





# Minutes

21 November 2023

<b>Project name</b>	Koppers Community Reference Group	<b>From</b>	Emily Strauss
<b>Subject</b>	CRG Meeting #12	<b>Tel</b>	1800 066 243
<b>Date / Time</b>	15:44 - 21 November 2023	<b>Project no.</b>	12554413
<b>Attendees</b>	Nick Moretti (Koppers) Michael Ulph (GHD) Emily Strauss (GHD, minutes, online) Chris Tola (online) John Hayes (Mayfield Group) Rodney Hood (PHN Industries) Rick Banyard (Mayfield Group)	<b>Apologies</b>	Shane Beasley (Koppers) Marie Caruana (First Chance) Kristie Carter (PON) Paul Adams (Major Projects Group)
<b>Guests</b>			
<b>Objective</b>	Community Reference Group	<b>Copy to</b>	All CRG

Minutes	Action
<b>Meeting officially started at 3:44</b>	NA
<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> MU provides an Acknowledgement of Country	NA
<b>Introductions</b> MU introduces group attending and notes apologies.	NA
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p><b>Introductions</b> <span style="float: right;"></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick Moretti</li> <li>• John Hayes</li> <li>• Rodney Hood</li> <li>• Michael Ulph</li> <li>• Emily Strauss</li> <li>• Rick Banyard</li> <li>• Chris Tola</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><b>Apologies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marie Caruana</li> <li>• Paul Adams</li> <li>• Kristie Carter</li> <li>• Shane Beasley</li> </ul> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p><b>Agenda</b> <span style="float: right;"></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Acknowledgement of country</li> <li>• Introductions / apologies</li> <li>• Safety moment</li> <li>• Past minutes – Michael</li> <li>• Koppers general market update – Nick</li> <li>• Mayfield report – Nick</li> <li>• Community – Michael</li> <li>• Close and next meeting with special guest</li> </ul> </div> </div>	
<b>Safety Moment</b>	NA
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Safety Moment</b> <span style="float: right;"></span></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; margin: 0;"><b>SAFETY MOMENT!</b></p> <p><b>Batteries at Home</b> Handling, Storage, and Disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep new and used batteries separate.</li> <li>• Store batteries in their original packaging until needed.</li> <li>• Store batteries at room temperature or below.</li> <li>• Don't store batteries near metal objects.</li> <li>• Prevent children and pets from ingesting small batteries.</li> <li>• To avoid leaks, dispose of batteries before their expiration date.</li> <li>• Participate in local battery recycling programs.</li> </ul> </div>  </div> </div>	<p>MU provides safety moment about batteries.</p> <p>There has been an influx of cheaper batteries onto the market due to more e-scooters and the like.</p> <p>This is important during Christmas time as kids have toys with these batteries. It is important to be aware of handling, storage at or below room temperature and disposal of batteries before the expiration date to avoid leaking. Other safety considerations are to store batteries in original packaging until needed, to keep them away from metal objects and to keep them away from pets and children.</p>

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<p>There are a lot of local battery recycling programs such as run by Officeworks.</p> <p>MU: Calls for other safety moments.</p> <p>JH: It's important to distinguish between true battery information and misreporting about car batteries. Generally, car batteries are safe and won't overheat – they have their own capacity for cooling and not overheating, whereas cheaper batteries don't have that capacity. There is a lot of misinformation from people who are against electric cars and batteries. There is lots of misinformation about electric cars causing fires in garages.</p>	
<p><b>Meeting minutes</b></p> <p>NM moves last minutes, CT seconds last minutes.</p>	NA
<p><b>Koppers report (NM)</b></p> <p><b>General market update</b></p> <div data-bbox="145 703 764 1167" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Koppers has three similar facilities; in Chicago, Mayfield and Denmark. Their home office is in Pittsburgh.</p> <p>NM attended a site visit of the new Danish plant, accompanied by people from the Pittsburgh office, Pittsburgh technical people, Chicago, from Denmark and from Australia. The plant was visited by commercial people, salespeople, technical people from all over the world, including Holland and England.</p> <p>The town is called Nyborg which means Newcastle in Danish. Christian Nielson, was at a Koppers CRG meeting recently. He is the Senior Vice president of the Carbon Materials and Chemicals Division. He convened the meeting and for all of these people to look at the new plant.</p> <p>The plant is nine storeys high and it can make more pitch from oils that they currently produced and sell as a carbon black feedstock. When you distil tar, about half becomes pitch which they sell to the aluminium market to make carbon anodes. Another 30% turns into carbon black feedstock which is a creosote oil, used to make carbon black. The main application of the carbon black is to make tyres and enhance the properties of rubber.</p> <p>MU: This is to increases the resilience of the tyre.</p> <p>NM: The black colour of tyres and rubber is from carbon black. Rubber is not naturally black. To make carbon black they burn the oil in the absence of oxygen to make as much soot as possible, which they capture as sell as carbon black.</p> <p>Koppers has developed a technology to convert carbon black feedstock oil into pitch which is a higher value product. This will help with the bottom line, as pitch sells for a higher price than carbon black feedstock.</p> <p>It cost 27 million dollars to build the plant. It is very high tech and is being commissioned now. At its maximum capacity it can only make 2 tonnes per hour, which is only 15,000 tonnes per year.</p> <p>This new pitch is called Enhanced Carbon Pitch (ECP) because it is cleaner than the traditional pitch they have been producing. The ECP can be used to blend in with their normal pitch to make more pitch. It also lends itself to being a precursor to speciality carbon products such as carbon fibre.</p> <p>Ultimately it can also be turned into graphite, for use in coating electrodes in batteries. As Shane has mentioned, they are involved in research with universities and a cooperative of about 50 companies. They have all contributed financially to this research.</p> <p>They are hoping to become the carbon coaters for the next generation of new batteries. This is still the early stages. This is years away.</p>	NA

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<p>Batteries are very important for future energy as we will need a way to store all of the energy we are producing in the future. They will be important in the economy.</p> <p>There are several stages to getting graphite. They can heat treat it slightly and turn it into a substance called mesophase. The mesophase can be heated to 1000 degrees C which effectively carbonises it. For it to become graphite, they would need to heat it to 3000 degrees C but they won't be doing that. The steering committee is not keen on carbonising it because you would need special equipment. Not many people have that kind of equipment. Instead, Koppers will turn it into the mesophase. They will distil it at a plant that they call Skyfall. Skyfall will produce the ECP (Enhanced Carbon Pitch), which they can use to blend or to heat treat and turn into mesophase. They can market the mesophase or they may make the decision to carbonise the mesophase, but it is too difficult to graphitise it and heat it to 3000 degrees.</p> <p>They have now built the plant. Christian has the goal of building one of these plants at each of the three facilities.</p> <p><b>Rick Banyard arrived at 3:58pm</b></p> <p>NM recaps that they are discussing the new plant which makes pitch out of distilled oils. They are in the process of commissioning it and about 40 Koppers employees from across the world attended a site visit recently in Denmark.</p> <p>Koppers built a pilot plant first which is a miniature demo plant. The pilot plant can do all of the same things as the actual plant, such as making the ECP and including the heat treating and creation of the mesophase. It works as a miniature of the actual nine storeys high plant.</p> <p>Koppers had their Christmas show last Saturday night and NM spoke about new exciting developments such as battery research and carbon coating for batteries.</p> <p>MU: Does Christian wants a plant to be built here?</p> <p>NM: Mayfield was actually earmarked as the next place for this plant to be built. They are watching the commissioning process closely. One of their engineers moved to Denmark for a year to help build the plant and learn how the plant was commissioned and to be able to repeat the process here to commission a similar plant. He came back on 11 November. Lots of expertise is needed. Typically, they don't do projects of this size here yet, but the groundwork is being done in Denmark.</p> <p>JH: Has there has been encouragement by state and federal government regarding promotion of new industries. Some of this encouragement is financial through funding grants. Will Koppers here get the same funding and government support?</p> <p>NM: I hope there will be the same funding and government support. Discussions are in their early stages because this is a few years away. They will need a lot of approvals and permits to be able to do this. This will be a long process. They will engage Simon Murphy, part of the environment team at GHD, to assist with planning pathways as they have worked with him previously at AECOM.</p> <p>JH: I understand that timing is uncertain as the process is so long but there is a need to secure funding and get in the money queue as well as get government involvement sooner rather than later.</p> <p>NM: All they have done so far is that they have told the EPA that they want to build a plant like this in the future. Koppers has mentioned their plans to them, they have started the planning approval process but stopped while their engineer, Hugh, was in Denmark.</p> <p>The plant is about 42-43 m in height. NM went to the top, it is open at the top.</p> <p>MU: Because this plant is so high tech and the first of its kind, does it already have vapour and emissions controls built in? I assume there is no need for these controls to be added after.</p> <p>NM: These controls are all built in. The plant produces a lot of gas.</p> <p>RB: Will this plant allow Koppers to build an end product that they can actually sell, or will it just build the components of batteries?</p> <p>NM: The plant will produce just the carbon coating, they won't be building the batteries themselves.</p> <p>JH: I imagine there won't be many other companies doing this.</p>	

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<p>NM: No other companies I know of are producing carbon coatings. None of the other companies in the cooperative are also doing this. They have all put in 0.5 million dollars each over three years to fund research.</p> <p>RB: There is someone importing lithium batteries into Newcastle which will be used at solar farms and things like that. Possibly they are cottoning on to the idea.</p> <p>MU: I don't know if it is Ausgrid or TransGrid, but someone is putting batteries on power poles in Adamstown. It's three batteries hugging the power poles. It is to absorb energy during the day for use during peak times. People can do this for themselves but it's good to see them taking the lead on it.</p> <p>RB: I am putting a battery into his garage in a few weeks and I have solar panels. I anticipate the power bill will then be zero forever.</p> <p>NM: The image at the top is about their involvement with a facility that used to be in Steel River, but they are no longer there. They have a working plant called The Crucible. Two men, one in Gold Coast and one local, they had the plant in Gladstone. The purpose of which was to treat end-of-life timber. Koppers is providing them with some timber to trial. They have repositioned their contraption from Gladstone to Molycop recently. Molycop has rented them some space. Shane is working closely with them. There was a Bioeconomy Conference, which GHD was involved in.</p> <p>MU: GHD ran a workshop on day two about circular economy in collaboration with the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils about potential precincts and sites for a potential energy hub. This is across four locations in the Hunter – including Mid-coast, Central Coast-Lake Mac, Upper Hunter and Lower Hunter. The workshop assessed different potential sites across the four locations including the Liddell site in the Upper Hunter and PON for the Lower Hunter. Near PON would be in proximately to the proposed clean energy hub and Orica hydrogen electrolyser where there are pockets of vacant land suitable for co-location of circular economy energy projects. Taree and Buttonderry landfill area were discussed for the Lake Macquarie - Central Coast area. This includes stakeholder engagement input from MU as well as expert PHD knowledge from people like Sarah King.</p> <p>MU: I attended the conference on day 2, but other GHD colleagues attended the whole conference.</p> <p>NM: Joe and Shane attended and presented.</p> <p>MU: Mark Johnson, who has been involved at Summerhill Waste Management Facility for some time also attended. He presented on his business called Cha Cha Cha, which is about burning timbers at the right temperature to reduce gas and returning carbon to the soil in various sized granules and pellets. He has been doing this in his back garden and put a kiln in place of his swimming pool.</p> <p>NM: We are involved in that. We they don't treat timbers but Koppers does have a Koppers wood division with four plants around Australia at Grafton, Harvey Bay, Bunbury (WA) and Longford (TAS) where they mainly treat utility poles.</p> <p>People have all heard of Koppers utility logs, it was their marketing juggernaut.</p>	
<p><b>Mayfield report</b></p> <p>NM: I have been wanting to ask RB about the the Newcastle Community Consultative Committee for the Environment (NCCCE). Koppers received an email from Jonathan Wood who is part of the sustainability advantage division of the environment group. The email said the EPA is taking nominations for people to join Hunter Environment Advisory Group which will have community representatives, local industry and council representatives who will engage with the EPA on emerging and existing environmental issues in the Hunter. To NM, this sounds exactly like the NCCCE.</p> <p>JH: This is not like the NCCCE, this is a disaster.</p> <p>NM: I would like to ask about this as he thought RB and JH would know.</p> <p>RB: I am nominated to be on this group as well as another member of the NCCCE who has also been nominated. However, he is not aware of others who have been nominated.</p> <p>NCCCE people have been nominated for this, including CT.</p> <p>NM: Asks CT if he also received this email.</p>	NA

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<p>CT: I got the email and put an application in and was asked to distribute some information about it which is what I have done.</p> <p>RB: Nominations closed last weekend. Originally, the NCCCE formed after the disaster at Orica. The Minister put the committee in place to cover the Newcastle LGA. They used to meet 6 times a year which worked well, on alternate months. But then they watered it down, they shortened the term and cut meetings back to four a year. They did pay a sitting fee and travel expenses. They then set up another Upper Hunter committee to monitor Upper Hunter power stations and mines, centred on Muswellbrook. John Tate was also chairperson of that committee. That group didn't go as well as NCCCE. Then there was the wool store fire. RB and some others pushed NCCCE very hard to make sure proper clean up occurred which it did. But they didn't seem comfortable with NCCCE. Then it was decided they would water down NCCCE and combine it with Upper Hunter committee. People thought it would be better to leave committees separate.</p> <p>Then they took the records of the NCCCE down from the EPA website and made the minutes no longer accessible. The new group has only two meetings a year, encompasses all of the Hunter, has no sitting fee, an undecided venue and no travel expenses.</p> <p>It will be challenging to gather a group across the Hunter with no travel money and sitting fee. They have the same number of members of community as before. The number is effectively halved because all LGAs are coming together, with the same number of community spots available. There will only be four community reps, one will be Indigenous, one will be a young person. So of the four community positions, two are already allocated.</p> <p>JH: I know of a young female university graduate who has also applied.</p> <p>RB: There are four community positions, two industry and one environmental position. RB was going to apply to be chairperson, which may free up another position. They have nominated that the chairperson will be an executive officer of the EPA. He will call Claire to see how this will all work.</p> <p>NM: When will you find out if you are on the group.</p> <p>RB: It has taken 12 months for them to call for nominations, maybe it'll take another 12 to be appointed. I suspect a number of groups will raise issues and comment on this proposed group. Stockton group is likely to raise an issue and make a comment.</p> <p>RB: I will be making comment on the phone to Claire. I don't know who aside from me would have the necessary contacts between the Upper and Lower Hunter. I lived and worked in mining and know the Upper Hunter well, a characteristic that John Tate didn't have. I hope it will succeed because NCCCE did a good job and secured resources from the EPA that wouldn't have been received by the Hunter otherwise. They have great monitoring network in place, they have extensive monitoring, which is good for industry and for people. Everyone understands their environmental obligations and reporting issues.</p> <p>JH: It is likely that Correct Planning and Consultation from Mayfield will write to Tony Chappel (new CEO of the EPA) to identify a number of imperfections in the new plan and to ask for the arrangements for it to be reviewed. I suggest that Koppers should endorse this statement, as well as other local organisations, so that the new director of the EPA can see that what is being suggested by his staff is a disaster. He also suggests GHD should endorse this message.</p> <p>MU: The IAP2 (International Association Public Participation) which provides training for stakeholder practitioners and has local body, board and representatives. This organisation would be the appropriate organisation as they have local body and board and they set benchmark for consultation. I can put JH in touch with them.</p> <p>JH: It is not for them to be put in touch with this organisation, it would be better for GHD to make contact. The Stockton group has said they need a Stockton representative. Hardly any room for representation as the geographical spread is too big making it difficult for people to be represented as well as the fact that the group would meet so infrequently. JH and RB intend to formulate a response. They think asking corporations such as Koppers and GHD to also raise an issue is a good idea.</p> <p>RB: One idea could be to have sub committees or working groups in each LGA to ensure everyone is captured which could feed into the main organisation.</p> <p>NM: Our ship is alongside the Whyalla berth for the last tar shipment from the Whyalla Steelworks. Whyalla has decided to cease operations to manufacture metallurgical coke, they will import from China instead. They won't be making anymore tar. They have let their coke ovens fall into maintenance disrepair and it</p>	

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<p>would be too costly to restart operations at the ovens. They have become unsafe to operate. They have taken the decision to instead retire these coke ovens. Steelworks at Whyalla were one of their original suppliers. The plant was built in 1967, operational in 1968. It used to be called BHP Whyalla. Australian Iron and Steel in Port Kembla is now called Blue Scope, it used to be called AIS, and BHP Newcastle all used to be their original tar raw material suppliers.</p> <p>BHP is now gone. BlueScope Steel has gone from being a two blast furnace operation to a one blast furnace operation. Koppers used to buy 110,000 tonnes of tar from them per year, but now they are only buying about 70,000. Now the price of metallurgical coke has been depressed. So the price of coal is now higher than the price of coke. So when BlueScope cut back blast furnace operations from two to one blast furnace, they kept 3-4 of their batteries running and closed one of them. Two were enough for their internal consumption, but they were also making coke to be exported, which kept tar quantities higher for Koppers.</p> <p>Now however, due to the coke prices, they have decided to slow down their coke operations. So instead of 70,000 tonnes of tar annually, they are making 55,000 tonnes of tar annually. They will review again in January, but they started the slowing down process in September.</p> <p>Whyalla has also shut down their operations, so they are only getting tar from Port Kembla. Koppers still imports soft pitch, which is partially processed tar from Taiwan. But their tar raw material sources have diminished a lot in Australia. They have a ship alongside a port in Vietnam and they are getting two ship cargoes from this port, one is loading today and one is loading in December. They are expecting a lot of tar from Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park (IMIP) in Central Sulawesi, which is being built by China. China is investing a lot of money into Indonesia. They are cutting emissions in China, by building developments in Indonesia instead. Shane and Richard went to visit this plant 18 months ago and said it was a project of immense proportion with brand new coke ovens being built. They expected to get tar from them by now, however, because of the market situation with the metallurgical coke they have not turned a lot of their coke ovens on yet so supply isn't being fully produced yet.</p> <p>Koppers are expecting to get more tar from Indonesia in the coming year and in the long term. In 2024, they expect to be getting tar from Indonesia, Japan and Vietnam. The nameplate capacity is about 300,000 tons of tar. When they had BHP, Whyalla and Port Kembla all in full swing, this is how much Koppers were processing in a year. But in the last 15-20 years since BHP closed down, they have been running about half of the capacity of what this place can do.</p> <p>Christian says they should get as much tar as possible from Asia in order to get back to nameplate capacity and make more pitch, in the hopes they can service Rio Tinto, a shareholder of Tomago Aluminium, with major smelter in Gladstone. They own a smelter in Bell Bay in Launceston, they also own a New Zealand smelter. Koppers doesn't sell any pitch to New Zealand at the moment.</p> <p>Currently they are meeting all of Tomago and Bell Bay's requirements and about half of Gladstone's requirements. They are in discussion to possibly take care of all of Rio's pitch requirements. Currently they get tar from a Korean outfit. They have always done dual supply as Koppers hasn't had enough. If Koppers can get enough tar in then they can run the plant at its nameplate capacity. They have one ship at the moment and would definitely need another one or two. They are hoping to increase their throughput even though Australian tar supply is diminishing. They are hoping for increased throughput to sell more pitch because pitch prices are quite high at the moment and have been high for a few years. The price is an Asian benchmark price, so it is a world price. It can be negotiated to some extent. But all prices and sales are published, so you negotiate based on what is published.</p> <p>MU: Are there any expectations for Australian aluminium smelters to be closing soon or reducing their capacity.</p> <p>NM: No, the smallest of them is Bell Bay. Two have shut down in the last ten years, one at Kurri and one at Geelong. Both coincided with cutbacks when BlueScope went from two blast furnaces to one blast furnace. But there is no talk about further closures. Shane attends conferences about aluminium. The worldwide demand for aluminium is still going up. There are huge smelters in the Middle East. Tomago and Gladstone both make half a million tons of metal per year.</p> <p>The Saudis are at stage one which the first of many stages and stage one starts at 1 million tonnes. They have cheaper power due to high amounts of raw materials over there. Electricity is the biggest raw material of the aluminium industry.</p>	

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JH: asks about timing and potential threat of having the carbon anode being replaced with different technology (inert anode) altogether related to organisations wanting to have the best impact on greenhouse gases. Does Koppers see this as a threat or just something they are aware of?

NM: Koppers is aware of the research that has gone into it. There has been a lot of research from Rusal Russian aluminium, and Alcoa which is one of their customers and coincidentally their technical office is 15 minutes from Koppers in Pittsburgh. They have been doing a lot of work at lab and pilot scale – particularly transitioning from pilot scale to industrial scale. No one has been successful on an industrial scale. If they do, many smelters would need a retrofit of their carbon and anode plants, which would not happen overnight. They haven't overcome this. At these technical conferences, there is always a paper on the inert anode and how it has not succeeded yet. Kopper's biggest concern is the diminishing sources of tar with coke ovens being shut down. They are diminishing in Australia, but in Asia they are still being built.

RB: Do the economics of processing tar become more difficult and threatened due to having to draw tar from so far away.

NM: It becomes more expensive but it is still viable as we charter their own vessels and have control over our logistics. They cost about USD 20,000 per day to rent them including the fuel.

RB: How much fuel per day they burn?

NM: I'm not sure off the top of my head, however, they do have different types of diesel. They have diesel to run the motor and also fuel to run their boilers to keep the product at 200 degrees.

RB: This a dual demand on the fuel.

**Community**

NM: In the community space, PON organised a litter pick around the port area which Koppers attended and took part in. Koppers staff went over to Stockton Lions Park to participate in a rubbish clean up. There was



a weigh in at Incitec and there was a BBQ. Koppers also provided some playground equipment for Islington Public School. It is musical type play equipment. They attended an assembly on day 1 of term 4 and gave a talk about Koppers to Islington Public School. It's quite a small school but it has been there a long time. They cut a ribbon. They are sponsoring the sports person of the year award which they are doing ongoing. There will be a presentation on 8 December and presentation of a Rebel voucher to the sports person of the year.

NM emailed everyone a copy of the newsletter, and says it is released

around every six months.

MU: Newsletter items are about air quality monitoring around the boundary of the business, about donations that have been made and Earth Day where employees received two free plants to plant at home. And a 'meet the team' section with team member profile.



NM: There was an odour complaint from the community which the EPA asked about. Koppers has their own weather stations in addition to the government one in Murray Dwyer Circuit which determined that the wind was going in the wrong direction for Koppers to have been the source of the odour complaint.

However, back in September, they were loading the asphalt transporter with hot pitch after they discharged the tar, which is difficult as tar is wet and cargo tanks are still wet even though the ship has been heated for 24 hours. It is hard to get the water off. In this case, there

must have been a lot of water in one of the cargo holds. They always initially load really slowly to control it. One of the cargo holds was very wet and the pressure increased really quickly and the ship on the deck, which has a pressure vacuum valve. The valve opened for about a minute. This was two in the morning and the vapours went down river, but it didn't go near houses.

They told their EPA officer but didn't think there would be any complaints. They provided the EPA with an investigation report and registered it as an incident in their database. One of their corrective actions was to have one of their shipping supervisors onboard watching their screens to monitor pressure to be able to radio and stop loading if needing if pressure is too high. There are eight people who could do this job. During covid, they weren't allowed on board. NM is asking people if they would be comfortable going on board, as this was an action identified for him to take.

Another ongoing EPA issue is legacy underground contamination from BHP days. They are monitoring this via groundwater and working with the EPA to determine how regularly they do groundwater monitoring.

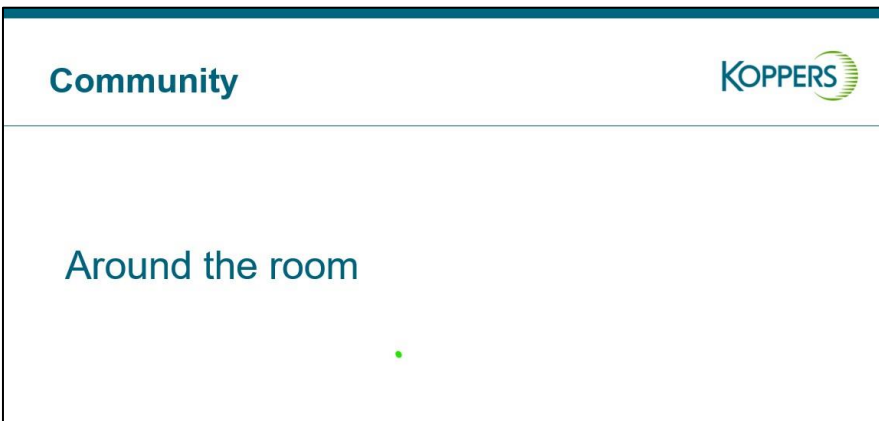
They also own the block to the north. They will embed the groundwater regime once a year on the plant and on the vacant land once every two years under an ongoing maintenance order, section 28 of the Contaminated Land Management Act.

JH: Do you have a contaminated plume which could be heading towards the river?

NM: Groundwater monitoring will detect this but this is not happening at the moment. They have constructed a containment cell for this reason in order to remediate this block. If it migrates to the river they will be able to detect this.

They have groundwater monitoring wells in pairs strategically placed around the cell to detect if contamination migrates.


**MU invites any further questions or comments from the community.**



Newcastle Climate Action Summit invitation to be added to minutes so the CRG can access the QR code



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<p>RH: PHN manufactures hydraulic equipment. They started as a hydraulic business and then bought Maxwell Engineering last year, which went into administration, and relocated those assets to their site. They have a large machinery capability due to their own machines and Maxwell machines. They have expanded up to 70% of the site. The bulk of their work is getting bigger from \$8-10,000 in the past to \$20-\$25,000 now. They do a lot of large surface mining equipment and mining services jobs. They also do rail and other civil infrastructure. They do more surface mining now as opposed to underground mining in the past. The site was a manufacturing site previously so they have to make the site more suitable for them. They do work on smelters, but this is minimal compared to dynamic nature of coal industry at the moment.</p> <p>MU: For a longwall for a mineshaft is it hydraulic?</p> <p>RH: Hydraulics are used for a longwall. They have bought the equipment for this. This will be a future endeavour. It is also very dependent on geology. The surface mining work is most of their work. They are in-house manufacturing this equipment.</p> <p>They have 57 staff. He had to buy the whole of the Maxwell business to acquire a piece of plant that they wanted to buy – and had to move 30 years of their equipment to their site in 2 months. The two entities had to merge and move forward as a new entity but it is settling now.</p> <p>CT: I have been in a new role for last 3 months. I work on a skilled workforce program and the role is about encouraging high schoolers to pursue STEM to progress to university or TAFE and move into industry in the Hunter Valley. They run about 15 events and site visits to RH's facility. They are organising one for next year to Koppers to show students how industry works and jobs available. CT asks NM how offshore wind would impact Koppers.</p> <p>NM: There have been discussions at the PON community liaison group. I can't see offshore wind impacting Koppers at the moment.</p> <p>MU: It is maybe ten years off if all goes well.</p> <p>JH: I was at a function and Richard Finlay-Jones reported on offshore wind. There are about 18,000 square kilometres in the offshore wind zone of the coast, each operator needs 7,000 square kilometres, meaning that there won't be more than three operators. They are all competitive and there are 20 applicants right now. It is expected there will be a lot of collaboration between the three who are selected. He says it will be about seven years until they are up and running. People are concerned about the whales, but there is no evidence they will have any collision risks. But JH says Richard, who is a proponent, may be biased. The commercial fisherman will be seriously affected as it will be an exclusion zone. The recreational fisherman will benefit because construction will attract fish due to growth on anchor structures and cables.</p> <p>RH: What is the life expectancy.</p> <p>JH: Unknown as the technology is new, especially the floating turbines. For shallow water, these turbines are anchored. In deeper water, they are floating and then the cables are anchored into seabed.</p> <p>MU: Each turbine is 200m above the sea. The turbines are above water and won't rust due to salty water however there are impacts from the salty air. Corrosion impacts remain to be seen. MU has heard 20 to 30 years for various pieces.</p> <p>RH: It represents a large opportunity for engineering companies.</p> <p>JH: It represents opportunity for construction and maintenance as well as making the components.</p> <p>RH: I think they will corrode representing mechanical risks.</p> <p>MU: They will be constructed at full height in port and then will get towed out, each will be 200m in height.</p> <p>JH: I'd like to provide a report on Climate Action Newcastle. This group along with other community groups organised the Newcastle Climate Action Summit. 100 people attended at City Hall, from 9:30 to 4:30 on Saturday. It was attended by Trish Doyle, the member for Blue Mountains, she is the parliamentary secretary for Penny Sharp who is the Minister for Climate Change, Heritage and Environment. I have met her before in Wollongong. The invitation to the summit has a QR code which links to their website.</p> <p>There was a Newcastle Emission Reduction Charter which people can sign up to. The rationale for it was that Newcastle City Council wants to go beyond zero emissions, however, their emissions are only contributing 2%. The Charter accounts for the other 98% (transport, industry, residential etc). As a result of Saturday, they will be putting a program together for the next steps. The Council supported the event and provided the facility for free. Council also provided catering. The deputy mayor was not able to attend. They</p>	<p>for further info.</p>

Minutes	Action
<p>had another Labour councillor instead representing him. Two other Council officers who are specialists in this area were there. They presented and then stayed for questions. JH was impressed with the event and speakers. This provides a foundation for ongoing work. JH is happy to answer any further questions.</p> <p>RB: An issue at the moment seems to be finding enough employees who have the right skills to do the jobs they want as well as wages and rates for these employees. An example is getting car repairs done and there's six month waiting list just for an ordinary service, which seems to be happening all over the place. The uptake of electric vehicles seems to be high. Some of the lesser-known brands are appearing on the market. The Council target of 10,000 electric cars by 2025 should be easily reached. A lot of businesses are using them. PWCS is having an argument with their staff about if they will be able to use their charging points to be put in for their own vehicles. RB would be encouraging staff to buy electric vehicles to expand the knowledge base of employees about competitor products.</p> <p>CPCFM has been quiet for a few months due to RB being very sick with cancer. He's much better now and after Christmas will be starting things up again with JH. After Christmas they will look at diesel emissions from coal trains. The EPA has been weak on this subject. Previous minister had significant pressure applied to them to cut back on some stuff from an operator of very low-quality trains. If trains come off their rollers, he can guarantee they come from this company. They seem to have applied some amazing pressure and have somehow stopped some new regulation coming into force. After Christmas, RB and JH will have another go at this. They certainly made significant improvements when they did make them.</p> <p>PWCS has told their consultative committees they are looking ahead to future and what remediation of sites will look like. This is a good step as CPC has been on them for a long term. It does take a long time and lot of money to clean up a coal site. Better to get started early which these companies have committed to which will be good for final outcomes.</p> <p>JH attended climate action roundtable in Parramatta chaired by Penny Sharp, attended by her parliamentary people, and 30 representatives. JH met Tony Chappell who is the new CEO of the EPA, JH was very impressed. Tony is open to having Newcastle discussions. He doesn't seem to be constrained by older thinking. His body language was very positive with Penny Sharp.</p> <p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>NM: The next meeting is supposed to be February but it will be brought forward to January because the Pittsburgh CEO called Leroy Ball will be in attendance on 16 January. He will be happy to answer questions.</p> <p>JH: I was impressed when Joe Dowd attended and is interested to meet Leroy.</p> <p>NM: Leroy will be visiting North Sydney office and one of the wood plants.</p>	
<p><b>MU invites closing comments from the group</b></p> <p>Next meeting will be on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</p>	NA
<p><b>MU closed meeting at 5:18pm</b></p>	NA
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <div data-bbox="145 1619 877 1998" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Will reconvene in January 2024.</p> <p><b>Close and next meeting</b></p> <p><b>January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024</b></p> <p><b>with Special Guest</b></p> </div>	<p>NM to send out invite for next CRG</p>