



# CHRONICLE

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## 'Greenhouse Challenge Plus' Certificate of Acknowledgment to BASF Altona site...

Earlier this year, BASF's Managing Director, Mr Robert Zapp, attended a launch of the Greenhouse Challenge Plus Program held in Parliament House, Canberra. Along with representatives from 150 other companies and innovators who signed up with the Program, Senator Ian Campbell, Minister for Environment and Heritage, thanked all the companies or their continued contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Minister expressed his appreciation of the ongoing support of corporations in voluntarily being part of the Program and their commitment and efforts in compiling and preparing individual company reports.

On behalf of BASF's Altona's site, Mr Zapp accepted a Certificate of Acknowledgment and pledged the company's ongoing support as signatories to the Greenhouse Challenge, since the

site took up the Challenge in 2001. He indicated that companies such as BASF were demonstrating that costly emissions reduction laws and imposts on business were not necessary, and that voluntary programs such as the Greenhouse Challenge went a long way in helping Australia meet its greenhouse emissions reduction requirements.

This year's total greenhouse emissions produced at the BASF Altona site was 11,390 CO<sub>2</sub> tonnes and they are continuing to meet its greenhouse challenge target.

In acknowledging all Operations personnel at the Altona site for their contribution towards energy reduction and resource preservation since 2001, Mr Zapp said that their efforts in energy sustainability is to be applauded.

"Not only are we improving the environment through reduced emissions, but the site has reduced its energy bills



L-R: Hon. Warren Entsch MP, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry Tourism and Resources) presenting the award to BASF Managing Director, Mr Robert Zapp.

resulting in annual savings," said Mr Zapp. "The energy efficiency programs we have in place are closely monitored by the site's Environmental Management Team, and I extend my personal thanks to them for their support and maintaining their energy targets."

## Residents part of Qenos Incident Investigations...

Over recent years, Qenos has invited community representatives to be involved in the company's internal investigations in relation to significant environmental incidents that have occurred at the Qenos sites. The practice of inviting a community representative to be involved in these investigations was initiated about five years ago as part of maintaining community confidence in Qenos incident investigations and operations.

The community representative's role generally involves their attendance at several meetings with the company's nominated investigation team. At these meetings the data from the incident is tabled and the potential causes discussed and identified. During the latter part of the investigation process, action items and a draft incident report are prepared. The community representatives are active members of investigation team meetings and contribute to the discussions and recommended actions. They also review the draft report along with other investigation team members prior to the final issue of the investigation report.

"In the earlier investigations, there was a feeling of awkwardness in the consultative process by both the company and the community members," said Les Harman, Qenos Environmental Advisor. Initially, there was concern that Qenos wouldn't be able to investigate an incident thoroughly due to community involvement, plus having someone from outside the organisation may not be accepted by the investigation team. It was also raised as to what value the community could add to the process given that they know very little about how our plants operates."

The company is pleased that these concerns did not materialise, with both company and community representatives giving positive testimony to the success of their involvement.

Les Harman added that the positive dialogue during the investigations can be attributed to the high level of openness and trust between company and community representatives.

ACNCG and Qenos EMT member, Nessie Hardy, gave the Chronicle her personal viewpoint of her part in an investigation relating to a solvent release at the Qenos Resins site.

"Although this particular release had no impact outside Qenos Resins' site, the incident did have the potential to become a major problem which was only averted by chance discovery," said Nessie.

"The findings from incident investigations are always complex, but the two issues that stood out for me from this incident, were that the root cause was inappropriate equipment installed years ago and the need for an automatic alarm in this particular area."

"It is pleasing to report that both of these items have been addressed."

Nessie added that other seemingly minor findings can be very useful in strengthening the risk management systems on all Qenos sites.

"I was impressed with the thoroughness of the investigation and the integrity of all members on the team," concluded Nessie. "The main objective was achieved in that the team identified the problems which have been rectified, and we were united in our desire to learn all we could about the incident and to ensure prevention of any more spills."

# Qenos Celebrates its \$60M Investment in Altona...

**Q**en on Friday, 6th May, 2005, over 300 Qenos employees, contractors and guests attended a lunchtime barbecue at Qenos Olefins to recognise the Memorandum of Understanding partnership with its trade unions and to celebrate shareholders, Orica and ExxonMobil's approval of a feedstock conversion of the site's Steam Cracker Altona 1 (SCAL-1) plant.

Launched on December 2, 2003, the partnership involved the Electrical Trades Union, the National Union of Workers, the Australian Workers Union and the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union who were signatories to a groundbreaking agreement with Mobil and Qenos to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that aimed to help secure the future of both businesses by ensuring a dependable and flexible industrial relations environment.

Qenos CEO, Mr Ross McCann, welcomed the Hon. Andre Haermeyer, Minister for Manufacturing and Export, who joined a group of dignitaries that included local Mayor, Cr Renae Caruana, union leaders and representatives from the EPA, City West Water, Workcover and members from the ACNCG.

Qenos announced that it will invest \$60M to convert its SCAL-1 plant to an ethane based ethylene production facility. The conversion will mean that Altona's operations will have a single production focus – the supply of polyethylene products to the Australian market place. It will also mean that the co-products from gasoil feed, for example butadiene, will cease resulting in a more environmental friendly ethane and LPG feedstock.

Work has already commenced on the project which will be completed end November, 2005. Qenos would like to inform local residents that October will be the peak period of high activity with approximately 300 contractors working with Qenos plant personnel to complete a full maintenance overhaul and conversion activities of SCAL-1.

The company has prepared an information brochure on the project which is now available at the local Altona library and Council offices. If you are interested in a copy or have any enquiries about the project, please contact Maureen Short on 9258 7333 for further information.

**Mr John Langdon,**  
ACNCG and Qenos EMT member  
*"It is very encouraging to see the key unions and shop stewards confirm their support for the project. This was also reinforced by the large turnout of employees and contractors attending the celebrations. Both Qenos management and the Unions should be praised for their efforts in developing such an improved cultural change from what existed some years ago."*

**Hon. Andre Haermeyer**  
*"The announcement represents a great outcome for Victoria and a major vote of confidence in the State's manufacturing sector."*

**Message from Premier of Victoria, Hon Steve Bracks**  
*"My government welcomes Qenos ongoing commitment to your Altona operations and I assure you of our continued support."*

**Mayor of Hobsons Bay, Cr Renae Caruana**  
*"The conversion will ensure future job prospects for Altona, which is great news for the local economy. Council congratulates Qenos and its shareholders on their commitment to continue to be part of our community."*

**Message from Nicola Roxon, MP, Member for Gellibrand**  
*"Congratulations Qenos. No doubt this major conversion will provide significant environmental benefits and better air quality for the local community."*



To all residents . . .

**Next Meeting - Thursday, August 11, 2005 at 6.30 p.m.**  
**Dow Chemicals, Kororoit Creek Road Altona**

إشعار لكل السكان في المنطقة هل أنت مهتم بما يحدث في مجمع ألتونا للصناعات الكيماوية؟  
تفضل واحضر إجتماع تمثله اللجنة الإستشارية للسكان الجوارين لمجمع ألتونا للصناعات الكيماوية.  
يُعد الإجتماع مرة كل شهر.  
ترحب بالجميع.  
الإجتماع القادم .....

Obavijest svim stanovnicima  
Zanima li vas što se događa u Kemijskom kompleksu u Altoni?  
Dodite na sastanak na kojem će se razgovarati o problemima koji se odnose na ovaj kemijski kompleks.  
Sastanak se održava svaki mjesec.  
Svi su dobrodošli.  
Sljedeći sastanak ...

Ανακοίνωση προς όλους τους κατοίκους  
Ενδιφερόστε με το τι συμβαίνει με αυτό το εργοστάσιο που κατασκευάζει χημικά (δηλ. το Altona Chemical Complex)  
Ελάτε σε ένα συνέδριο-φόρουμ της συμβουλευτικής ομάδας, προσκλημένης στην περιοχή, που θα συζητήσει τα προβλήματα που αφορούν το εργοστάσιο χημικών. Τα συνέδρια γίνονται κάθε μήνα. Όλοι είναι ευπρόσδεκτοι. Το επόμενο συνέδριο θα γίνει στις .....

Avviso ai residenti  
Vi interessa sapere che cosa succede nel Complesso Industriale di Altona dove si producono prodotti chimici (Altona Chemical Complex)?  
Venite ad una riunione del Gruppo di consultazione della zona, che si occupa della discussione dei problemi riguardanti il Complesso Industriale di Altona.  
Le riunioni si tengono ogni mese.  
Siete tutti benvenuti.  
La prossima riunione .....

Известување до сите жители  
Дали сте заинтересирани да знаете што се случува во фабриката за производство на хемикали Altona Chemical Complex?  
Дојдете на состанок на групата каде што се дискутира за проблеми во врска со хемиските производи.  
Состанокот се одржува секој месец.  
Сите се добродојдени.  
Идниот состанок ...

Avviz ghar-residenti kolha  
Tinteressa ruheh f'dak li qed jgiri fl-Altona Chemical Complex, il-post f'Altona fejn jagħmlu prodotti tal-kimika?  
Ejja għal-lagħha ta' l-Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group, il-forom għad-diskussjoni dwar thassib/problemi li għandhom x'jaqsmu mal-post fejn jagħmlu l-prodotti tal-kimika.  
Il-lagħha ssir kull xahar.  
Mistieden kulhadd.  
Il-lagħha li gejjja se ssir f'din id-data .....

Обавештење свим житељима  
Дали сте заинтересовани за оно што се догађа у Хемиском комбинату у Алтони (Altona Chemical Complex)?  
Дођите на састанак Саветодавне групе за суседство Комбината у Алтони (Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group).  
Одржава се сваког месеца.  
Свако је добродошао.  
Следећи састанак ...

Thông báo gửi toàn thể cư dân  
Nếu muốn biết những gì đang diễn tiến trong Cơ Xưởng Chế Tạo Hóa Chất tại Altona (Altona Chemical Complex) ?  
Xin mời quý vị đến tham dự buổi họp của Nhóm Tham Khảo Ý Kiến Công Chúng về Cơ Xưởng Hóa Chất Altona (Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group).  
Được tổ chức hằng tháng.  
Xin mời toàn thể cư dân đến tham dự.  
Buổi họp kế tiếp được tổ chức vào ngày...

## BASF recognises local Resident for his Environmental Contribution...



Joe Mifsud

**A** long term member of BASF's Environmental Monitoring Team (EMT), Joe Mifsud, has elected to retire after being involved with the company's EMT since early 1990.

"Joe has been working with us to improve the local environment for a number of years and will be sorely missed," said Ms Christina Sobieralski, HS&E Manager, BASF. "As an active EMT member, Joe contributed to all of Altona's Environmental Improvement Plans (EIP) and we are now in our 4th EIP."

Ms Sobieralski said that Joe is so familiar with BASF's site, he knows the location of all BASF's storm water drains plus many other aspects about the site adding that he has been part of many plant activities including special events such as the National Pollution Inventory launch in 2000.

In addressing his last EMT meeting, Joe said that BASF had achieved a lot over the years remarking upon significant environmental improvements since the Altona Complex Environmental Monitoring Team meetings were first formed.

"Despite the level of continuous environmental progress, there is still the need for the local community to have constant involvement with the Complex companies," said Joe Mifsud. "I urge other EMT members to continue their participation as there may be a tendency for the Altona Complex companies to fall back on their environmental progress."

Joe was also a resident member on the ACNCG until February, 1995, whereby he decided to dedicate his time to supporting BASF on its implementation of their Environmental Improvement Plan.

The ACNCG, BASF and their EMT members extend their appreciation to Joe for his involvement over the years and wish him well in his retirement.

## Residents register for another year on the ACNCG...

**T**he Chronicle is pleased to report that at its Annual General Meeting held June 9, 2005, at the Altona Civic Centre, eight residents nominated and were accepted as members for the ACNCG forth-coming year.

At the meeting, the Group welcomed the Mayor of City of Hobsons Bay, Cr Renae Caruana as their newly appointed Chair of the ACNCG with local resident, Percy Fernandez continuing in his second year as Deputy Chair.

The ACNCG expressed their gratitude to retiring Chair, Cr Carl Marsich, who over his seven years as Chairman, facilitated effective community/industry interface by ensuring that the meetings were properly chaired and structured to ensure two-way dialogue. Prior to taking up his role as Chair of the ACNCG in July, 1998, Carl was a regular visitor to ACNCG meetings since February, 1995, attending as a local resident.

Speaking on behalf of the Altona Complex companies, Mr Russell Higgins, Qenos Operations General Manager said that the Complex commended Cr Marsich's dedication and commitment to the Group and the personal interest he showed in ensuring health, safety and environment remained a key focus for continual improvement within the Complex and the surrounding areas.

Since December, 1989, the ACNCG has evolved to become a very successful forum for residents, the local chemical industry and the Council in discussing issues of mutual concern. The Group is often cited as a role model by other areas in Victoria, and indeed other States, as

best practice in community and industry consultation.

Both residents and the companies that make up the ACNCG, are keen to encourage other local residents to join the Group and be part of continuing environmental improvements.

A good way for Altona residents to familiarise themselves with the Complex's operations and learn about any new developments that may be happening in the area, is to attend meetings.

The schedule for the remainder of the 2005 is:

**August 11, 2005** at Dow Chemicals, Kororoit Creek Road, Altona, commencing at 6.30 pm.

**October 13, 2005** at Qenos Olefins site Cnr Kororoit Creek Rd and Maidstone Street, Altona, commencing at 6.30 pm.

**December 8, 2005** at BASF, Kororoit Creek Road, Altona, commencing at 6.30 pm.

All meetings are preceded by a light supper at 6.00 pm hosted by the relevant company. All local residents are welcome to join the group for supper prior to the meeting which starts at 6.30 pm. This provides visitors with a good opportunity to mingle with other residents, company representatives and the regulatory authorities.

If interested in joining or attending future meetings, please call the ACNCG Minute Secretary, Mary Marcina, on 99321050 or Maureen Short, Altona Complex, on 9258 7333 to express your interest.

## ACNCG member moves on...

**T**he Chronicle bid a farewell to Janeen Lynch, previously a member on the editorial team and a local resident on the ACNCG. With her husband Steffan and their two children, Janeen has now relocated to Sydney to start a new business venture.

"We were very appreciative of Janeen's efforts over the two years she

was part of the Group," said Judy Hindle, "Janeen volunteered a lot of her personal time in developing the ACNCG website and was a great asset on the Chronicle's Editorial team."

The ACNCG extends their appreciation to Janeen for her involvement in the Group and wishes the family every success in their new endeavour.

## ACNCG Members

### Residents/Community

Percy Fernandez - Deputy Chair	9391 1383
Judy Hindle, OAM	9395 8565
Paul Cassar	9391 3355
Gus Garnsworthy	9398 5811
Ivan Board	9749 3808
Nessie Hardy	9398 4803
Mal Hindle	9395 8565
John Langdon	9398 3658
Valerie Gemmell	8307 8764

### Complex

BASF - <a href="http://www.basf.com">www.basf.com</a>	
Ross Jackson	9212 1500
Gatehouse: after hours	9281 6367

### Dow Chemical - [www.dow.com](http://www.dow.com)

Paul Thomas	9226 3500
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### Qenos - [www.qenos.com](http://www.qenos.com)

Russell Higgins	9258 7333
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### Council

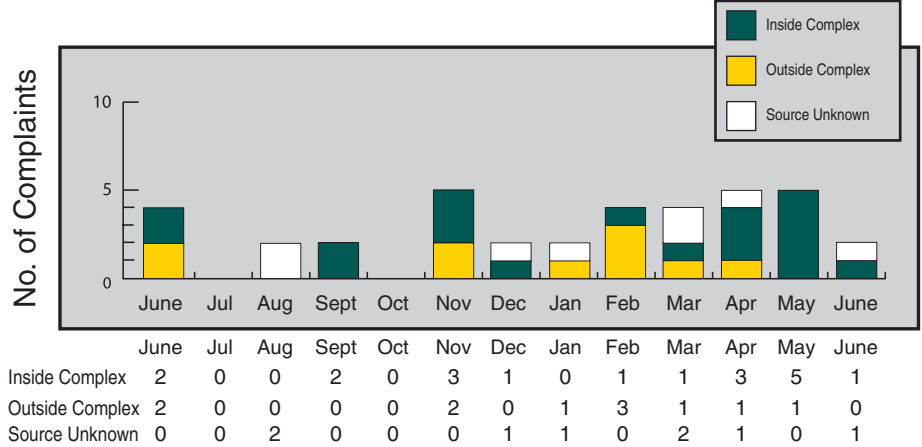
Cr Renea Caruana - Chair	9932 1000
ACNCG - Minute Secretary	9932 1050

### Regulatory Authorities

Environment Protection Authority	
Quentin Cook	9695 2640
Victorian WorkCover Authority	
Ray Wright	9641 1542
City West Water	
Jacqueline Mekken	9313 8602

# Community Environmental Complaints

## June 2004 - June 2005



**T**welve complaints have been received over the last three months with all except one coming via the Environmental Action Line (EAL). One complaint was passed on by the EPA on the 2nd May which coincided with two complaints received on the EAL for the same odour. The odour was traced to an area north of the Complex near the start of the Western Ring road. The other nine were single complaint events.

Three of the complaints were for noise and the other nine were for odour. Five of the odour complaints were for a sweet smell described by some as a sweet burning smell or a sweet burning coffee smell. These were confirmed as being from outside the Complex. The character of the smell was quite different from the historical Complex odours and was confirmed to be upwind of the Complex.

Nine of the complaints for the period were confirmed as having a source outside the Complex based on the investigations and wind data. One complaint for the period was accepted by Qenos Olefins even though the investigation could not positively confirm the source. The complaint was accepted based on a reasonable likelihood of Olefins being the source based on the complaint characterisation and wind data.

A source was not able to be confirmed as outside the Complex for one odour and one noise complaint for the period. Both these complaints were classified source unknown based on not being able to positively confirm the source as outside the complex.

## Altona Complex Community Siren

If you hear this siren **OUTSIDE** of the specified test time of 10.00am on the first Sunday of every month, do not attempt to evacuate, unless told to by Emergency Services.

- Go Inside any building:** - Close external doors and turn off air conditioners.
- Close windows and shut curtains and blinds.**
- Turn on the radio STEREO 974 (97.4FM) or television ABC Channel 2 for Police messages**
- Remain indoors until you are given the all clear.**
- Avoid using the telephone:** - Unless it's really urgent
- Co-operate fully with emergency services**

The warning siren is an undulating two tone siren (similar to an air raid siren).

The all clear is a continuous siren.



**FOR NUISANCE ODOURS OR NOISE SUSPECTED OF COMING FROM THE COMPLEX. REMEMBER THE QUICKER YOU CALL THE BETTER THE CHANCES TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSE QUICKLY . . .**

**EPA POLLUTION WATCH LINE - 9695 2777 -**

**CITY OF HOBSONS BAY COUNCIL - 9932 1000 -**

**ENVIRONMENTAL 24 HOUR ACTION LINE - 1800 061 050 -**

**Visit our Website [www.acnCG.info](http://www.acnCG.info)**

Editorial Sub Committee: Maureen Short (Editor Altona Complex), Judy Hindle, Paul Cassar, Nessie Hardy, John Langdon, Percy Fernandez.

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