

# Community Update

Volume 01 | February 2020

# Sharing our story with our neighbours



Koppers' Newcastle team strives to operate its Mayfield plant in an efficient and responsible manner to protect the community, its employees and the environment.

#### Nick Moretti

We have had several incidents occur at the plant over the past 12 months. We regret these incidents and apologise for any inconvenience caused to our neighbours.

Several incidents occurred as we were bringing online new odour and emission control projects. Rest assured we are taking additional action to prevent these issues from occurring again.

Koppers continually works to improve the performance of its Newcastle plant by implementing pollution reduction programs in consultation with the regulator, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

This update is part of our new plan to keep our local community informed about our work. If you need more information, please get in touch.

## Nick Moretti Newcastle Plant Operations Manager





# Investing in plant upgrades – protecting the community and environment

# Plant upgrades

Since 2008, Koppers has spent \$40 million on projects at the plant, including \$19 million on environmental improvement projects such as:

- A \$1.5 million thermal oxidation system to combust wet scrubbed fumes
- More than \$13 million on ongoing inspections and refurbishments of tanks
- A \$650,000 cooling tower upgrade to eliminate odours from treatment chemicals
- A \$2 million "leak free" upgrade of pumps and seals to further eliminate odours

We spend around \$5 million a year on repairs and maintenance.

More work is underway including the installation of pressure sensors inside all tanks and a permanent thermal oxidation unit at our wharf to combust fumes during ship loading.

Our plant was already meeting guidelines for emissions of volatile organic compounds but the thermal oxidation system has further reduced these emissions by around 99%.

# **Keeping the** community informed

In August last year, we held two information sessions for local business and community representatives. This involved a short briefing followed by a tour around the plant in each case. We explained how our new oxidation system worked, and asked for feedback on how to best liaise with local business and community stakeholders.

This publication is one of the results of that process!



We have developed a new stakeholder engagement and communication plan to help us to better consult and inform our neighbours and the surrounding community about our plant.

# **Community Reference Group**

We are calling for expressions of interest from local community members and business representatives to sit on a community reference group, to help share information with our neighbours. Please call or email us if you think you might be interested and we'll give you more information.



### **SMS** notifications

Responding to feedback from local stakeholders we are setting up a system to let you know if we have any emergency drills, or real emergencies. We will keep a list of mobile phone numbers and will send a text message before an emergency drill, which will help neighbouring businesses prepare for potential traffic impacts from emergency vehicles. and let neighbours know what is going on.

In the unlikely event of an emission from site or other emergency, we would use the same system to advise you.

If you would like to have your number added to the list, please email or call using the details on the right.

# What does Koppers do?

**Koppers Newcastle beneficially reuses** coal tar from Australian steelworks to produce coal tar pitch - an essential raw material for Australian aluminium smelters. We are the only supplier in Australia.

We also make products for wood preservation, rubber products manufacturing and concrete additives for construction. We employ 60 local people, making us an important contributor to the local economy and the Australian manufacturing sector. We've been here 50 years and operate 24/7.

**Koppers holds an Environment Protection Licence** and is regulated by the NSW Environment Protection **Authority (EPA).** 

#### Monitoring and reporting

We monitor emissions and report these annually to the EPA. We submit a public annual return to the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) and comply with all government environmental reporting requirements.

## Contact us

If you have a question or feedback please get in touch!

If you notice an odour or emission you think may be coming from our plant, please let us know so we can respond.



Phone | 1800 066 243 (Community feedback & complaints)

Email | CMCinfo@koppers.com.au

Website | www.koppers.com.au