



Chunxing Corporation Pty Ltd

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Letter to the community by Dr. Lakshman Jayaweera, Chunxing Corporation Pty Ltd

25th Jan 2021

Dear Latrobe City residents,

Used Lead Acid Battery (ULAB) recycling facility - Hazelwood North

Further to my previous statement, I am now pleased to provide another update on our project.

In short, the future growth of the Latrobe Valley economy will be positively impacted by our project's contribution.

1. Ministerial approval

Following the Minister for Planning's approval for our ULAB recycling facility at Hazelwood North (14 January 2021), we are now more committed than ever to play our part in the significant revitalisation of the building and construction sector in the Latrobe Valley.

The Minister's determination following thorough evaluation of this project and the subsequent support given to us is a great morale boost, not only to myself and Chunxing but I am sure to the Latrobe community including local stakeholders of this project and to many future potential investors as well.

2. No risk to health and environment - stringent approval process and conditions by EPA

Our project has been through an exhaustive environmental and health and safety approval process; in addition to our own detailed assessments provided to the EPA there has been no less than five totally independent expert reports tabled, all of which verify that this facility

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poses no risk to either local residents' health, the environment and to workers on site. Further, this project was also recommended for approval by Latrobe City Council's Planning Department following its own independent environmental report tabled against the Latrobe Planning Scheme.

3. A modern, state-of-the-art facility, the real facts

The scientific evidence is very clear; there are no impacts on environment or health from this project whatsoever, which has been independently verified by experts during the approval process and by the regulators of Victoria, who have imposed very stringent safeguards.

Even for the closest residences in Hazelwood North, ambient lead emissions from this plant will be around 140 times below the strictest standard in the world and 100 times below natural background levels found in vehicles and in the very water we drink. We have allowed plenty of buffer area around the facility. The closest residence is about 1.5km away and the Hazelwood North Primary School 2km away from the stack, despite the EPA's minimum buffer requirement for this kind of facility being 0.5km.

This is virtually identical to the only other facility of this type in Australia, at Wagga Wagga in NSW, where the closest residence is 1.2km away, with a number of others within 2km. That site has operated successfully for a number of years without issue and has recently been approved to expand to around four times the capacity of our Hazelwood North facility. There were no community objections in the planning engagement process.

We respect everyone's right to have an opinion but please ensure your opinion is well informed. There are many resources available about this project at www.chunxing.com.au. I also encourage you to contact me at any time where I am more than happy to discuss and clarify any of your concerns or provide you with the resources you require.

4. Our gratitude and commitment to the Latrobe Valley community

We are grateful to many in the community that have encouraged and supported us. Their views have tended to be in line with an interest in investment in local jobs with the view that the approval bodies have now made their decision and it's time to 'get on with it'.

5. Local jobs

As has been stated consistently over the last two years, Chunxing is keen to employ local people wherever possible for the approximate 68 direct jobs on offer at the facility and further indirect jobs of about 100. We are now at the stage where the initial recruitment process has begun. In this regard we have already started the process of recruiting the team locally for construction of the project. We are also in the process of engaging local engineering companies to begin design and construction where local people will be employed.

6. The next phase

Between now and the middle of the year we will undertake detailed design and planning for the project including:

- *Investigation of baseline land and groundwater conditions.*
- *Final detailed design of process and buildings / building ventilation, pollution control, waste water treatment and storm water management systems.*
- *Design of all chemical storages on site.*
- *Full plant and operations risk assessment, including a comprehensive risk management study that considers all process and environmental risks for operation.*
- *Design for continuous and periodical air emission monitoring programs.*
- *Plans such as a Construction Environmental Management Plan and a Communications and Engagement Plan for the construction phase of the project.*

Construction of site buildings are then planned from mid-June this year to late 2021.

7. Additional voluntary activities

Prior to our plant commissioning, we have also decided to have the following activities in place on a voluntary basis:

- 1) *Soil testing in the surrounding land prior to commissioning and periodically every 3 - 5 years.*
- 2) *24 hour air monitoring system from the stack.*
- 3) *Designated areas for independent air monitoring.*
- 4) *Establishment of a community liaison committee.*

We are committed to the people of the Latrobe Valley. We hope to be the catalyst for renewed investment in the region, particularly in broader recycling, recovery and re-purposing endeavours, including future value added battery manufacturing for energy storage.

Both Chunxing and I look forward to becoming a major employer in the region and a valued member of the local business community. We look forward to working with you.

Regards,

Dr. Lakshman Jayaweera

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