



Used Lead Acid Battery Community Liaison Committee Meeting
19.04.2023
7.00pm
Century Inn Traralgon

Minutes

Topic	Host
Welcome Committee Members and Visitors	Philip Reichert
Apologies	Philip Reichert
Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting Leo Billington and Lorraine Bull approved minutes from last meeting.	Philip Reichert
Introduction of Members Sue Timms is representing Alive Inc. John Ellingham is a community member new to the committee. Dr Lakshman welcomed the ULAB CLC continuing chairman and members, and also thanked our new committee members for their active engagement with the project. Dr Lakshman advised that the CLC was a platform to inform and engage the community with project updates and milestones, resolve community concerns, and thanked the members for their time and dedication to the project. Dr Lakshman introduced Rachel Irvine-Marshall. Rachel is the General Manager of Services for Pure. Her role encompasses Health and Safety, Human Resources, Environment and Risk Management. Rachel manages nine sites and approximately 150 employees. Rachel was originally a chemist and joined the waste and recycling industries in Perth. Rachel joined Pure in September 2022, and was previously working for Cleanaway as head of Health and Safety.	Philip Reichert
History of Hazelwood ULAB & Progress Report Robin Krause discussed his role as a mechanical engineer and Senior Project Coordinator for the ULAB Plant. Robin has a focus on the health and safety and environmental controls for the ULAB design. Currently detailed reports on process design are being prepared for submission to the EPA in June. Due to the need for these reports to be finalised construction on the site has been delayed until the end of 2023. Robin advised two other consultants are also working on the process designs and are ensuring the Chinese designs meet Australian requirements.	

John Ellingham asked if Pure was responsible for the roads in relation to transport of materials between the Princess Highway and the plant. Robin advised that the roads were designed for heavy industrial plant and equipment and was already being utilised by other heavy industries within the industrial area.

Lorraine Bull advised she had discussed road usage with other developing companies in the area, and they advised they would not be required to upgrade the roads for their use either.

Mark Richards advised the road goes to the Hazelwood terminal station, and originally was an over dimensional road used for transport of 100 tonne transformers.

John Ellingham advised he rides his pushbike on Tramway Road, and doesn't want any more trucks using the road unless a bike path is installed. John Ellingham suggested if heavy vehicles numbers are increased a bike line similar to what is on Monash Way be installed. Philip suggested it may need to be investigated further with VicRoads, Police and the Council.

John Ellingham suggested that the entrance to the site from the Midland Highway could be considered to avoid using Tramway Road. Robin advised there is no longer access from the Midland Highway due to private property and the gas line being located on the west boundary.

Bronwyn Woodward asked if the construction phase would see the most movement of transport to the site. Robin confirmed this was the case, and that once running the plant would only have eight to ten B Double trucks per day operating in and out of the plant.

Mark asked if the rail siding could be used for transport. Robin advised there hasn't been enough volume to open the siding at this time. As a long term project Pure would prefer to use rail to transport material as it is the most cost effective means of moving materials.

Sue Timms asked how long it would take from the start of the build to commissioning. Robin advised it would be 18 months.

Robin
Krause

Review of Terms of Reference - should we have a quorum for meetings?

Philip Reichert suggested a minimum quorum of three community members would be required to hold a meeting.

Mark and Lorraine suggested that if members missed three consecutive meetings without communicating a leave of absence their membership would lapse.

Stacey Clark suggested that meeting frequency could be changed to suit the business updates.

John Ellingham advised he was motivated to join the committee to ask for a donation to support his community group "The Big Bloke's BBQ". John Ellingham advised all 12 business people from the Latrobe Valley in this group said they did not want to be associated or connected with Chunxing/Pure as the company came into the area against the council's wishes. John Ellingham suggested that the committee had a lot of work to do to convince the public that the project is worth supporting and that there was no support from the community. The project is only tolerated because there is no choice.

Mark advised he was not on the committee to support ULAB but to ensure it was a safe environment for workers.

Philip advised all compliance requirements would need to be met to operate the plant, and that attending the community meetings was a way to communicate concerns and ask questions regarding the project.

Mark suggested that a quorum of three community members be required to hold a meeting, that we should maintain the bi monthly meeting cycle that could then change to monthly when construction and commissioning begin. Bronwyn suggested every second meeting be via Zoom.

Philip
Reichert

<p>Community Question - Air Monitor Update</p> <p>Kenelec are unable to supply the air monitoring equipment that was originally quoted on in 2021. Geoff Latimer is currently assessing quotes from several other companies to establish the best system to put in place to monitor the gas, dust and lead testing.</p> <p>Mark asked if the equipment being considered will monitor live results. Tania advised that gases and dust particle size would be live. Dust would be collected in cartridges and sent to a lab for analysis and reporting on lead content. The frequency of testing would be determined on the equipment being used. An alert would be issued if unusually high levels of dust or gas were monitored. The air monitoring results will be continuously available on the Pure/Chunxing website.</p> <p>Mark asked if there was any technology to do live lead monitoring. Tania advised they were aware of XRF technology used in Mt Isa. Chunxing had explored this technology with the manufacturers who advised we would have such low levels of lead dust that it wouldn't register on their equipment.</p> <p>Bronwyn asked when the air monitor would be placed on site, Robin advised when the soil consolidation was completed.</p> <p>Sue Timms asked if we were using any XRF monitoring at the plant. Robin advised that there would be reactive monitoring on the stack using Chunxing technology, no XRF.</p>	<p>Tania Brown</p>
<p>Community Question - Is there an EPA update on the process design reports?</p> <p>Stacey advised no reports had been submitted or reviewed yet. Robin advised the new and updated reports on the process design would be submitted in June.</p> <p>John Ellingham asked what independent air monitoring the EPA was doing to verify the Chunxing results. Robin advised the closest independent air monitor was at Immigration Park. Stacey advised there were also air monitors in Morwell and other places across the region. Stacey also advised that if the ULAB plant was built and obtained an EPA licence, EPA assesses compliance with an operating licence and it's conditions which could include stack or point source emissions. However, no licence exists yet and Stacey cannot speculate about what will or won't be included.</p> <p>John Ellingham asked if the EPA trusted Pure/Chunxing to provide correct monitoring data. Mark advised that all systems are calibrated regularly and that the systems are set up by the suppliers. The systems monitors would show evidence of being tampered with and also show if they were off line for any period of time.</p> <p>John Ellingham advised the EPA doesn't have a good reputation after the dust problem during the mine fires and that the EPA's record of monitoring is not that good in the Latrobe Valley historically. Robin advised that the monitoring has improved over the last 10 years and that the commissioning of the plant will be closely monitored by the EPA to ensure that operation occurs within licencing conditions.</p> <p>Lorraine suggested it might be time to conduct some more public meetings or drop-in sessions. Mark suggested Pure/Chunxing get feedback from the business people mentioned by John Ellingham about what issues they have about the project. John Ellingham advised it was an image issue that Chunxing ran roughshod over the council, and that the state government ran over the council decision.</p> <p>Robin advised the works approval was submitted to the council planning department and was endorsed and recommended to council that it be approved for construction. The local councillors voted against the project. Robin asked if any of the mentioned business owners had been to any of the Chunxing presentations. John Ellingham advised they wouldn't come near the company. John Ellingham advised that he was one of the people who spoke at the public meetings and supported it from the beginning.</p>	<p>Stacey Clark</p>

Stacey advised the point of a community liaison committee was not about changing peoples minds, but providing information so that people feel informed about what is happening with the project and what processes are being followed, and include the EPA and Council involvement.

Philip suggested that John Ellingham encourage the business people to attend future meetings and to learn about the project.

Dr Lakshman discussed that he has seen positive changes in the community perception of the ULAB project.

Lorraine suggested that opportunities should be created to engage people and allow them to ask questions about the project, and discuss investment and employment opportunities as the area moves away from coal based industry.

Mark advised that there was a lack of support for the project initially because of the lack of trust in Chinese industry, although the project was favoured by the Greens. Mark believes the purchase of the company by Pure is a positive outcome, and Pure/Chunxing should highlight the positives such as not sending recycling overseas, the local construction of the plant and ongoing 67 jobs.

Philip suggested that the committee members send opinions on the project to Tania to assist Pure/Chunxing produce an information session for the community.

Community Question - Will electrical certifiers of equipment manufactured in China be from Australia. How does this affect safety and liability?

Robin advised that the Chinese suppliers of the equipment have confirmed it will be made to Australian Standards. A local contractor will be engaged to verify the equipment supplied meets these standards. Certification will be supplied to state that the equipment meets the required regulations.

Robin Krause

Community Question - How does the Hazelwood ULAB facility compare to Quemetco's pollution controls?

Robin advised that Quemetco does not operate to the same conditions as Australia. Quemetco have upgraded their plant and installed wet electrostatic precipitators. Robin advised Chunxing has investigated using WESP technology for the Hazelwood facility. It was found to be no more efficient than the system with a baghouse with dust removal and a scrubber system with lime dosing. The Chunxing plant based on European design is the best available technology. Testing in China has demonstrated we can achieve the designated controls required under the works agreement. The Chinese plant puts 6% lead in their furnaces, and achieves the levels of pollution control required under the Hazelwood works approval. Comparatively the Hazelwood plant will only be putting 1.2% of lead into the furnaces, which is 600% less lead compared to China.

Robin advised that Quemetco had difficulty meeting their licence requirements after installing their new plant. Quemetco removed their baghouses and scrubbers and installed a WESP and was not found to be as efficient. Quemetco are subsequently upgrading the plant and installing scrubbers in the base of their precipitator. Quemetco spent \$50 million dollars to upgrade their pollution controls and still couldn't meet their licencing requirements.

Sue asked if Robin considers WESPS to not be the best technology, and the EPA website states WESPs are considered the best practice. Robin advised that they are equivalent, they are not the best available technology.

Robin advised WESPs are designed for high dust burden and high flow of gas. Quemetco processes 120 tonnes of batteries a year. Chunxing will only process 50 tonnes.

Sue advised she was impressed because Quemetco only had 6.9 pounds of lead emitted in a year. Robin advised Hazelwood were licenced for a 15kg limit per year under the works approvals.

Robin Krause

<p>Mark asked if Chunxing aimed to be under 15kg per year Robin advised yes, and that testing completed in the China plants that are 16 times bigger than Hazelwood achieve the limits in the Hazelwood works agreement.</p> <p>Robin advised the Hazelwood plant had scrubbers 4 times larger than airflow requirements and the plant can run as a 100% backup. The plant only needs two scrubbers to operate.</p> <p>Dr Lakshman advised that if any members had any concerns regarding the process the design team would be happy to have individual meetings to go through the information.</p>	
<p>Community Question - Can it be confirmed that the increased reports for the EPA are because of the changing size of the building or have the EPA parameters changed?</p> <p>The EPA reports and total process design are being completed to meet the entire works approvals, and are required before construction begins. The initial reports submitted were not detailed enough. The water capture requirement meets the 1 in 100 year rainfall event. The plant layout has been changed to maximise the efficiency of the plant.</p>	Robin Krause
<p>Community Question - With more EPA reports required would we be looking at construction commencing at the end of 2023?</p> <p>Robin advised the EPA reports should be completed by June. The reports take approximately 70 days to review. Once approvals have been gained equipment will be ordered and construction start at the end of 2023.</p>	Robin Krause
<p>Community Question - Why were we advised the ULAB facility was shovel ready when the reports are not finished and construction has not started?</p> <p>Bronwyn stated that as more EPA reports were now required to be submitted that the project wasn't shovel ready 3 years ago. Robin advised that the equipment for the plant was designed and ready for installation. The changes made since then are to update the design to meet Australian Health and Safety requirements.</p>	Robin Krause
<p>Community Question - Site Water Update</p> <p>Robin advised the screenings have been relocated to the West end of the construction zone, and the site was being graded to improve drainage. A second pond is being constructed to allow for dewatering of the site during heavy rain and flocculation of water before leaving site.</p>	Robin Krause
<p>Agenda items for next meeting by Wednesday 24th May 2023 to tbrown@purenv.au</p>	Philip Reichert
<p>Next Meeting Wednesday 21st June 2023 7.00pm. Venue TBA.</p>	Philip Reichert
<p>Close</p>	