

AkzoNobel Sunshine North
Community Forum #5 – 16 February 2022
Independent Report of Outputs



A note from the facilitator

This document is an independent report prepared by consultants, Forge Communications, as a summary of the AkzoNobel Community Forum held on 16th February, 2022.

Care has been taken to accurately reflect the contributions of all Forum participants, including the facilitator, speakers and members of the community.

This record cannot be construed to accurately reflect the weight or nature of broader community or stakeholder opinions.

The report is intended as a summary of proceedings and does not provide recommendations from, or opinions of the independent consultants engaged to facilitate the Forum.

No independent statistical analysis or factchecking has been undertaken by the authors of the report. No responsibility or liability can be taken for errors or omissions, or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report by any third party.

Abbreviations used in this document

AN	AkzoNobel
EPA	Environment Protection Authority Victoria
EPHU	EPA Environmental Public Health Unit
FC	Forge Communications (independent facilitator)
RTO	Regenerative Thermal Oxidiser
SANPAG	Stop AkzoNobel Pollution Action Group
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds



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Forge Communications provides specialist independent consulting services in communications and stakeholder engagement.

For more information go to: www.forgecomms.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	4
2. Methodology	4
2.1 Invitations and Forum promotion	4
2.2 Participation	4
2.3 This report	5
3. What we heard	6
3.1 Odour – RTO	6
3.2 Odour – monitoring	7
3.3 Odour – general/resolution	9
3.4 Odour – health impacts	11
3.5 Noise	12
3.6 Compliance & enforcement	14
3.7 Other	17
4. Appendix A: Community Forum Agenda	19

1. Introduction

AkzoNobel is a global paint manufacturer with a production facility in Sunshine North that has been in operation for 65 years.

From January to June 2020, community complaints to the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) regarding odour and noise emitted from AkzoNobel Sunshine North increased approximately four-fold.

A local community group comprising 140+ members, Stop AkzoNobel Pollution Action Group (SANPAG), believes that the concerns regarding odour and noise date back at least ten years.

AkzoNobel wants to be a good neighbour and restore community confidence that its operations will not cause negative offsite impacts. It is committed to resolving the current noise and odour issues and maintaining effective community engagement and relationships.

AkzoNobel is committed to running community engagement activities to facilitate open, constructive dialogue with concerned community members. Forums have been hosted virtually (due to Covid restrictions) on 4 March, 31 March, 15 July, and 26 October 2021.

This report summarises the discussion that took place in the fifth online community forum held on 16th February, 2022.

2. Methodology

It was initially intended that the Forum would be conducted in-person, however, due to the continued high COVID-19 case numbers in Victoria, the decision was made to revert to a virtual Forum format using Zoom. The session took place on Wednesday, 16th February, 2022, from 6.15–7.45pm.

Attendees were required to RSVP online and were invited to share questions and topics they wanted to be addressed. Community forum attendees could ask additional questions during the online meeting via both verbally and using the chat function.

Representatives of AkzoNobel and its advisers; Golder Associates and Emission Treatment Solutions, and the EPA were present at the forum to provide information, answer questions and listen to feedback.

2.1 Invitations and Forum promotion

The 16th February 2022 online community forum was advertised via the following methods:

- Details were provided in four separate Community Update emails from November 2021 through February 2022. These were sent to the Community Contact list of 73 individuals, including two Councillors and five officers of Brimbank City Council.
- Two flyers were printed and distributed to households across five postcodes, including Albion, Sunshine, Sunshine North, Sunshine West and Ardeer. *To maximise the distribution of flyers (and avoid missed households), we engaged two separate suppliers, one of which uses the Australia Post network for delivery.*
- Advertisements were posted in the Brimbank Star Weekly over the first two weeks of February
- Various local groups received details about the Forum, with a request that they promote it to their members, including Stop AkzoNobel Pollution Action Group (SANPAG) and Brimbank Ratepayers & Residents Association

2.2 Participation

32 community members and stakeholders registered to participate, with approximately 20-25 attending the session. Speakers and representatives of AN, EPA and Forge included:

- **AkzoNobel:** Peter Black, Site Manager; Raymond Jreige, Health Safety Environment and Security Manager; Phuong Anh, Acting Director of Communications, South East & South Asia; Christopher Lim, Head of Communications for South Asia Pacific

- **Golder Associates:** Cameron McNaughton, Principal Air Quality Consultant
- **Emission Treatment Solutions:** Matthew Lakey, Managing Director
- **EPA Victoria:** Stephen Lansdell, Western Metropolitan Regional Manager; Sam Sparks, Environment Protection Team Leader; Rachel Gualano, Director Melbourne Metropolitan Area; Timothy Lubcke, Senior Environment Protection Officer; Gary Laidlaw, Senior Engagement Lead
- **Forge Communications:** Scott Thomson, Partner (facilitator) and Amy Watson, Partner

2.3 This report

This document is a key output of the forum, summarising the questions, comments and discussion that took place.

Attendees were required to RSVP via a SurveyMonkey link (or by phone or email) and were asked to note topics and questions they wanted speakers to address. These questions, comments and responses are captured in this report, along with those raised during the Forum.

For ease of reference, content has been collated according to key themes, rather than in the order in which the items were discussed.


This report is not a word-for-word transcript; some duplicated or very similar questions and comments have been consolidated, and some responses have been modified strictly for clarity and brevity, but care has been taken to ensure it accurately reflects the substance and spirit of the contributions of all speakers and participants.

The report should be read in conjunction with the presentations by speakers and the full recordings of the session, which are available on the AkzoNobel Community webpage; www.akzonobel.com/en/countries/Australia

Some additional information has been sourced and included to address questions and topics that were not covered during the Forum; this information has been labelled as such.

Responses from AkzoNobel (AN), EPA Victoria (EPA), Golder or the independent facilitator (FC) are indicated.

3. What we heard

Topic	Questions	Comments	Responses
<p>3.1. Odour – RTO</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is it taking so long for the RTO to be working 100%? It was installed months ago? 2. Why are locals still smelling the odour despite the RTO being installed? 3. What plans have been made to continue to eliminate the odour going forward considering the RTO doesn't seem to have fixed this issue? 4. Why is there still a smell? Do you have a set schedule on when to replace air filters? 5. Is it expected that after testing that the RTO will be operating at 100%? 		<p>Peter (Q. 1-3):</p> <div data-bbox="1176 475 1989 933" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> RTO AkzoNobel </div>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioned & Operational from December 2021 Initial Golder monitoring results conducted 11 Dec Further balancing and finetuning of RTO setup Jan 2021 Follow-Up Golder Monitoring planned Wk 3 Feb Carbon bed filter remains in place as standby for RTO <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Community Forum #5 February 2022 4</p> </div> <p><i>(AkzoNobel presentation, slide 4)</i></p> <p>The RTO was commissioned and operational from December last year. Once it was up and running, Golder did some initial monitoring to assess its efficiency around the middle of December. Those results showed that at the time, it was around 87% effective, and the odour for neopentyl glycol, which is the odour from the resin plant, was at 97% efficiency. We're looking to achieve greater efficiency of around 98% or better.</p> <p>Matthew (Q. 1-3):</p> <p>When the RTO was installed we went through a short commissioning stage and had performance tests done. We noted there were some inconsistencies with the temperatures running through the system. Also, the way the valves worked</p>

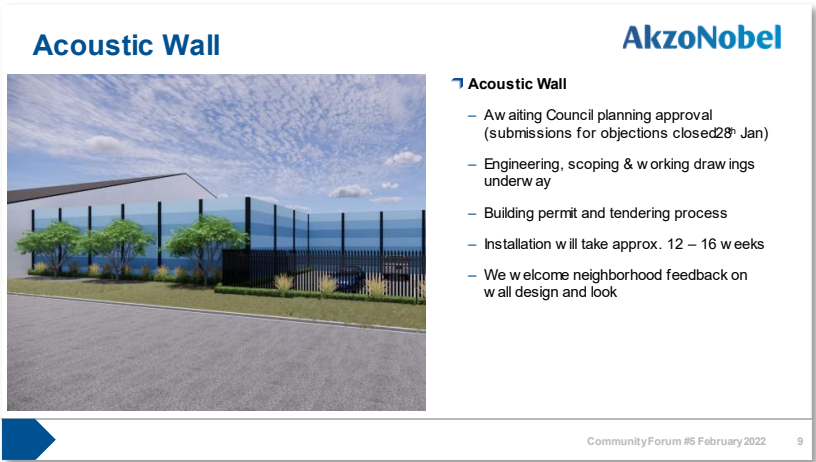
			<p>to move the air through the system was a little inconsistent. After the results came back we went through a programme of optimising the temperature through the RTO, and making sure the valve was operating as per specifications. We completed those works in late January, and the system seems to be operating at optimum conditions.</p> <p>Peter:</p> <p>We're now waiting for Golder to return and do some further monitoring. We're expecting that to be done [by end of February], which should confirm what Matthew was saying, that the RTO is running as expected.</p> <p>Regarding the carbon filter, which we installed in the middle of last year as an interim odour and VOC capture, it is now the backup in case there is an issue around the RTO; we can quickly switch to the carbon filter and continue to capture odours from the resin plant.</p>
<p>3.2. Odour – monitoring</p>	<p>6. What air quality controls are being presently performed?</p> <p>7. Who collects these data, and are they readily available to the local public?</p> <p>8. What warnings do we get if or when air quality is poor, and becomes a concern to the local communities?</p> <p>9. Can you just outline the methodology for determining where you monitor odour and VOCs? Because I live a fair distance away and we get the odours. Is there a risk that the particles can go up into the atmosphere and come back down again? And if the monitoring is done at</p>		<p>Peter (Q.6-8):</p> <div data-bbox="1167 751 1977 1209" data-label="Complex-Block"> </div> <p><i>(AkzoNobel presentation, slide 7)</i></p> <p>Golder have been conducting weekly boundary odour sampling since August, as we reported at the last forum, in conjunction with the VOC monitoring that we've been doing for some months as well.</p>

	<p>the boundary, it might not pick up everything that's carried by the wind to the broader community?</p>	<p>Cameron (Q.6-8):</p> <p>Every six days we deploy a type of VOC monitor at eight locations around the fence line of the facility. They are exposed for 24 hours and then they're collected and sent back to our laboratory for analysis. The primary purpose of the VOC monitoring is to monitor for health effects. We use a laboratory method to determine what the concentrations are at the boundary. As we've explained in previous sessions, in all of the results from that monitoring, which has been taking place since March, we do detect the compounds at the downwind locations from the paint and resin plants. But all of those measurements are well, well below the EPA's air quality assessment criteria under the new EPA legislation. That assessment against the air quality assessment criteria is a screen for health effects. As long as you're below that level, the presumption is that there won't be any health effects. And we're way down like 5%, 1% of the standard. So from a health perspective, those compounds have negligible risk to human health. But those same compounds that are coming from the paint and the resin plant, we are detecting them, and some of them have very low odour thresholds. So the purpose of the boundary odour monitoring is to gauge the intensity of the mixture of the VOCs that are present. Just as we've heard from the community members, especially those that are just across the street from the plant, there are odours of specific types; paint and the sickly sweet from the resin plant. Our results confirm that we're detecting odour at levels that would be considered distinct and frequent in the community.</p> <p>Cameron (Q.9): in this case, Akzo and Golder setup three monitoring stations around the north boundary, three on the south and one on each end, sort of ring fencing the facility so no matter which direction the wind is blowing, we'll be able to pick up the compounds on the boundary location. That's how we decided where to take the monitoring and that's fairly standard. We can't monitor out in the community at every location and we can't monitor every hour of every day. So that's why we use the model and we use several years' worth of meteorological data in order to simulate that. In fact, the models are quite sophisticated in that they actually account for the plume rising and then going into the distance and then possibly settling into the community during different types of meteorological conditions. So that's taken care of in the model. But that said, any time you do a model like that, because of the nature of the way contaminants are dispersed from a facility like this, it's really at the boundary</p>
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			<p>where it's going to be the highest and it drops off quickly with distance. That's why we use the model - to exactly address that condition. What is it like under all conditions, and at all locations where it's not feasible to measure everywhere all the time.</p> <p>POST FORUM</p> <p>FC: All completed air monitoring reports are available to the community on AkzoNobel's community webpage: www.akzonobel.com/en/countries/australia</p> <p>New reports are posted as soon as they become available.</p>
<p>3.3. Odour – general / resolution</p>	<p>10. Odour resolution actions with timelines?</p> <p>11. What modifications will be made to the building to ensure odour isn't escaping? When will this be done by?</p> <p>12. Pollution / toxic smells being released and the health issues resulting from toxic smells – what is Akzo Nobel doing about it?</p> <p>13. Why has the stench not been remediated yet?</p> <p>14. When will AkzoNobel fully remediate the stench?</p> <p>15. Why does AkzoNobel never fulfil its promises on time in relation to odour and noise remediation?</p> <p>16. Why can residents still detect the odour pollution despite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We notice that when it rains or when it's humid, the odour is the worst. It lingers and makes the air feel thick. 	<p>Peter (Q.10-17): Golder has since completed their review [of emissions from the plant]. We spoke at the last forum about a review of the paint plant odour and emission sources. Golder's Odour Management Report has now been submitted to the EPA at the end of January. The report does show that we are emitting odour from the paint plant across the boundary, and so it is an area that we need to now focus on and find improvement opportunities. Golder has made a number of recommendations in that report, and we now have to go through an investigation process to work out what the best way forward is to remove the VOCs and the odour sources that are coming out of the paint plant.</p> <p>One of those solutions is an RTO, and that's something that we've started to investigate. The paint plant is a bit different to the resin plant in that there are a number of emission points and we need to work out the best way of capturing those VOC and odour sources. I might call on Cameron to just talk a little bit about the report and the odour modelling that you've done.</p> <p>Cameron: We totalled up all of the emissions from the paint plant and the resin plant for the whole facility, and then analysed that to determine the emissions from the total plant. Then we used odour dispersion modelling to determine where based on meteorology odour can occur every hour of every year. The results confirm what the boundary odour surveys say, the residents just north of the facility in particular are experiencing this odour and we can see it when the meteorological conditions favour the emissions going in that direction. Based on the intensity of those odours and the sort of spatial distribution that the model suggests the biggest impacts are, we then evaluated some scenarios about how much of a reduction in emissions would be required in order to minimise the amount of odour in the community and bring it down. Those are the</p>

	<p>EPA notices and works being performed at the site?</p> <p>17. Can we have a summary of the recommendations and timelines please? Is it feasible to expect zero odours?</p> <p>18. Why did locals continue to smell the odour during the Christmas break?</p> <p>19. When I last spoke to EPA there was another odour source - the trade waste or trade waste pit. Is this associated with the paint plant or the resin plant?</p> <p>20. Did you not previously investigate the paint plant? Because there were two complaints; the sweet chemical smell and the paint or the solvent smell. Last time Golder mentioned that one was from the resin one was from the plant. So to investigate the paint plant now seems backwards. Why now?</p>		<p>recommendations that Peter was referring to. And those are engineering solutions.</p> <p>This is an iterative process between myself, the process engineers at AkzoNobel, and Peter and his team to determine what's feasible to reduce where and by how much.</p> <p>Peter (Q.18): We had some complaints over the Christmas break, including one on New Year's Eve regarding odour. The factory was fully closed over the Christmas break, so there was no activity happening here at the time.</p> <p>Regarding complaints, we've upgraded our complaints procedure and all the frontline people, particularly those who working on the resin plant outside of normal operational hours, have been trained in the procedures.</p> <p>One positive is that we are getting some people ringing through, which is appreciated. And the complaints we've received we have responded to. One was regarding the trade waste system and the overflow that happened. The positive there was that when the complaint came through, we could actually look into that quite quickly. So again, we do encourage people to report issues.</p> <p>Peter (Q.19): The trade waste handles site water which includes wastewater from the resin process, so it's predominantly the resin plant. The trade waste is connected to the RTO. The issue that we had was there was a release of water from the trade waste, which was not captured by the RTO. But under normal operating conditions, any odour from the trade waste goes through the RTO.</p> <p>Peter (Q.20): The analysis has been going on for several months. Our initial focus when we started this process was very much on the resin plant as that was the particular odour that was most commonly spoken about. So the focus was on the resin plant. And then, following on from that, we started this review of the emissions around the paint plant.</p> <p>Cameron (Q.20): If I could just add to that, this is an example of where the process actually worked. As Peter said, we were really focused on the sickly sweet odour from the resin plant initially. And partly due to the public comments that, well now there's also this paint/solvent odour. That's when we began investigating the paint plant further. The community consultation worked</p>
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			<p>here because it helped us to identify that it wasn't just the single [resin plant] odour but also the odour from the other location [paint plant].</p> <p>Cameron (comment): Odour can be most intense under calm cool conditions, such as early in the morning in spring, summer and autumn.</p> <p><i>POST FORUM</i></p> <p>FC: The Odour Management Plan will be provided to the community in a forthcoming Community Update email, and will be made available on AkzoNobel's community webpage: www.akzonobel.com/en/countries/australia</p>
<p>3.4. Odour – health impacts</p>	<p>21. Regarding the comments about impacts on human health, we're talking about cancer and things like that? But a lot of residents are impacted by this odour. People are getting physical symptoms. I know this has been raised in the previous community forums. I think it is quite insensitive to say that the odour shouldn't do too much to human health.</p> <p>22. What is the impact of this kind of odour for children, because I've had a lot of parents contact me. What are the long term impacts on the brain's development and the cognitive development of children from this kind of odour?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well below but still causing major health effects. You saying no health effects is incorrect. Odour on children, elderly and animals too. The odour can be smelt from nearby primary schools as well. Paint products say not to inhale, and yet I feel we're saying it's ok to inhale it here and there. I hope this won't be another case like "asbestos" where the mesothelioma and asbestosis comes decades later. We have residents who have severe asthma, and even 	<p>Cameron (Q.21-22 + comments): There are acute and chronic health effects due to exposure to chemicals. This is what we classify under the air quality and human health effects banner. The air quality measurements are targeted specifically at that, looking at what is the amount of exposure to specific compounds that are known to have health effects, and are the [detectable amounts] below the criteria set by the EPA. The answer to that question is yes, they're not just below, they're 5% or less of the standard, so very, very low. That speaks to chronic and acute health effects strictly around an air quality perspective.</p> <p>The second piece is exposure to offensive odours. These can produce physiological effects. When you're smelling an odour, you may feel nauseous, or have a headache or that sort of thing, especially if the odour is strong. So, we're not saying there might not be effects being felt in the community from the odour, but they're transient in the sense that once that odour is gone - the wind shifts, the emissions are reduced for some reason - then those effects are gone. So, there's no chronic long-term effects, such as skin cancer, or asthma or anything like that, from the odour alone.</p> <p>Peter (last comment): We understand that residents are feeling the effects of the odour. We've made some significant steps forward over the past 18 months or so with the changes that we've made, and we'll continue to implement the changes that we need to resolve this.</p>

		<p>when it is gone, they're still feeling the effects, around mental health as well. People can't go for a walk. I hope this is feedback you're taking on board; I know you are aware and doing what you can to eliminate this odour. But I want to make it very clear that residents are feeling quite sick over the odour. And it's something they would really like to be rectified.</p>	
<p>3.5. Noise</p>	<p>23. Noise is still a major issue. Why isn't this being addressed more promptly?</p> <p>24. Why is the noise pollution STILL so incessant and continuing unabated?</p> <p>25. What is being done to address the fan noise issue?</p> <p>26. I remember from the last community forum you had changed one of the mill fans - one of many mill fans. In your action plan what would be the biggest thing you'll be implementing? And when do you hope to achieve this by?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hear the whirring noise when I wake up till 6.30pm every weekday and most weekends. I live 2 streets away from Akzo Nobel on Cranbourne Avenue. I find the noise more annoying than the smell. • I can hear it from 7am to 7pm over the white noise sound machine I play for my baby! Mind you, I have a brick house with 	<p>Peter (Q.24-26):</p> <div data-bbox="1160 863 1980 1326">  <p>Acoustic Wall</p> <p>AkzoNobel</p> <p>Acoustic Wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting Council planning approval (submissions for objections closed 28th Jan) - Engineering, scoping & working drawings underway - Building permit and tendering process - Installation will take approx. 12 – 16 weeks - We welcome neighborhood feedback on wall design and look <p>Community Forum #5 February 2022 9</p> </div> <p><i>(AkzoNobel presentation, slide 9)</i></p>

	<p>When can we expect the biggest noises to cease?</p>	<p>shutters, and the whirring noise just penetrates the walls. Gives me headaches and is super annoying!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The noise is every day and constant, the odour is transient depending on the wind direction. 100% agree that it's just as bad! 	<p>We've spoken previously about installing an acoustic wall along the Barwon Avenue side of the of the site. We've submitted plans to the council and are waiting for planning approval. We're in contact with the council and we're hoping to receive approval soon.</p> <p>In the meantime, we continue to do our engineering, scoping and working drawings, so we can build the wall quickly once we get approval. From there, we would look to get a building permit and then go through a tendering process. We believe installation will take somewhere between 12 and 16 weeks. We've had some feedback from the neighbours about the way it should look and what the wall design looks like. We can share details on what the what the wall will be made of and all of those sort of things but we certainly welcome any information and feedback from the neighbours.</p> <div data-bbox="1160 619 1980 1082"> <p>Noise Review AkzoNobel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Powder Plant continues to cease operations at night. ✓ Powder Mill fan upgrade has improved overall noise levels ✓ Replacement gearbox of DT 5 completed ✓ Noise reduction plan completed and being implemented ✓ Focus on engineering controls to eliminate noise sources ✓ Seek community feedback to ensure we prioritize improvement actions. <p>Community Forum #5 February 2022 10</p> </div> <p><i>(AkzoNobel presentation, slide 10)</i></p> <p>In terms of noise in general, the power plant continues to cease operation at night and has done since early 2021. We continue to work through our list of improvement activities. The mill fan, which was causing a lot of the noise, was replaced several months ago. We've also replaced the gearbox from a drop tank in the resin plant, and we continue to replace other motors as well.</p> <p>We've developed a noise reduction plan. Our acoustic consultant has come up with a series of recommendations detailing some of the equipment we can focus</p>
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			<p>on to reduce the overall noise emitted from the site. We are working through this action plan. That involves either eliminating some of the equipment, installing some acoustic/silencing type equipment, acoustic panels, those sort of things.</p> <p>Again, we would also seek feedback from the community if there are specific sources that may be creating some angst. There may be things we've not thought of that are upsetting people living close to the site; we can change our focus and prioritise those improvement actions. We encourage people to reach out and if they want to meet with us, we can certainly do that.</p> <p>Peter (Q. 27): There are various things we'll be doing over the course of this year. We are currently looking at dust collectors; we are looking at eliminating them altogether, because we understand that's quite a high noise-emitting site. In terms of the other mill fans, we're looking at replacing one and relocating others. We're looking at how we do that. The challenge is around space. What we did with mill fan 1 was that we removed it from its platform and put it on the ground. This was very effective at reducing noise. What we're working through now from an engineering perspective is how to create some space to move all the other fans down onto the ground. Then there are a number of other noise sources like chillers; things that normally have motors or a velocity like mill fans, not only do they have motors but they also have a velocity which also creates noise.</p> <p>We will share that action plan with you. It's a time-based plan. Some things like changing at a pump, you can just get a new pump and replace those things quite quickly. Other things will need quite a bit of engineering.</p> <p>Our goal is to get the powder plant processes done by end of calendar quarter two and three (April to June and July to September).</p>
<p>3.6. Compliance & enforcement</p>	<p>27. I know there's been problems getting the RTO to work and AN is emitting odours across the boundary. So a question for the EPA, given that you've got new laws, and the polluter is responsible for</p>		<p>Rachel: We have quite a strong focus on some of our larger duty holders, particularly if there are significant community impacts, to make sure we're doing everything possible, not only to fix the problem from a regulator's perspective but holding them to account if we're not seeing improvements or actions. Also, with our new legislation from the first of July, we're looking at how you prevent these things from happening in the first place. We're interested in what</p>

anything that goes outside the boundary, what kind of ramifications are there? Compliance is in play when odours are breaching the boundary and affecting people on the outside the boundary, correct?

28. We noted that there have been a couple of breaches of compliance. How many times would you need to raise things before you escalate? You say that things are at the highest level, but things don't improve? What else are you going to do?

AkzoNobel is doing in that space. We'll continue to work with the community and AkzoNobel to address this important issue for the community.

Sam (Q.23): From a compliance perspective, compliance isn't punitive; we are just making sure AkzoNobel is going to be compliant with their EPA licence and its conditions long term. When we're looking at enforcement, which is a different aspect, we progress towards a more heavy-handed approach. Everything goes through our compliance and enforcement policy, looking at not just the environmental and human health harm, but also their culpability as a business and as we have already sanctioned AkzoNobel, numerous times, including for similar issues, that will be towards that higher end.

Improvement notice
Environmental Protection Act 2002

Notice ID: 847H-0001565
Date of issue: 03/10/21
Notice issued by: Name: Sam Sparks, Authorised Officer, T: 1300 375 464, F: 03 9584 1000, EPA, VIC & South Australia, epa.vic.gov.au
Notice issued to: Name: Akzo Nobel Pty Ltd, Address 17 - HICENTRY RE, RD SUNSHINE NORTH, VIC 3020
ACN: 50009424
Place or premises: 17 HICENTRY RE, Sunshine North, VIC 3020, AU
Legal reference: Environmental Protection Act 2002 (the EPA), s. 271
Service method: Electronic communication

For the purposes of this notice, "notice" means the original of this notice or any authorised representation and "give or provide" means the date at which the notice begins to identify issues.

(EPA presentation, slide 6)

			<div data-bbox="1205 308 1464 333" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Odour sources – Paint Plant</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="1211 373 1523 572" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Odour assessment of Paint Plant recently submitted & being assessed by EPA. • EPA have some initial concerns regarding report. • Likely that significant compliance work to be undertaken including interim controls. • Now the focus of enforcement action, including potential breach of EPA Licence. • Licence Compliance Assessment planned. </div> <div data-bbox="1585 365 1928 576" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <div data-bbox="1868 212 1957 301" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><i>(EPA presentation, slide 7)</i></p>			
			<div data-bbox="1205 826 1659 852" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Noise pollution from Akzo Nobel under the GED.</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="1182 895 1494 1117" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Environmental Duty allows us wider compliance powers. • Notices to be now served for a range of targeted works to be completed. • Will further reduce noise generated at premises. • Highest priority is remaining mill fans and landing – Notice drafted. • Noise attenuation wall undergoing Council approval. </div> <div data-bbox="1509 920 1933 1120" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1868 735 1957 825" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p><i>(EPA presentation, slide 9)</i></p>			
<p>Sam (Q.24): We do continually investigate the issues. As authorised officers, Tim and I collect all the data and as we detect non-compliances we refer that to our specialist team. AkzoNobel has been making paint, powder coatings and resin for a long time, they should reasonably know their environmental risks of</p>			

			<p>manufacturing in that building, and they should have appropriate controls. So, we're looking at different breaches of the EP act, because we don't want to do a ham-fisted investigation which can unfortunately lead to some bad repercussions in court. It is a difficult space.</p> <p>Where we're at with AkzoNobel is; we've given some really significant compliance advice, we've served a significant amount of remedial notices, we have given official warnings, and we've issued infringement notices. We've now worked through that graduated and proportionate sanctions and we're going towards the full force of the law.</p> <p>We are investigating numerous breaches of the Environment Protection Act and our sub legislation, including a breach of their EPA licence. Once we've finalised those investigations we can report that back to the community. I know it's frustrating because you generally hear this message at community meetings, but for legal reasons, we do have to be careful about what we share.</p> <p>We will be conducting a licence compliance assessment of AkzoNobel this financial year. That's looking not just at noise and odour but every single licence condition, looking through it really thoroughly.</p> <p>POST FORUM</p> <p>FC: See also the EPA's full presentation, available on AkzoNobel's community webpage: www.akzonobel.com/en/countries/australia</p>
<p>3.7. Other</p>	<p>29. What were the recent construction works including capital works on the reactor.</p> <p>30. I just wanted to say, if there's anything that we can do, as councillors to help, you know, reduce the impact, please just let us know.</p> <p>31. Can we please invite AkzoNobel's Corporate Director - Sustainability,</p>		<p>Peter (Q.29): Over Christmas we did quite a few things across the site, including replacing asbestos sheeting across a number of our buildings. There's still a little bit to do but that has made the place look better and gotten rid of the asbestos.</p> <p>We also did a fairly large roadway upgrade. Because we tend to shut down over Christmas, it's an opportunity for us to do any larger maintenance projects on the plant.</p> <p>A thank you to the neighbours on Barwon Avenue; we did have concrete trucks and a lot of transport coming through Barwon Avenue because of the roadworks, so there was some disruption.</p>

Andre Veneman, to attend this event via Zoom?



(AkzoNobel presentation, slide 14)

One final thing, we've also been looking at how we make the site more aesthetically pleasing. This is an artist's impression of the northern wall of the powder factory. We've been talking to some of our neighbours about that and have had this drawn up. We're progressing this as a separate project.

Resident (Q.30): There probably is. Previously, there was a resident said once upon a time, the streets closest were residential, and then things happened and then it was changed to residential/industrial. I'm not sure what the council does in terms of what businesses it allows to operate in certain zonings. But maybe they can look to be reviewed.

POST FORUM

AkzoNobel (Q.31):

Andre Veneman is no longer with the company. The Asia Manufacturing Director has agreed to attend the next forum to answer any questions.

Appendix A: Community Forum Agenda



AkzoNobel Sunshine North Community Forum #5

16th February 2022 -- 6:15 - 7:45pm (*attendees to join from 6:10pm*)

Format: The forum will be conducted virtually via Zoom (a link will be emailed to registered participants before the forum)

RSVP essential by 15th February: (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TBNP5ZM>)

PURPOSE OF THE SESSION:

To enable community members to ask questions, discuss their concerns about air quality and noise (relevant to AkzoNobel) and hear about progress, compliance and enforcement.

AGENDA

6:15 Meeting introduction (Scott Thomson, facilitator)

6:20 **AkzoNobel:** Updates by:

- o Peter Black (Site Manager)
- o Matthew Lakey (Managing Director, Emission Treatment Solutions)
- o Cameron McNaught (Air Quality Consultant, Golder)

Topics include

- o Odour
 - RTO (permanent odour solution) update
 - Broader odour emissions assessment report
 - Resident complaints
 - Odour testing
- o Noise mitigation update
- o Holiday site works update
- o Community questions & discussion

6:45 **EPA Victoria:** Update by Stephen Lansdell (Western Metropolitan Regional Manager) and Sam Sparks (Senior Environment Protection Officer)

Topics include

- o Compliance and enforcement update
- o Community questions & discussion

7:05 **General discussion/Q&A**

7:45 Close