



NEWSLETTER 18

Final Newsletter from the current Yatala Residents Alliance Committee - 31 Jan 2014

Dear members and fellow Yatala and Ormeau residents:

We wish to inform you that, due to a heavy work schedule, Mr Brad Atkins has decided to stand down as Chairman of the Yatala Residents Alliance (subsequently referred to as YRA in the rest of the newsletter). Additionally the remaining members of the committee, some of whom have been communicating constantly with all levels of government on behalf of our community for the past 5 years, have also decided to stand down.

CALL FOR A NEW YRA COMMITTEE

We now encourage any interested members of our community to make contact should they wish to continue the work of the YRA. The outgoing committee will certainly be willing to give their total support to everyone who has the commitment to further the role of YRA in our community. An email to YRA at: yra@yatala.info would be appreciated.

We thank Mr Brad Atkins for his efforts and work on behalf of us all. We also thank David, Gaye, Cavell, Jacob, Stuart, Bruce, Sally, Joan, Siggy and the others whom have given their time as valuable contributors in our quest to ensure that Yatala and Ormeau residents get a fair go. We sincerely hope that other residents will now continue the commitment of those in the past.

INFORMATION UPDATE

The following information is an update of recent events and we encourage everyone to read and save this information for future reference - *you may find it useful, should any industry related health issues develop in the Yatala/Ormeau area in the future.*

Add the following to your reference list and you will understand why concern for health and wellbeing is so important: It is reported that "Aspergillus Fumigatus" fungi generated by compost facilities could well be a time bomb in a similar way to asbestos and did you know that the Waterloo Biomass Plant in Sydney/NSW was shut down due to public pressure as a result of suspected links to increased cancers in the nearby population.

As you may already be aware the YRA was formed in 2009 specifically to keep an eye on future industrial developments in our area which had the potential to adversely affect our residents by way of air quality, visual amenity, noise and degradation to our flora and fauna.

After the Gold Coast City Council advised the community that it was not going to defend their initial refusal to approve the Phoenix BIOMASS INCINERATOR POWER PLANT PROPOSED for Sandy Creek Road, Yatala, YRA organized another petition – this time online (http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Petition_files/Petition.pdf) to highlight reasons why this proposal should never have been considered / passed in the first place.

As a result of YRA's constant agitation Councillor Donna Gates, our Division 1 Representative and Deputy Mayor on behalf of Council, issued a letter (http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Welcome_files/No%20Special%20Industry%20letter%2028Nov2013.pdf) informing the community that Special Industry (such as the Phoenix plant and various other high impact activities which were also approved on that same site), would no longer be welcome in the City of Gold Coast. Unfortunately Councillor Gates did not mention that this most welcome proposed policy reversal was subject to State Government approval. She also omitted to mention that even if approved by the State Government, the very industries described in her letter as no longer welcome, would still be allowed by Council up to 1 year after the adoption of the new 2015 City Plan (i.e. old rules which facilitated the approval of the Biomass Power Plant will still apply well after 2016).

As a result, this token effort by Council to minimize the impact of polluting industries in our immediate area, may simply amount to empty talk intended only to impress.

The sad indication is that all our efforts over so many years have been basically in vain with the exception that at least many more of our fellow residents are now more informed as to what the situation is now and what has been going on in the past. YRA Newsletters 1 to 17 plus this current one track the entire history. You can read all the newsletters at: <http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Newsletters.html>

As the Gold Coast City Council's draft of its 2015 GOLD COAST CITY PLAN was submitted to the State Government for comment, YRA arranged a meeting with Mr Mark Boothman, State Member for Albert on the 23rd of December 2013 and presented him with a DVD containing written and visual information of our concerns (<http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Documents.html>). He was asked to forward his comments to colleagues responsible for overseeing the State Interest checking process. Mr Boothman advised us that he had earlier, on the community's behalf, written to the Deputy Premier Mr Jeff Seeney Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Welcome_files/Yatala%20Planning%20Scheme.pdf) requesting alterations to the changes sought by Councillor Gates. Mr Seeney's unequivocal reply, dated 9 January 2014, can be viewed in the following link (http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Welcome_files/Reply%20from%20Deputy%20Premier%20regarding%20Yatala%20planning%20scheme.pdf). In response to these two letters, one of our committee members sent an email to Mr Boothman in the hope that the concerns mentioned would be more closely scrutinised during the review in light of the material provided to him during the meeting on December 23rd 2013 (http://www.yatala.info/Yatala/Documents_files/Email%20to%20Boothman.pdf).

NOTE: for more information regarding cancer links to the Waterloo Biomass Plant refer to the information provided to Mr Boothman on the DVD 23rd December 2013 and for more on "Aspergillus Fumigatus" refer to complete information on the link provided in the email to Mr Boothman dated 15 January 2014."

The current YRA Committee feel that they have done everything possible to highlight our community's issues but no doubt more can be done by others taking over the reins of YRA, as they may see things that the current committee have missed in the years past. Our State and Local representatives must now ensure that the final Gold Coast City Plan takes the serious health and wellbeing of our residents in Yatala and Ormeau into account - and not just the economic interest and business development health of our area.

MESSAGE FROM BRAD ATKINS

Dear YRA members,

Due to work commitments I have resigned as the acting Chairman of the YRA, and I will no longer take an active role in any capacity as of 30-1-14.

My thanks goes out to all the hard working people that helped us obtain over 6500 signatures to Stop the Biomass Plant. This sent a strong message to the Gold Coast Council and the State Government, and made them aware that we are a strong community that deserves consideration.

*Please let us know if anyone would like to take on the role of Chairman of YRA
We are also looking for someone to take over the running of the Yatala-Ormeau Facebook page and the Pollution Hotline and Website. These are valuable assets to the community and should remain active.*

It has been a pleasure working with the Yatala and Ormeau community.

Regards, Brad Atkins.



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

ORMEAU PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Inc. (OPA): From 01 January 2013, YRA has merged with OPA and is a WORKING GROUP which is part of OPA. OPA has been incorporated since 1989.

Disclaimer:

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