



Used Lead Acid Battery Community Liaison Committee Meeting

19-Feb-25

7.00pm

Online - MS Teams

Minutes

Topic

Host

Welcome to Country	Philip Reichert
Apologies Refer attached attendance sheet. Philip Reichert (Chair) passed on his apologies for missing the last meeting after a Dentists appointment.	Philip Reichert
Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting Approved by Lorraine Bull (Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group) and John Ellingham (community member).	Philip Reichert

Karlis Baltpurvins introduced himself to the CLC as the CEO of Pure Environmental, having been in the role for the last two and half years, and having been active in the ULAB Hazelwood project during this time. In first week of January, Karlis visited two of the Chunxing Plants, our technology provider. The purpose of the visits were commercial discussions and to meet the technical team in China. The plants visited were the Jiangyin plant and the Pizhou plant. Both are smaller prosperous regional locations with populations around one million people. Observations and discussion from the trips included: - Profound improvement in air quality in China compared to prior visits 10 years earlier - Clear China has focused on improving their environment when comparing to prior visits. - Australian's often see China as a developing country well behind Australia when in fact they are amongst the most technologically advanced. - Examples bullet train network, advanced renewables program (wind and solar), 80% motor vehicles are electric with a large number of vehicle brands. - Karl introduced Mr Yang, the founder, who started the lead smelter 40 years ago and lives at the refinery. - Chunxing as a deep understanding of batteries in general, whether it be recycling them or manufacturing them or reusing different products. - Karl showed photos of both plants noting how well maintained it was, the high level of housekeeping, and good air quality. - Karl showed a photo of the air emissions control plant, to visually provide the scale of the controls in place and required in China. It is a PLC driven system, controlled to China's emissions standards and if exceedances occur, the plant is shutdown by the regulator. - Impressed with the lead and metal alloys produced and the separation of other recyclable products such as coloured polypropylene. These are produced with a high level of sophistication and automation. The lead and metal alloys are used within China and shipped overseas. - They are a very good example of the circular economy, placing higher value on the secondary products than we do in Australia. - Chunxing have plants not only in China but also in Thailand, Pakistan, United Arabian Emirates. They also have applications underway for plants in Europe and the United States, as well as ours in Australia. In summary the visit to China and the plants validated what we knew of the Chunxing China management and technology teams. The plants were high quality, well maintained to a high level of environmental compliance. Karlis came away with a favourable view of the technology.	Karlis Baltpurvins
Questions and Comments on the Chunxing China Plant Visit: Comment Lorraine Bull (Latrobe Valley Sustainability Group) - I've been to China some time ago, and I'm really impressed with the improvement in the air quality and technical skills that they are now demonstrating. Question Sally Fraser (Alive Inc) - Do you have any concerns on the location and the proximity to the primary school being under 2 kilometres? Response Karlis Baltpurvins (Pure) - Firstly, I understand the close proximity our the school as a close neighbour to any industrial operation is a concern. I feel very responsible to ensure that I would not commit myself to a project without reviewing all the information over the past 2.5 years and seeing the plant. This information says to me that the emissions can be maintained at orders of magnitude lower than background levels. I personally feel its world class and I genuinely don't have any concerns. I would say that it is incredibly important that you monitor and maintain those operations and that you have fail safe measures in case of a production issue.	Karlis Baltpurvins

Question Sally Fraser (Alive Inc) - My next question is, would you send your family member to the school that's located that distance?

Response Karlis Baltpurvins (Pure) - For context, I live in Newcastle, and I have Orica approximately 2 kilometres from my house. Orica has the largest ammonium nitrate store in Australia and it presents a significant risk. I'm satisfied that while they have that hazard, they manage the risk. So as you are doing, I would want to make sure that all of the checks and balances are in place. But i would personally send my child to that school after I have satisfied myself.

Question Sally Fraser (Alive Inc) - I'll raise one concern with you from prior CLC meetings is that I don't think there is confidence regaining the air monitoring system and how regular it would be checked. It's been said it depends on the wind or other factors. I just want to flag that it needs to have a set days no matter what the weather is doing, whether that be every day or every other day. It can't vary.

Response Karlis Baltpurvins (Pure) - There are 2 types of air monitoring, There are monitoring at discharge points on the stacks which you rely on for plant performance and there is in field monitoring to ensure no fugitive emissions are being carries through. The in field monitoring is on a prescribed basis and I am absolutely positive this will be at a regular coordinated cadence. We've made the commitment that the data will be made available. Those 2 lines of defence are needed to monitor both the discharge site and the potential receptor site.

Question Sally Fraser (Alive Inc) - If you have no concerns with the school proximity and the homes, would Pure welcome a self-imposed KPI targeting values far less than the current EPA requirements to boost community confidence? And would Pure be open to accepting significant financial penalties payable to the community?

Response Karlis Baltpurvins (Pure) - I can not quote to you today the limits, but by my understanding the reference limits are much lower than the background limits that you would receive in the area. So we will already be measuring and reporting on those levels as KPIs. The data we have seen from the performance of the other plants, the modelling and design demonstrate we have a high level of control. If we had a failure, we would be prosecuted for that failure and that is a material event that i have seen occur. These are normally done a couple of ways, through a conventional prosecution or through an enforceable undertaking. In an enforceable undertaking a payment can be made to undertake some type of environmental project in the community rather than going into consolidated revenue. If we were in breach, i would expect that we would be prosecuted and held financially accountable for that breach. I am personally very conscious of the community and our own commitments to it and our own reputation.

Comment Stacey Clarke (VIC EPA) and would be : To clarify, there is no EPA licence in place so no emission limits are set yet. In relation to the prosecution, that is absolutely an options for EPA, but not necessarily the first option that we would take. It would depend on the nature of the breach, the risk associated with it to human health and the environment.

Question John Ellingham (community member) - Did you get any indication on the number of employees needed to run the smaller plant you visited?

Response Karlis Baltpurvins (Pure) - It's a great question John but I didn't specifically ask them. From my observations, I'd say 10 people administratively and 40 people working on the plant.

Question Bronwyn Woodward (community member) - From the photos, it appears that a lot of the plant is visible from the outside. I was of the understanding our plant was going to be enclosed in a shed. Have I been under the wrong impression?

Response Karlis Baltpurvins (Pure) - Robin will be able to answer what parts of the plant will be outside and what inside the shed. I will point out that most of their plant is inside with the exception of the cooling towers and platforms.

Response Robin Krause (ULAB Project Coordinator) - Rachel has brought up the plan. 95% is fully enclosed. The green area on the centre of the plan is the building. Outside of the building is the emissions control system and the stormwater storage tanks. All of the hot work, dry work and wet work is inside the building.

Karlis
Baltpurvins

Update on EPA Submission All of the reports have been submitted to the EPA and the submission is still under review by the EPA. Pure are waiting on a detailed response from EPA and working to address any requests through the review. The project team is hopeful of a response from EPA by the end of February or March.	Lakshman Jayaweera
Progress Report We still have a Site Manager at the site who is managing any stormwater that is generated on site and treated prior to discharge to trade waste. There are 2 settling ponds on site to ensure that we reduce the sediment and turbidity prior to discharge. Other site activities underway include management the grass and weeds. Whilst we are waiting on the EPA response we are investigating the availability of the services like natural gas, electricity and water so we are ready to proceed once the approval is granted. Question John Ellingham (community member) - Do we have any indication from EPA on timing of their approval? Response Dr Lakshman Jayaweera (Pure Chunxing) - No we don't have a timeframe.	Robin Krause
Any other questions from the community members for discussion: Sally Fraser (ALIVE Inc) - The current timeframe for meetings was only up to February Will this continue every two months? Is there a type of application/nomination? Rachel Irvine-Marshall (Pure) - I'll review and bring a new schedule and response to the next meeting.	Philip Reichert
Next Meeting: Agenda Items, please send to Rachel prior to the meeting Wednesday 16 April 2025 - online meeting.	Philip Reichert

