business later in the meeting

## **Company Reports**

### **5.1 Dow Update**

Justin Jones gave the Dow Update.

Dow has operated at the Dow site since the late 1960s and at their peak had 9 operating units. Current operation has one operating unit making Polyols and Propylene Glycols which occupies about 10 % of the site and the site has a workforce of 35 people.

Justin presented the Dow operational update

Globally Dow Chemical has separated from DowDupont on April 1st, but has no impact on Altona operations. Jim Fitterling is now Dow CEO

The site has had had solid EH&S performance with no reportable events in 2019 or issues arising from regulatory oversight.

Dow EH&S improvement plans in 2019 include the implementation of updated Dow Corporate Safety standards and process safety risk reduction work identified in their safety case.

Camillo Coladonato gave the Dow remediation update

He explained that the origin of Dow's legacy contamination goes back a bushfire in the 1970s impacted a drum storage area.

Dow has delivered their 13th Clean Up Plan progress report (3000 pages) to EPA on 30th April as required.

Camillo also discussed Dows plan to support the Shell Recycling project at the Dow site. The project is rebuilding reefs and oyster beds in Port Phillip Bay which is supporting growth in marine life numbers and diversity and the resilience of the bay to cope with the run off into a bay.

## 5.2 EnviroPacific Services Update

Tristan Roberts presented the Solve plant update.

The Solve facility was issued its operating license by EPA in December 18 and is currently carrying out Proof of Performance (PoP) testing for several over contaminants including PFAS.

QHSE performance had been good. there was a minor loss of treated water in February that was contained on site and reported to EPA. Tristan explained that the Solve facility treated their water for reuse on site

He explained that the Solve facility safely removed and oxidised contaminates in the soil and avoided the need for long term containment of contaminated soil in landfills. Solve treats soil from all over Victoria with a significant proportion coming from the large infrastructure projects.

Their operation will be expanding midyear to a 24/6 operation with a large contract for the treatment of 80,000 tonnes of soil for treatment from the Fitzroy gasworks project over 18 months.

Solve is implementing around \$2m of upgrades in the coming months to improve the robustness of their process and to assist in the management of the increase treatment rate.

He was asked about the transport arrangements and routes. Some of the transport is managed by Solve, but a lot of the clients have made their own transports arrangements. All transport is in EPA licensed vehicles.

Solve advise clients that the preferred route to their facility is via Kororoit Creek Road. If that is not suitable Grieve Parade is preferred over Millers road. They survey drivers to check which routes are being used.

EnviroPacific services noted that if anyone wanted a site tour they are happy to arrange one.

## 5.3 Qenos Update

Andrew Lake presented the Qenos update.

As background Andrew explained that Qenos was a foundation member of the Complex dating back to the early 1960's. Qenos have about 650 employees (450 in Altona) and have a contract workforce of 350. Qenos operate three sites with the feedstock and energy being delivered by pipelines. Making polyethylene is a two-step process first making ethylene from Ethane (Natural Gas By-Product) and then polymerising the ethylene to make polyethylene. The Olefins plant makes the ethylene which is a polymer link that is joined together into long chains by the Resins and Plastics plant to form the Polyethylene product.

Andrew discussed the community engagement activities in 2019 that are in the presentation. He thanked Mark and Chris for the participation in the odour audit which provides a valuable perspective on potential odour impacts. Mark noted that the odour levels were improved (lower) this year than in previous years. Sandra mentioned the odour identification panel testing that she had previously been involved in noted that it might be an activity that Erin and Tim might like to participate in. Qenos will arrange this if requested

Safety performance has been excellent with no reportable injuries in 2019 and our contract workforce has achieved 18 months injury free.

Interface with the regulators has been quiet and routine with one report to EPA on 9th April for a pump seal leak.

There have been a number of significant events recently relating to inappropriate disposal and storage of waste that has been illegal and/or caused significant disruption to waste management in Melbourne.

Qenos believe it is prudent to share with the community how we manage waste and Andrew noted the following key points about Qenos waste management

- Avoiding the generation of waste.
- Documented waste management system
- Designated waste management facilities on site
- Ensuring that waste is only sent to licensed facilities.
- Assessing facilities to ensure that they appropriately store and treat the waste.
- Use of EPA electronic waste system to track waste (since its inception in 2013)

The 2019 projects of the odour reduction program at the Olefins plant are on schedule. The new covers of the Effluent sump were successfully fitted recently. The other elements will be installed as outlined in the February EMT and performance evaluated to refine the 2020 projects.

## **7. Community Complaints**

Les presented the complaint report. Three complaint's since the February EMT. Two complaint's for plausible ETP odour and one unlikely complex.

Query from Erin about whether EPA complaints were in this report. They are not EPA doesn't pass through complaints to Qenos. The complaints used to be passed through for investigation but not now. Qenos would like to have complaints about Qenos passed through to the EAL for investigation.

Chris noted that forklift reversing beepers late at night were a constant issue. The ex Bonlac site was noted as a potential cause by the community.

## **8. General Business**

### **1 Hobsons Bay Diversity Strategy**

Sandra introduced the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy and whether there had been any contact with complex companies. Les noted that he had attended a meeting at the Civic Centre about two years ago introducing relating to the Biodiversity Strategy. Discussion focused on coordination of pest management activities to enhance effectiveness but have not heard since. Sandra will discuss with councils Infrastructure and City Services department to initiate discussions with the complex companies about the potential to coordinate these programs. Erin said she would like to understand the chemicals used for pest management. Copy of Biodiversity Strategy flyer attached to the minutes

### **2 Social media**

Erin thought that better use of social media could be used by the ACNCG to make more data available. ACNCG has considered Facebook in the past but decided not to do so as it wasn't practical to meet the conversational expectations of the Facebook community.

### **3 Hobson's Bay Business lunch in June**

Sandra invited all the complex companies to attend.

Next meeting

EMT @ Dow Chemicals on 6th August

Sandra invited the visitors to reflect on the meeting and to feedback.