



Agenda Items & Minutes

Topic	Host
Welcome Committee Members and Visitors	Robin Krause
Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners	Stacey Clark
Apologies	Tania Brown
Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting Lorraine Bull & Bronwyn Woodward	Tania Brown
Project Status Report Robin has been involved in resubmitting the endorsed drawings to the council. Major changes include the size of the site being reduced from 53000m ² to 45500m ² . The building size has been reduced by 14500m ² to 11700m ² . The battery breaking, unloading and storage areas have been rearranged, to maximise plan efficiency. The overhead crane electric grab has been removed and replaced with a conveyer system to minimise health and safety and maintenance issues. Robin has designed an unloading hopper, and incorporated a metal detector to detect non lead batteries. Zoom meetings have continued with China. Changes in managing the slag systems have been discussed, as China's requirements are different to Australian Standards. The smelter feed system will have as little manual handling as possible, and will be a fully automated system. Maggie Jones asked if the batteries were previously to be manually sorted, and were now being screened with a metal detector for lithium batteries as a secondary precaution. Robin agreed this was correct. Robin also advised overhead cranes would be used to remove heavy or non lead batteries. Maggie asked if the high risk areas of operation were automated. Robin agreed that this was the case. Maggie asked what the expected workforce was projected to be. Robin advised the workforce numbers hadn't changed, fourteen of the original personnel that would have been completing manual tasks are now operating the automated processes.	

The ponds, pumping systems and cooling towers all need to be monitored. Lime dosing and filtration systems all need to be overseen by personnel. These will no longer be physically demanding manual jobs.

Lorraine Bull asked if there were any plans for social cohesion or training of the proposed workforce. Robin advised there were five areas within the plant, battery breaking, smelting and refining, environmental controls and staff who will work in teams. People will be trained to work in teams across one side of the plant in the major process areas.

Robin advised our recovered plastics will not be separated into colours, as there is currently no market for it in Australia. Leanne Norwood asked what happened to the plastics. Robin advised at this stage all plastics would be sent to Sydney for recycling into garden furniture, flower pots and road and footpath redevelopments. A small amount is returned to battery manufacturing.

Bronwyn Woodward asked if Robin had completely redesigned the building and internal systems. Robin advised the building size had be made smaller due to greater safety and efficiencies in the processing, and only changed the hopper and plastics granulation system. The Chinese technology has not been changed.

Bronwyn asked if the building changes need to be reapproved. Robin advised that endorsement by Latrobe City council was necessary.

Maggie asked at what point does reassessment of the project occur due to the significant changes to the design. Robin advised that no significant changes had been made to the technology.

Stacey Clark advised that if there were changes to the proscribed activities the EPA would be interested in approvals at that stage of the project.

Maggie asked if changes to the recovery boiler reduced the flue temperature. Robin advised it does the same job but doesn't produce steam as it is air cooled. Robin advised the temperature would be about the same - 60°.

Leanne Norwood asked if the public would have access to the results of the commissioning of the plant. Robin advised the results would be published on the company website. The results would be published on a regular basis throughout the commissioning process. Commissioning should take between 4 and 6 months.

Philip Reichert asked if there was an update on the monitoring systems Robin advised consultants had been engaged to assess the design process for each piece of plant. The EPA will scrutinize the results. Additional reports will be submitted regarding the processes.

John Petrakos asked which consultants had been engaged. Robin advised that was confidential. John asked when the process design would be completed. Robin advised mid November. The presentation for the EPA would be mid January.

Lorraine asked if local businesses were being used for the project. Robin advised that the hydraulic consultant was based in Yarragon, the plant and building design engineer is based in Traralgon, concrete design consultant is based in Caufield, and the culvert design consultant is in Sydney.

Robin
Krause

Leanne commented that the community was advised that the plant was approved because it was "shovel ready". Leanne asked when the due date to start construction was. Robin advised site construction started on the 14th January 2022. Site works need to be started by the end of 2025. Robin advised there had been difficulty getting design and construction quotes. Building companies were unavailable and the earliest anyone could be on site for works was January. The building would take approximately 5 months to complete. Roads and foundations/footings need to be completed prior to building installation. Weather conditions have made consolidation of earthworks very difficult.

Philip asked what the current construction timeline was. Robin advised soil consolidation would start in February if conditions were dry enough.

Maggie asked why the project was fast tracked over the council and communities wishes if the plant was still two years away from construction and not "shovel ready". Robin advised that design works would be ongoing to ensure safety and efficiency of the plant. Leanne asked why the community was told the design was worlds best practice. Robin advised that at time of initial submission it was best practice, but also needed to meet Australian Standards of best practice. Bronwyn advised that the community was advised it was Australian best practice, when this was not in fact the case. Bronwyn advised that the community's concerns were not addressed or taken seriously at that point. Robin advised that the plant must be certified to Australian Standards. Therefore hazardous jobs were being removed and replaced by automated processes. None of the technology or environmental systems had been changed.

Bronwyn advised that the community had further apprehension that the project was not in fact "shovel ready" and had a lack of trust in the rest of the project process. Robin advised that he was responsible for the projects refinements for the Australian requirements.

Community Questions

Maggie advised the community had repeatedly asked why the EPA assessment expert report stated the bag houses and scrubbers systems were the bare minimum required by lead recycling plants world wide. Maggie asked for a response as to why they were told this was worlds leading technology but the expert advised it was the bare minimum. Robin advised that the expert based the report on his experience with much larger plants, particularly in America. American plants process over 100000 tonnes of batteries, and are now required to use a wet dust precipitator.

Maggie advised American plants have wet scrubbers, baghouses and WESPs. Mark Stephenson is one of the leading people working in lead smelter technology and says the Hazelwood plant has the bare minimum. Robin advised that his assessment was based on his experience. Chunxing is using a consultant that Mark used to work for. This consultant has international experience and is a consultant to BHP. This consultant is writing the design process report for the Hazelwood plant.

Robin advised the wet gas precipitator system had been reviewed by the Chunxing consultant and it was not considered an efficient methodology to be used on a small plant such as Hazelwood. This was part of the assessment in the official report that was requested by Mark through the EPA. It would not add any efficiency to the Hazelwood plant.

Mark was approached to consult for Chunxing, but advised it would be a conflict of interest with his consultancy with the EPA. Mark did assist with the original mass balance for the plant, and agreed that with the Chunxing consultant that the figures were acceptable.

Philip asked if Pure's experience would now be beneficial to the project. Robin advised Pure were the biggest recyclers in Queensland and Hazelwood was the second smelter they had added to their group. Legislation is changing so that if there is secondary smelting available in Australia, lead paste that has not been desulphurised cannot be exported.

Robin
Krause

<p>Bronwyn asked how the air monitoring was progressing. Robin advised monitors were approved for installation but that there were problems getting the telescopic poles from the manufacturer. Lorraine advised similar poles were used at Yinnar. Lorraine will send Robin the contact. Installation is expected in January or February.</p> <p>Leanne asked who was supplying gas to the plant. Robin advised he was in contact with the Australian Gas Industry Group. They advised they are looking at options on Firmins Lane and connections near Omnia. Consideration was being given to the plants requirements in reassessing supply needs. If 160KPa is required it will take three years for installation. Initially the plant will look at running on 70KPa.</p> <p>Ausnet have advised that a high voltage systems study will be required for power installation. A consultant is currently working on that report.</p>	
<p>Agenda items for next meeting by Wednesday 23rd November 2022 to tbrown@purenv.au</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Next Meeting Wednesday 07th December 2022 7.00pm. Century Inn, Airfield Road, Traralgon.</p>	<p>Philip Reichert</p>
<p>Close</p>	