

Dear YRA Members,

Time has flown by quickly since the last newsletter was issued in March 2012! While you have been kept informed by separate emails on specific topics, it is certainly time to consolidate all the issues on one document. It is also time to alert you all of matters still requiring attention or resolution so you can be aware of the pending need for assistance. Do not think for a minute that any of these matters will solve themselves – it is only with dedication of YRA members and others prepared to help that sensible outcomes will occur.

It is also worth reiterating that from the very beginning of YRA it was clearly stated that YRA is not against industrial development - all we want is for those business operators / quarries / developers to be good neighbours to the residential areas that surround them.

PHOENIX POWER RECYCLERS – DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION NO: MCU 2900869

Much has been happening over the past six months in regard to the above named company's application for a Biomass Power Plant to be built at Sandy Creek Road, Yatala.

There have been in excess of 120 communications – emails, letters and submissions with back up documents sent to the authorities – namely DERM / DEHP, Gold Coast City Council, Other Council Areas, State Member for Albert & Federal Member for Forde, QLD Premier & Ministers, Health Unit & Health Ministers and Education Ministers. A number of these communications were issued by YRA on behalf of the original objection submitters as it was considered patently unfair that both Phoenix and DEHP could amend or reevaluate their original documentation and that the same process not be offered to the residents whom had stated their concerns originally. We suggest that you log onto the Gold Coast City website to update yourself on the documents posted on the MCU application – the details on how to access the site are shown below.

Steps to find Application No. MCU 2900869:

Click on www.goldcoastcity.com.au/pdonline or Google www.goldcoastcity.com.au/pdonline

- On the Planning & Development online page, click on Development Application Tracking (DA Tracking)
- On the Terms & Conditions page, click on agree button at bottom of page
- On the Development Application Tracking (DAT) page, select Application Enquiry
- On the Application Enquiry page, type 2900869 in the blank box on the right-hand side at the top of the page and hit enter key
- On the Applications Found page Click on the magnifying glass symbol adjacent to MCU2900869 (top left hand of the page.) Application Details pages will appear.

We urge you to keep viewing the YRA website for news and articles that are posted or have links that you can use to update yourself on the latest information found on the Biomass process. The website is: www.yatala.info

COMMUNITY RALLY: It was "Standing Room Only" at the Sunday 16th Sept Rally against a Biomass Incinerator / Power Plant being built at Yatala in Queensland. A copy of the Press Release sent to the newspapers is shown below.

MISSION STATEMENT: "A Community voice surrounding topics which impact the lifestyle, health and environment of residents residing near major commercial and industrial developments in the Yatala Enterprise Area"

“David Osborne, Coordinator of the “Yatala Residents’ Alliance - Action against the Biomass Plant” and other members of the group addressed the meeting to ensure that those attending the rally were knowledgeable as to the progress of the community actions. The latest information was provided as were details on how to access the Gold Coast City Council website in regard to the specific development application and to the YRA website – www.yatala.info

Cavell Dorman, Co-Chair of the Yatala Residents Alliance opened the meeting and acknowledged the support of residents and business owners from the surrounding areas as it is clear that this issue has ramifications for a wide area of the northern Gold Coast City as well as the southern suburbs of Logan City.

On the day, many more signatures to the Petition to STOP this Biomass Power Plant being built in Yatala were received by the rally organisers bringing the number of signatures to **5650**. The petition numbers are increasing DAILY and are testament to the huge concern on this matter.

The business owners in the Yatala Enterprise Area were ONCE AGAIN reassured that the residents of the Yatala Residents Alliance and those in surrounding areas were fully in favour of the business opportunities that YEA offered **BUT** those business owners (no matter if it is the quarries in the area or big, medium, small businesses) are expected to be GOOD NEIGHBOURS to those in the local community as well as to the other business owners / workers in the area. Phoenix Power Recyclers at 126 Sandy Creek Road, Yatala is sorely testing that attitude and it was summed up by a 17year old lad who stated: **I CAN NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THAT COMPANY** (meaning Phoenix) **WOULD BE SO INCONSIDERATE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA AROUND THEM”**.

Mark Boothman MP – State Member for Albert, addressed the meeting and it was obvious that he understands the concerns on this issue and is doing all he can to support the community. Donna Gates, Dep Mayor and Div 1 Councillor was on annual leave but a message from her was read to the meeting.

The Community Rally concluded with two resolutions being passed unanimously - to set up a formal air monitoring system and to lobby the Gold Coast City Council and Queensland State Government to ensure that dirty, unsightly or loud industry is not permitted near our schools, community facilities or residential areas. Inadequate buffer zones and current poorly drafted guidelines are obviously an issue and must be addressed immediately.

Issued by: Cavell Dorman, Gai Drake and David Osborne
For and on behalf of Yatala Residents Alliance

Date: 18th September 2012”

A number of articles in the Gold Coast Sun / Albert & Logan News and the Courier Mail have kept the wider community informed on this matter – all of these can be viewed on the YRA website; www.yatala.info The latest one is the Albert & Logan New so that is attached below:

ALBERT AND LOGAN NEWS, Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5

Biomass plant sparks worry on emissions

HEALTH IMPACT: GROUP AWAITS GREEN REPORT ON PLANNED RECYCLE FACILITY

JUDITH MAIZEY
judith.maizey@news.com.au

YATALA residents opposed to a proposed biomass plant should find out this month if it has passed its state environmental check list.

A material change of use application lodged with Gold Coast City Council by Phoenix Power Recyclers for a multi-million plant in Sandy Creek Rd, Yatala, is under review for the second time by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

As well as concerns about noise pollution, odours, increased traffic and falling property values, the Yatala Residents Alliance is worried that emissions from the plant's 30m chimney stack 24 hours a day, seven days a week, will affect people's health.

A petition organised by the alliance against the plant, which would generate electricity for the statewide grid, was signed by 5200 people in four weeks and has been tabled in State Parliament and given to council.

Alliance spokesman David Osborne said research found American doctors and scientists were concerned that nano particles issued from US biomass plants could be responsible for an increase in asthma and bronchitis, and high rates of disabilities in children.

He said he was not sure how far nano particles could travel, but had heard it could be up to 100km.

GCCC Deputy Mayor Donna Gates, the divisional councillor for Yatala, said residents west of the M1 believed no "dirty industry" or chimneys similar to the Rocky Point plant would be built in the area.

Phoenix Power Recyclers owner Neville Brownlow could not be contacted.



OPPOSITION: Residents association's Brad Atkins.

"We've drawn a circle around the (proposed biomass) plant of just 7km ... and it includes Windaroo, Mt Warren, Bannockburn and Beenleigh," he said. "In that area, we've counted 12 schools, 11 child-care centres, three aged care facilities, and three to four public sporting facilities where people are outside all the time."

"We've looked at this and thought if this (plant) is going to blow (emissions) all the time, what are the long term effects?"

Mr Osborne said the alliance was not against the process as it might be a better alternative than coal-fired power stations for electricity generation. But the plant would be the first of its type in Australia and was an unknown. "We're saying, 'why not look at moving it to a location that will not effect residents of this area or any other area'," he said.

Delay for environmental report

THE State Government department reviewing the environmental credentials of a controversial biomass plant at Yatala needs more information from the applicant before it can finalise its report.

The Yatala Residents Alliance, opposed to the plant, had expected the report to be handed to Gold Coast City Council by today.

In a written statement, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection executive director Andrew Connor said additional information was requested of the applicant, Phoenix Power Recyclers, about two weeks ago.

In addition to the print media, did you see the Channel 7 story on the Biomass Plant in Yatala? If not - the link you need is:

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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psQ78tHI7N8&feature=player_embedded

The part reporting YRA concerns was very clearly stated (thank you David) and was consistent with the issues that YRA have always raised. Now it is over to Phoenix Power Recyclers (our neighbours in YEA) as well as DEHP and the GCCC to formulate an outcome that is appropriate in these circumstances. There are well over **5500** concerned residents, workers and parents with children attending schools in the area who are more than interested in their deliberations.

Currently there are further assessments being made by DEHP – see edited communication below (email addresses removed):

Subject: Phoenix Biomass Power Plant Assessment Period

Hi Brad,

As you are aware, the department received a revised noise assessment report from Phoenix in support of the current application. The department was not in a position to make an informed decision after reviewing this information and further information has been requested from Phoenix. The current due date for this assessment is 10 October 2012 however the consultants acting on behalf of Phoenix have requested more time to allow them to consider and provide a response to the department's request. It is expected that this timeframe will be extended further to allow the department to consider the information when provided before providing an amended concurrence response to Gold Coast City Council.

As I write, Phoenix is negotiating an extension with Gold Coast City Council. I will let keep you informed of the new date when confirmed.

I hope this information is helpful. Otherwise I am happy to attend to any concerns you may have.

Kind regards

William Inonda

A/Manager –Gold Coast
Environmental Services & Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Southern Region -Gold Coast

It is time to acknowledge the members of the YRA Action Group who have spent many hundreds of hours and hundreds of their own dollars working on this issue that faces us all. The Coordinator of the group is David Osborne and with him are Brad, Jacob, Sharon, Siggy, John, Ross and Stuart. Without these residents and their helpers, the hard work of the last few months would just not have been possible, as your YRA Steering committee could not have done this alone. Also we acknowledge the Ormeau Progress Association - President Tim Gregg and his team for their support. This Biomass Issue has ramifications for a very wide area of the northern Gold Coast as well as the southern suburbs of Logan – the signatures on the Petition are testament to that. THANK YOU HEAPS from us all.

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AIR MONITORING SYSTEM

A proposal has been made that an AIR MONITORING SYSTEM be set up to give the residents of the areas surrounding YEA (and workers in the YEA area if they so desire) a method that will provide ease of access to report any unpleasant odours, dust and / or excess noise. The logistics of this are currently being worked on and will be advised at a later date. The key is quick and easy reporting so GCCC, southern areas of Logan City, DEHP, business operators and residents can all work together to STOP any issues that have the potential to affect the health and safety of those in the area.

HEALTH CONCERNS

A number of YRA members have reported a higher incidence of bronchial conditions – something new to them and their families. If you have experienced this sort of issue OR something else that is outside of your normal pattern, please send an email to yra@yatala.info so we can evaluate if there is a pattern occurring. This information is a vital cog in ensuring the health and safety of residents and workers in the area.

ROAD SAFETY

We all know of the Chemical Truck that rolled at the roundabout (Sandy Creek / Darlington / Pagan / Stanmore Roads) on the morning of the 3rd of October 2012.



How scary was that – here is a truck full of bio-refinery material on its side? Fortunately the driver was OK but what if the truck tank had burst open – not something pleasant to think about! How many more trucks to roll on or around Stanmore Road OR to speed along the roads towards the M1 will it take before the authorities work on a sensible solution to ensure safety for all. Add to that the issues of access to the M1 which sees a “Car Park” on Stanmore Road that can be backed as far as the Turner Road lights at certain times of the day. Road infrastructure MUST be addressed by the authorities before any more developments open up in and around the YEA area.

Have you noticed an increasing incidence of animals and birds crossing our roads – it is spring so animal and bird families are slower at this time of the year. **SLOW DOWN PLEASE** – we have been informed of a baby bush-stone curlew (very sad death as the species is under threat), an adult female duck (obviously herding

her chicks as Dad was on the side of the road with the three babies), water dragons as well as blue tongued lizards all dead on our internal residential roads. If drivers can't slowdown in time to avoid killing an animal or bird, maybe they can't slow down in time to miss a child on a bike and we would have a tragedy in the area. **Our locals need to set an example to those who visit the area** – be it transporting kids to / from school or just visiting the area for work related activities or family commitments. Pass the word around – help is needed to stop any more “road kills”.

ORMEAU PROGRESS ASSOC – STOP THE QUARRY INFORMATION

Our friends at OPA have authorised the following to be included in this YRA Newsletter so that all our members have an appreciation of the issues on this continuing saga of the Boral Quarry. It is just another reason why we all need a strong voice in this northern GCCC area.

“The preliminary hearing in the Boral vs GCCC Appeal in the Planning and Environment Court was held on 20th August 2012. On the first morning of the hearing, a letter from GCCC was presented declaring that the Council agreed with Boral. The co-respondents proceeded believing they had the support of the local State member, but half way through the case an email was presented from DERM, written some weeks earlier, basically declaring that they too agreed with Boral. It was then left to the co-respondents to prove to the Judge that there was actually a case to be heard despite the non-participation of GCCC and DERM. The hearing could have ended fairly quickly at this point, but instead it stretched for two full days. The main issue raised concerned a point of law regarding the watercourses on site and the fact that these are a State resource.

The Judge published his findings on 21st September. In summary, he found that the community was right, but the consequences of this would be too great for Boral. Thus, he gave Boral relief under the Sustainable Planning Act to allow their appeal to proceed to full trial. The pressure on the Judge was significant and the community's lack of professional witnesses was a deciding factor in his decision.

This is the best outcome for the community because an outright loss for Boral would have meant an immediate appearance in the Supreme Court and the community could not afford this option. Thus, while the decision to allow the case to proceed was in Boral's favour, the issues have been written up in favour of the co-respondents. The Judge did find on one 'matter of fact' (something that stays written as law, unable to be changed by the Supreme Court). He stated that the watercourse (the Pimpama River) had been diverted by works done by Boral and later also mentioned that this had other legal implications.

The case now goes to a full trial, at which the community will ask for more stringent conditions to be imposed on the development. A mediation session involving all parties has been scheduled for 6th December. Consideration is being given to the amount of money and effort which should be invested. However, the trial will be the last opportunity for the community to have a say on Boral's operations.

The pre-trial judgement is some 30 pages long and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.sclqld.org.au/qjudgment/2012/QPEC/053>”

GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL – DIV 1 NEWSLETTER

You will all have received the Gold Coast DIV 1 Newsletter that was distributed in late August 2012. For those who missed it – here are the words related to Yatala:

Also at Yatala, the ongoing use of Stanmore Park has been restricted to junior riders only. Expressions of Interest have been called for the formation of a new club which would operate only on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week, remaining closed on Monday, Friday, Sunday and on all public holidays. It is hoped that this will ensure the amenity of residents, whilst providing a safe and secure venue for junior motor sports enthusiasts. There is a requirement for ongoing community consultation during the first six months before determining the long term future of the site.

The next stage of the Stanmore Road upgrade is scheduled for December, from Darlington Road to Peachey Road.

YRA has asked if the GCCC Road Engineers considered any design changes to accommodate the increased Stanmore Road usage – specifically if more 24/7 operations are allowed in the industrial area. No reply has been received to that question. The truck accidents and near misses on the Pagan Road roundabout and Peachey Road intersection will hopefully cause more reflection before the plans are finalised.

FINAL COMMENT – KEEP REPORTING NEWS TO yra@yatala.info OR ADD YOUR COMMENTS ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE – LINK IS ON THE www.yatala.info WEBSITE. THIS IS YOUR ALLIANCE AND IT WORKS BECAUSE YOU CONTRIBUTE!