







Minutes

22 October 2024

Project name	Koppers Community Reference Group	From	Emily Strauss
Subject	CRG Meeting #16	Tel	1800 066 243
Date / Time	15:40 – 17:00 22 October 2024	Project no.	12554413
Attendees	Nick Moretti (Koppers) Shane Beasley (Koppers) Rick Banyard (Mayfield Group) Marie Caruana (First Chance) Chris Tola (Community member) Michael Ulph (GHD) Emily Strauss (GHD, minutes, online) Emily Graham (Port of Newcastle) Mark Peattie (Pacific Hydraulics Newcastle)	Apologies	Tony Brooks (MITS Group) John Hayes (Mayfield Group) Paul Adams (Major Projects Group) Rodney Hood (Pacific Hydraulics Newcastle)
Guests	NA		
Objective	Community Reference Group	Copy to	All CRG

Minutes	Action				
<p>Acknowledgement of Country MU provides an Acknowledgement of Country.</p>	– NA				
<p>Meeting officially started at 3:40</p>	– NA				
<p>Agenda and introductions</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="162 1429 1102 1809"> <thead> <tr> <th>Agenda </th> <th>Introductions </th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Acknowledgement of country Introductions / apologies Safety moment Past minutes – Michael Koppers general market update – Shane Mayfield report – Nick Community – Michael Announcements Close and next meeting </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Moretti Shane Beasley Rick Banyard Marie Caruana Chris Tola Rodney Hood Paul Adams Emily Graham <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Peattie Michael Ulph Emily Strauss Tony Brooks John Hayes </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Standard introductions and agenda, noting that the CRG has two new members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emily Graham (EG) – Senior manager of corporate affairs at PoN and takes care of corporate affairs including marketing, PR, comms and community relations. – Mark Peattie, management accountant at Pacific Hydraulics Newcastle (PHN) and looks after the finances of the group. 	Agenda 	Introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Acknowledgement of country Introductions / apologies Safety moment Past minutes – Michael Koppers general market update – Shane Mayfield report – Nick Community – Michael Announcements Close and next meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Moretti Shane Beasley Rick Banyard Marie Caruana Chris Tola Rodney Hood Paul Adams Emily Graham <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Peattie Michael Ulph Emily Strauss Tony Brooks John Hayes 	– NA
Agenda 	Introductions 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Acknowledgement of country Introductions / apologies Safety moment Past minutes – Michael Koppers general market update – Shane Mayfield report – Nick Community – Michael Announcements Close and next meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Moretti Shane Beasley Rick Banyard Marie Caruana Chris Tola Rodney Hood Paul Adams Emily Graham <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Peattie Michael Ulph Emily Strauss Tony Brooks John Hayes 				

Minutes	Action
---------	--------

Safety Moment

MU provides safety moment around emergency muster point for the Koppers office. Often we just ignore the signage on buildings for emergency muster points when we go somewhere for a meeting.

NM indicates location of plant on the map and location of muster point in case of emergency. Muster Point 2 is near the old weighbridge. Muster Point 1 is near the control room and is where the control room operators will muster. SB is a fire warden. In an emergency, you just have to follow Koppers personnel out of the building to the muster point, which is based on what the emergency is, direction of the wind etc. The emergency controller will make this decision.

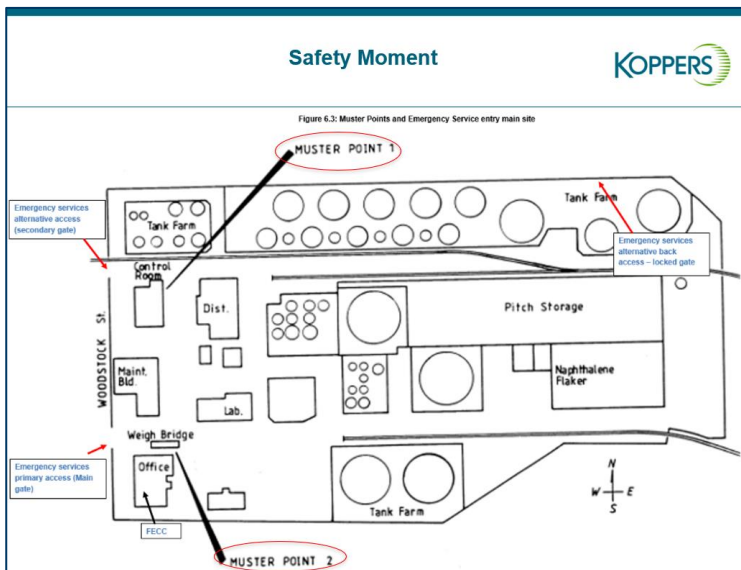
MU asks when the decision is made of where to muster. Does everyone assemble at Muster Point 2 and then make the decision of where to go if for example there is a fire and there is too much smoke at that location?

NM says someone will direct people from the incorrect Muster Point to the correct one for the emergency.

MU says next time the safety share will be on a new topic.

NM says this is an important one for when there are visitors to site.

- NA



Meeting minutes

RB moves last minutes, MC seconds last minutes.

- NA

Koppers report (Shane Beasley)

KOPPERS

General market update

- Long term outlook for Australian aluminium smelting looks good
- Long term raw material supply in Australia
- Greater focus from industry on meeting long term targets with larger percentage of recycling. US example.
- China and the EV





- NA


SB provides the general market update.

Minutes	Action
<p>Koppers' main customers remains the aluminium market. This is the main part of the business. A long-term requirement for the smelters here in Australia is to secure a long-term power deal to stay viable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Rio Tinto, their smelter in New Zealand has been questionable for a while now, but it has just gotten a 20-year contract, which has been unheard of. • Gladstone smelter has just gotten a 20-year contract. • Tomago's smelter had a power contract which ran to 2028, but they are well on their way to negotiating a long-term power deal as well. • The Bell Bay smelter runs off hydro power meaning they are somewhat removed from these issues with the grid and renewables, but they are expecting that they will have power contracts in place for as long as that smelter has viability in terms of age. • The Alcoa smelter has just been awarded a 9-year contract. All of the customers are therefore well placed for the medium term. <p>MU asks about length of the Tomago contract.</p> <p>SB says Tomago's contract currently runs out 2028 meaning they are in discussion for a future contract. Rio believes they will get a similar contract to what they got for Gladstone (i.e. 15 to 20 years). One thing that has changed is that they have always been seen as large power users so if they got rid of the smelters there would be more power on the grid as a whole. Now the thinking is that smelters are a good battery for the grid and have got renewables feeding into them as well. If renewable conditions aren't favourable they can pull power back from the smelters.</p> <p>In New Zealand, they have signed a new power contract. Then within two weeks, their power company came to them and asked them to shut down part of the plant for 55 days because they needed the power due to a very dry winter in Southern New Zealand which affected hydro power. This is the sort of deal that they will get. From a technical perspective, the ability for the smelters to respond and for them to be able to modulate their usage, this allows them to get a good deal and stay competitive.</p> <p>MU says that the region has always been a large exporter of energy (coal) and is the largest coal exporter in the world. Now with the transformation of energy that is exported, this allows Australia to be an exporter of embodied energy in aluminium. So because we have more solar and wind resources than we need, we can embody that energy in the form of aluminium and export it as opposed to just exporting raw materials to have value added and have them sent back. This is a very positive opportunity and a good way to look at the energy transformation.</p> <p>SB says they met with their customers recently. Rio Tinto is their biggest customer. Rio is in support of longer contracts. In the past, longer term contracts were common. However, this changed following the GFC and more recently contracts have been a few years only due to the market becoming more risk averse. Shorter contracts of 2-3 years then became the norm. This is changing now and the industry is talking about ten year contracts again for securing supply, supporting Australian industries and jobs. In Australia there is a focus on ESG and sustainability whereas elsewhere in the world, suppliers may not tick those boxes. There are lots of positive initiatives in Australia, making these companies willing to support them.</p> <p>MU asks for SB to explain the relevance of aluminium for Koppers for newcomers to the CRG to understand.</p> <p>SB says that this is their main customer base. Koppers takes the coal tar from the steel industry which they then split into its constituent components. A tonne of coal tar will generate a half tonne of coal tar pitch which is what is used to make anodes for the aluminium industry. This is their main customer group. Half of what Koppers produces goes to the aluminium industry. A third of what they produce is to make carbon black which is a black powder that they export to the carbon black industry. Carbon black gets mixed with rubber for extrusion into products like car tyres, rubber seals etc. Koppers also produces other products such as naphthalene which goes into concrete, however, the aluminium industry is their main product group.</p> <p>MU asks how many tonnes of anodes a smelter like Tomago would use.</p> <p>SB says that an anode is 15% pitch and the anode block is a tonne. An average smelter for example uses 700 - 800 anodes a day.</p> <p>NM says that the anode gets consumed meaning Tomago buys about 1,000 tonnes of pitch a week from Koppers.</p> <p>MU asks where the pitch comes from.</p> <p>SB says that originally the pitch came from the steel industry.</p> <p>In the production of steel using a blast furnace, you place coal in coke ovens to make metallurgical coke. One of the volatiles that comes out of this process is condensed until it becomes coal tar, which is what pitch comes from. Koppers does not make anything onsite.</p>	

Minutes	Action
<p>They distil the coal tar and split it up in the distillation process and then they sell those components.</p> <p>In the past they had three supplies of tar in Australia. The first was BHP which was located next door, and it was the original reason for the location of Koppers because there was originally a joint venture between Koppers and BHP. Then in the mid-90s, BHP got bought out by US Koppers when it was closing. There was originally a pipeline from BHP to Koppers.</p> <p>The second supply was from Whyalla Steelworks, which shut down coke-making operations in October last year. They now buy in their coke which was essentially due to age of the blast furnace. This was also due to new technology being discussed and the debate to rebuild using new technology. The decision to close ultimately came to fruition about two years sooner than expected.</p> <p>The other source is Bluescope steelworks in Port Kembla which has been questionable over the last few years because their blast furnace is coming to the end of its useable life. You have to reline a blast furnace every 15 to 20 years. The current blast furnace is coming to the end of its lifespan. They also have one that is mothballed that they shut down in 2015. There has been debate around using new technology for another 15-20 years there. They have a mothballed blast furnace which they shut down in 2015.</p> <p>Bluescope has decided to stick to traditional methods to reline their 2015 blast furnace although they may dabble in new technology during this time but ultimately they have decided that this new technology is just not ready yet. They have said this will be the last blast furnace relining that they ever do. This is a billion-dollar investment they will be undertaking to reline the blast furnace.</p> <p>MU asks about green steel as one of those new technologies.</p> <p>SB says there is lots of new technology out there such as hydrogen-based steel making, but this new technology is largely smaller boutique blast furnaces. The question the industry is facing is how do you make that new technology commercial scale.</p> <p>Bluescope will undertake the relining in the middle of next year. In 2026 the new furnace will be ready and Koppers will continue to receive coal tar locally for the next 15 to 20 years.</p> <p>MU asks about green steel. Hydrogen is used for the heat component in green steel, but is hydrogen used elsewhere in the green steel?</p> <p>SB says there is technology where companies are looking at sources of carbon other than coal such as biochar technology. You need that for the blast furnace, but you do get some of the carbon base from the metallurgical coke as well. This is sort of a hybrid.</p> <p>There is also direct reduction technology which is when you process iron ore to use in the blast furnace to reduce it with hydrogen-based technologies. There are several things like this in development. This technology is not at the point for Port Kembla to do this now. For Koppers this is a good decision because they're happy to just keep taking the coal tar. Last year, when Koppers lost the Whyalla supply, they had to go to Asia to find this where there is an Indonesian-based but Chinese-owned company making metallurgical coke for the global steel industry. What a lot of places are doing is opting to keep using traditional technology but close their coke ovens which helps them lower their emissions, however, in Indonesia they are building these coke ovens.</p> <p>MU says this is just a longer exhaust pipe.</p> <p>SB says China is doing to Indonesia what a lot of countries did to China several years ago which is that they are moving away from having these industries onsite and instead just building them elsewhere.</p> <p>SB says that looking forward for the aluminium industry, there is a greater focus towards meeting 2050 net zero targets. The global aluminium demand continues to grow. This is due to the desire to move towards net zero meaning that the use of aluminium in construction is growing as well as the use of aluminium in electric vehicles (EVs). No industry is wanting to increase their production because they don't want to increase their emissions, meaning that the aluminium industry is not wanting to increase their production and capacity to meet the demand due to the emissions associated with this. Instead of producing more aluminium, there is an increased focus on recycling. Aluminium is recyclable forever, it doesn't have the same issues as with steel. In the US, they use 80 billion aluminium cans in a year, but they only recycle 45% of these cans (approximately 40 billion cans) and the rest go to landfill. If they got this number to 100% for the recycling of just aluminium cans, they would save approximately 6.5 billion dollars in primary aluminium production costs as well as the equivalent costs in the CO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Currently, the US exports scrap aluminium which India takes and melts it down. They sell it to China for extrusion for use in the secondary aluminium market. Many aluminium companies are looking to invest more into recycling as a downstream business arm instead of just building a new smelter. That being said there is still plenty of smelter building going on.</p>	

Minutes	Action
<p>SB says that Tomago is the biggest smelter in Australia which produces approximately 400,000 tonnes per year, however in the Middle East, they build their smelters in 1 million tonne phases, as in just the first stage is already 1 million tonnes. The amperage in Australia is about 230-240 kVA, however in the Middle East they're at about 600, and China is working on about 750 kVA and potentially up to a million kVA. The more electricity supply you have means more aluminium can be produced at a quicker rate. The industry is having huge growth to meet demand at the moment.</p> <p>SB provides an example of the EV market in China. The image on the slide is of an electric vehicle that SB was picked up from the airport in during a recent visit to China. The car was very high tech and impressive. In Australia people aren't buying EVs at the expected rate. Volvo said they wouldn't be manufacturing petrol cars after 2030, however they have had to go back on that and they will be making petrol cars because people aren't buying EVs at a high enough rate yet. In China, EVs are everywhere. SB thought maybe there were 30 companies making EVs but actually there are 165 companies making EVs in China. It's easy to see how many there are because they have green number plates as opposed to blue for petrol cars.</p> <p>EG asks about the infrastructure supporting EVs there.</p> <p>SB says China has just installed their 10 millionth public EV charging stations and they are actually starting to close petrol stations in the big cities. Obviously, this isn't happening regionally yet. A lot of people have this perception of China that there isn't good infrastructure, and people are using bicycles and rickshaws to get around. This isn't the case, there is enormous uptake of electric bikes. During a meeting in Shanghai, SB saw advanced technology such as robots delivering food to office workers who just need to scan a QR code to order and will then have food brought up by a robot with no need to even get up. SB lived in China in 2008 and has seen firsthand how huge the technological advances have been since then.</p> <p>MU asks about the differences between cities and regional areas. Regional areas are still poorer and have worse infrastructure. In cities obviously there are more people and better technology. Would most of the population be experiencing this higher standard of living?</p> <p>SB says the cities are growing and it's mind blowing to see how quickly technology there is growing and changing. Every time you visit, something has changed.</p> <p>MU says that China is the largest investor in renewables in the world but interestingly, China is still investing in coal fired power and nuclear.</p> <p>SB says they are still doing both but have a huge scale of renewables up there.</p> <p>MU says there are a lot of opportunities for hydrogen and investment in that locally. MU attended the Innovation festival in Newcastle at City Hall where there were 8 or 9 EV models on display but definitely not 165 companies.</p> <p>SB says there is a large range in size and quality. A constraining factor in China for the EV market is that the government there has placed lots of barriers to control the market, which they call 'enriching global supply'. The intention is for the government to dominate this market down the line.</p>	
<p>Mayfield update NM provides the Mayfield update</p>	
<div data-bbox="177 1469 970 2054" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> Mayfield report  </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="252 1659 533 1693">• Ship charter 'Jastella' <li data-bbox="252 1727 632 1787">• Long term contract – Chinese Co. in Indonesia <li data-bbox="252 1821 517 1854">• Solar panels update <li data-bbox="252 1888 456 1921">• Onsite security  </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">8</div> </div>	

Minutes	Action
<p>NM says that First Chance is currently holding a Mango fundraiser, and NM will email through the details to the CRG. It closes on 25 October 2024.</p> <p>A hardcopy of the community newsletter has been provided to CRG members attending in person in the middle of the table.</p> <p>MC asks if it is the same as the emailed version. She has received good feedback on the email version and is finding that more and more people are interested in reading it.</p> <p>NM says it is the same as the emailed version. This time they had 4 pages as opposed to 2 because they had more photos to show. They have delivered hardcopies to 4,000 homes in a 2-kilometre radius of the plant. NM asks MC if hardcopy has arrived at First Chance.</p> <p>MC is unsure if the hardcopy has been received yet at First Chance because she receives the emailed version and then shares that.</p> <p>NM says they are unionised and have employees belonging to two unions: the AWU and ETU. They have just concluded negotiating a new enterprise agreement. They typically have a 3-year agreement and have been negotiating since February. Last night Koppers received approval from Fairwork Commission to have one enterprise agreement for both of the trade unions. They employ 55 people and 29 are in a union.</p> <p>They have just approved it from 28 October, however, the previous agreement expired in April so they will back pay staff to that date. They will start negotiations for the next one in late 2026 ahead of the next expiry date being April 2027. Koppers doesn't hear from the unions much. The negotiations were long because usually the unions want more than Koppers can give. However, NM says they have reached a good deal for the unions with a 6.5% pay rise in year 1, 4% in the final year and 4.5% in between. Essentially three percentages for three years. Inflation has been up and down.</p> <p>NM says that Koppers provides its products on a delivered basis, except for Tomago who send a truck to get the products because they're only 20 minutes away by truck. Koppers works closely with their truck drivers but other than Tomago, they deliver their pitch. All of their products are liquid and therefore have to be kept hot. They currently have a full-time time-charter of a ship called the Asphalt Transporter. They are about to sign up full time to the Jastella, which is a ship that they have used here and there before, meaning that they will return to being a two-ship operation which is what they were for many decades. It has only been in the last five years or so that they have been using one ship and this was mainly because Rio Tinto wanted more control of their logistics. Rio Tinto have their own time charter ship. As a result of this, Rio's ship will be underutilised which Koppers will take advantage of.</p> <p>Most of the tar from Port Kembla arrives at Koppers via road tanker. Koppers uses a local firm called Crawfords based in Sandgate for tankers and drivers and they go to Port Kembla to bring the tar to Koppers via about 4 or 5 b-double trucks a day. Every so often, Koppers will go to Port Kembla via ship to pick up the tar.</p> <p>Since the demise of Whyalla, Koppers have picked up a new supplier from Indonesia which is Chinese owned called Risun. Koppers will be taking 70,000 tonnes a year from them. Koppers currently gets just under 70,000 tonnes from Port Kembla. They also have supplier from Taiwan called China Steel Chemical Company, who get tar from their parent company, China Steel, a huge steel company. This company processes the tar a bit to remove some of the oil, such as creosote and naphthalene. They then sell Koppers the rest, which is "soft pitch", a slightly processed tar which still contains some oils. Koppers sells "hard pitch" to Australian smelters. Taiwan supplies them "soft pitch" which Koppers still have to distil further. Koppers requires the second ship because they're no longer obtaining tar from Whyalla. After discharging pitch at Portland, Victoria, the ship used to go around to Whyalla and pick up tar, which made acquiring the Whyalla tar convenient and efficient. Now Koppers has to go to Indonesia to get 70,000 tonnes of tar per year. Things are changing.</p> <p>RB asks how much Port Kembla is currently providing.</p> <p>NM says it's approximately 68,000 tonnes but this is mostly by road.</p> <p>NM says Koppers haven't signed the contract with Risun yet, but all has been agreed. They are waiting for final signoff from this company and then most likely they will do a signing ceremony, which is the local custom in Asia. Koppers is about to sign up the Jastella too. They are in a good position going forward. Coal tar is becoming more scarce globally, even though in Indonesia they are building more coke ovens, which may seem counterintuitive to reducing emissions.</p> <p>SB says by building ovens offshore, China is just moving the emissions elsewhere.</p> <p>NM says that they currently have 55 employees and the plant was built in 1967. They are currently recruiting some new operators because they have had some recent long service retirements. Koppers has three plants, one has over 100 employees, and the other has 80 but these plants do different things. Having 55-57 employees is quite lean.</p>	

Minutes	Action
<p>Mayfield operates 24 hours a day. They have 20 operators and four shift supervisors and they currently run 12-hour shifts, which is the more modern way of doing shift work. They used to have a dogwatch shift but now they do 12-hour shifts from 7am to 7pm. They are cautious about “time-creep” when people come earlier and relieve the previous person. This is more condensed which means that employees get more time off because they have four or five days off in a row. It does mean that staff are less likely to take their annual leave which is also something that NM and SB have to watch.</p> <p>They haven’t had any Covid cases recently but still have RATs onsite in the first aid room. They had a run of Covid in May with one whole crew being affected except for one person but other staff were able to come in and cover this team.</p> <p>Koppers recently installed a solar panel project featuring a 100kW system on top of a big shed in the back, which they have run since April.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April they produced 6,589 kW which is the average annual consumption for a household of 4 people. • 6,100 kW in May, • 6,700 kW in June, • 7,700 kW in July, • 9,384 kW in August and • 12,500 kW in September. This is due to longer hours of daylight. <p>MU says it’s also because the sun is higher in the sky.</p> <p>NM says they have predicted 126,000 kW to be produced in a year. This has been a good project. They use a lot of electricity and therefore consume the small amount produced by this system instantly. The point is just to understand how they can use it. At the moment the energy has been going to one of their switchboards and is almost instantly consumed. They now plan to expand this project because they have lots of space on their roof and could set up a 300-400 kW system. Koppers own the vacant land to the north of the plant and could construct a farm up to 4 megawatts as well as a battery. This would cost 6 million dollars.</p> <p>MU says the likely reason to do 4 megawatts or under is because he thinks 4 megawatts is the threshold before you become an electricity producer.</p> <p>NM says they started discussion at 1.5, then 3 and now they’re discussing a 4 megawatt system.</p>	
<p>Electricity saving projects</p> <p>Koppers has been trialling various energy saving initiatives,</p> <p>SB says they have started to do variable pumping and have commissioned five of their pumps to run variably so far. They have many pumps onsite which traditionally have been running flat out but not all of these pumps need to be operating 24/7. Koppers has started to implement variable speed drives (VSDs) meaning that their pumps now operate intermittently to match the process they’re doing. This saves a huge amount of energy and has been a very worthwhile project. It’s also better for the pumps because they won’t wear out as quickly. It was initially costly to set up but has now paid itself back. They have done all their major pumps so far. They have also undertaken switch room upgrades and have upgraded a lot of their facilities to support this initiative.</p> <p>*Security footage showing break in</p> <p>They have had to install new security cameras because they were being broken into a lot. Most recently, they were broken into on 23 September 2024 at 12:30 am. This happened at the back where they have a wire fence, making it easy to cut through the fence. The camera automatically zooms in to help identify the person.</p>  <p>MC asks what they’re after.</p>	

Minutes

Action

NM says they're mainly after copper electrical cables. This person looked through a spare shed and then left. This person didn't take anything.

SB says they had someone come on site who, when asked what he was doing, said they were looking for their father who was walking the dog. The person had wire cutters and had cut through the fence. SB says they have reported these break-ins to the police but there have been a few similar instances.

SB said previously they someone quite distinctive looking coming onto site and they also reported this to the police, someone was arrested.

SB says they are considering upgrading the fencing to the site to make it harder to cut through and enter the plant.

Variable speed drives

Electricity Saving Projects:

 Solar PV - Pitch Shed Roof Solar Project is Completed. Connection into the grid achieved in April 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April Solar Production was 6589.4 kWhr • May Solar Production was 6,170.9 kWhr 	 VSD's on Hot Oil Pump Equipment has arrived onsite. Construction of the Switch room extension completed, and cabling for the new equipment underway and install of equipment has started. Commissioning is likely to start late August or September 2024.	 Lighting Replacements Building upgrades are all completed. Awaiting next stage to be planned.	 Cooling Tower Pump Adjustments Hardware has arrived to upgrade of the PLC system to allow better control here.	 Agitators Project No updates/changes this quarter
---	--	--	--	---

NM says that in terms of the variable speed pumps, the purpose of the pumps is to keep their products liquid and hot. They have commissioned 5 of their pumps which run full-time to now run between 80 and 88% of their full speed. So far, they have saved 815,000 Kwh which is a saving of \$89,000 by just reducing the settings of these 5 pumps. This project has paid itself back after one year. Their electricians has been working on the project for a long time.

Koppers has other upcoming initiatives such as lower energy lighting, cooling pump adjustments and agitator projects. The cooling pump initiatives will include finetuning the computer systems to make them more intuitive, so they run better. Agitator projects have to do with the stirrer inside the tanks which keep everything in suspension. Like the earlier example, they could run them intermittently at optimum times instead of full time.

Community

Community Update

10





- Children's Cancer Institute - BBQ



Children's Cancer Institute

Build for a Cure



11

MU provides overview of what the newsletter covers which includes the First Chance trivia night and fundraiser, school involvement and their latest fundraiser which is the Children's Cancer Institute BBQ.

NM says one of their employees has a close friend in South Australia whose children have childhood cancer aged nine and four. Koppers ran a fundraiser which included a raffle and BBQ. There was a link where you can donate which they sent out to all of Koppers in Australia which include their other businesses in Australia. They raised about \$2,000 and Koppers Mayfield matched the amount meaning they donated \$4,500 in total.

Announcements

Announcements



- Nick
- Shane
- Richard Lyons

NM announced he will be retiring in July 2025.

SB will take on a new role as General Manager of Australian CMC Operations.


RL, who is the current vice president of Australian operations. RL heads up the CMC group, which Koppers Mayfield is part of, and he looks after the wood treatment division. RL has announced that he will also be retiring in April 2025.

Before they knew about RL's retirement, which they suspected would be the case, they appointed SB as the General Manager of Australian CMC Operations. RL won't be replaced and instead Koppers Mayfield will now report directly to Pittsburgh in the USA. Australia also has a new general manager in the wood division and this new manager and SB will report to Pennsylvania together.

NM says that RL has worked 40 odd years at Koppers and so has NM. Together it has been about 90 years of service from both NM and RL.

EG asks what SB's new role will be called.

SB's new title will be General Manager of CMC (Carbon Material Chemicals) Australia.

Minutes	Action
<p>NM says that when the last general manager retired in 2012, NM was already operations manager so there was no need for a new General Manger. SB was the technical services manager and they had a commercial finance manager called Scott McCallum. Between the three of them, they reported directly to RL. Now however, there will be a revived General Manager role.</p> <p>SB says when they took the decision about a revived General Manager role, they were unsure of RL's retirement which is now confirmed.</p> <p>NM explains that RL's boss, Christian Nielson (Senior Vice President), is based in Denmark. There are three plants like this one. One plant is in Chicago, one is in Nyborg (Denmark), which means Newcastle in Danish, and the third plant is Mayfield.</p> <p>Christian, Leroy (their CEO) and RL have all attended this CRG.</p>	
<p>MU invites closing comments from the group</p> <div data-bbox="177 589 911 837" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Community  </div> <hr/> <p data-bbox="225 781 472 810">Around the room</p> </div> <p>CT says he is quiet at the moment. There is a big push towards renewables such as offshore wind. There are pinch points in the Hunter Valley regarding the blades being brought up to the planned farms.</p> <p>SB says that he saw that they have nominated a route for the transport of the blades going forward.</p> <p>CT says they will be upgrading the road system at 19 points. This will be a huge investment in the Hunter Valley and will improve the local road system.</p> <p>MU says that the project is called 'Port to REZ'. The investment will focus on improving the roads up to the Central West Orana REZ as well as onwards towards the New England REZ. Mainly this work is moving street signs or widening roads as needed to accommodate the blades which will be 80m long. They were previously going to be 50m. The total length will be the prime mover at the front plus the blade, so the total length will be 100 m worth of vehicle. Along the proposed route, there are plenty of bridges and culverts which are not strong enough for heavy loads such as the transformers and synchronous condensers. We've had coal infrastructure be transported up the Valley but that hasn't prepared the bridges on these routes for these loads. Either they will go around the bridges or otherwise strengthen the bridges. These upgrades represent over \$100 million worth of effort. These upgrades will be undertaken between TfNSW and EnergyCo.</p> <p>RB says we don't realise how many big loads there are going up to these windfarms. The Walcha farm has up to 1,592 movements going up to it. This isn't just traffic, these are overmass movements which includes things like delivery trucks.</p> <p>MU says they will need to consider oversize overmass vehicles (OSOM). There will be approximately 15,000 vehicle movements into Central West Orana and a similar number for the New England REZ. A lot of these movements will have curfews and will be travelling in the early mornings. Some of these vehicles will need to pass schools meaning that they can't travel during school times. There are a lot of logistics involved in this process.</p> <p>MP says that PHN has been growing over the last few years. This has been twofold, and they are now in a stabilisation stage. They have had a lot of growth to do with offering service exchange work and have been increasing their client base to become more efficient as a business. They have been building their productive workforce.</p> <p>NM asks what their workforce is.</p> <p>MP says it's a workforce of 50 people. 20 are non-productive and 30 are productive so it has been about managing that overhead.</p> <p>NM asks if they are constrained by their existing premises and the infrastructure that they currently have.</p> <p>MP says no, they have taken over other sheds and they are putting on line managers. They are in a strong position and are just trying to consolidate now.</p> <p>EG says PoN have recently announced that they have partnered with GHD, Lumea, Connexa for engineering, design and environmental impact studies for their proposed Clean Energy Precinct. This shows positive momentum in the clean energy space ahead of the election. It has been a good opportunity to reiterate that PoN is staying the course in terms of that precinct being</p>	-

Minutes	Action
<p>earmarked for clean energy. PoN received \$100 million of government funding in the 2022 federal budget. This will allow them to expand their workforce by approximately 12-15 new staff for the clean energy project. This is good after some redundancies at the beginning of the year. They are in a growth stage as they move towards asset management. EG has brought along handouts about the clean energy precinct for CRG members to take.</p> <p>RB discusses how transport is going to be a major issue for the state government. There are several studies ongoing but there doesn't seem to be enough emphasis on putting the necessary resources into the right people. There are not too many ways to turn around the finances of the railways for example which have been terrible. Sydney Trains has had a huge expenditure with their new Metro. In 2023 in their revenue statement, it was stated that for every dollar the government received as revenue from customers, they were having to put in \$1.69. If it's basically dollar for dollar then they are no better off. On a business level that is not a good way to be doing things.</p> <p>MU says that in theory our tax dollars in theory are meant to prop up public services like roads and transport. They're not meant to be a revenue raiser but if these services are costing that much, then there is less money for everything else.</p> <p>RB says there are dollars they are having to find is not a small amount, it's a huge number.</p> <p>MU says Queensland has announced 50c fares on public transport to get cars off the road which means that their balance sheet would look very different.</p> <p>RB says this is in the lead up to the election and may actually look very different.</p> <p>SB says it's like the high-speed train between Newcastle and Sydney which comes up during elections.</p> <p>MU says there are actually ongoing investigations about a proposed Sydney to Newcastle high speed train. They are undertaking Indigenous heritage investigations between Sydney and Newcastle for this potential idea as well as some geotechnical engineering. They are considering having half of the route as a tunnel to avoid the existing infrastructure and geographic issues.</p> <p>RB says that the major study going on is the freight review that has been conducted by some so-called senior experts but they haven't discussed the impacts of the high speed rail that the whole rail system has to operate in.</p> <p>MU says they are trying to avoid the existing system and just burrow underneath it instead.</p> <p>RB says they do have plans for Sydney to duplicate the rail line to run both a freight and a passenger line. That's two extra lines, and there needs to be discussion on how that is going to work. Unfortunately, these experts doing these reviews have forgotten that people are the freight of the passenger services and should be counted as freight. We will have to wait and see what they actually come out with.</p> <p>RB knows of a member who is very clean-cut and very honest who is launching two studies. The first is the SIRTTP. There is an interactive map available on the website where you can go and drop a pin on parts you don't like and give further feedback. There was a pathetic response.</p> <p>MU says it is like Social Pinpoint where you can drag and drop your responses.</p> <p>RB says it was an open opportunity for people to really engage and give their ideas. It has closed now, there were only 300 responses or so.</p> <p>EG says it may not have been promoted very well.</p> <p>RB says that the other one she has come out with is for organising freight in another way from what is currently being done. The Premier has said that rural areas and rural communities should be getting public transport that is equal to or better than what people in the city are getting. People have written in to ask how that can actually be achieved, but that's another story. There are some interesting things happening. How the state government and Albanese will actually fund all of these ideas will be interesting.</p> <p>The Stolt review that was given was very unkind to the PoN. RB can send his submission at some stage in which he said PoN has been a real saviour. How can it be justified to take a huge volume of freight from the northwest of the state past Newcastle all the way to Sydney to send it out on a boat from Sydney. We are putting grain on trucks to bring it to Newcastle to then put in containers on the train or via truck just to be taken back to Sydney. There is something very wrong with that. RB says this is like when Koppers said they use Crawford to run the tar up from Port Kembla. All the fuel for the airport at Williamstown and the RAF base gets run up the freeway by road tanker. No wonder there are terrible accidents on the freeway and closures and blockages. This hasn't changed his and John's prediction that coal exports out of PoN are going to achieve a record level this year, up 7 million tonnes from last year. and then will keep going at same or higher rate. The numbers suggest that record levels of coal will continue to leave PoN until 2050, which is alarming to some people. John and RB haven't been at a meeting yet at PoN with the chairman (Professor Green) due to JH's illness as well as PoN changing the dates. RB is confident that the meeting will happen in due course.</p>	

Minutes	Action
<p>MC says that First Chance runs an early intervention service for 0-12 years old at-risk youth. They operate across Newcastle, Port Stevens and Lake Macquarie. At the moment it is service as usual as they work towards the end of the year. They are running lots of fundraisers and seeking a lot of donations to keep their programs going for lots of families in need. They are putting together lots of care packages with clothing and baby toys in the lead up to Christmas. They have some great volunteers towards Christmas. This is all in addition to their normal work.</p> <p>RB asks about any news from the EPA since last meeting.</p> <p>NM says they have had a review of the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL). The EPA provided a draft variation to the license and Koppers have made extensive comments on it because they didn't agree. They have sent back a marked-up version and they have asked for a meeting to negotiate. The EPA has been silent since 26 July. One of Koppers colleagues phoned their officer, asking for a meeting, but it has been very quiet and there has been no communication.</p> <p>RB asks if there was anything back in terms of the investigation report Koppers prepared in response to the incident mentioned last time (last August).</p> <p>NB says there has been no response to the investigation report regarding the incident but maybe they are busy on other things or maybe Koppers is not the priority.</p> <p>RB says he is part of another community group where a similar event occurred and they were told at a meeting that this organisation said nothing and the community reference group did raise whether or not this is the right thing to do in terms of engagement with the community and transparency.</p> <p>MU says Koppers' approach is not to say nothing, it's all about transparency.</p> <p>RB says that the whole point of the EPA and its rules are to protect the environment and the community so who does it benefit to hide it when these incidences do happen.</p> <p>MU mentioned that the minutes from each meeting are placed on the Koppers web site.</p>	
<p>MU closed meeting at 5:00 pm</p>	<p>– NA</p>
<p>Next Meeting The CRG will reconvene in three months.</p>	<p>– NM to send out invite for next CRG</p>

