



# Manildra Group

Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 123, Nowra  
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Telephone: (02) 4423 8200  
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**100% Australian Owned**

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SHOALHAVEN MILLING COMPANY - MANILDRA MILLS PTY. LTD - MANILDRA STARCHES PTY. LTD. - MANILDRA SUGARS  
SHOALHAVEN STARCHES PTY. LTD. - TASMAN STARCHES PTY. LTD. MANILDRA STOCKFEEDS PTY. LIMITED  
NAMOI FLOUR MILLS PTY. LIMITED - HOOKERS MILK PRODUCTS PTY. LTD. - MANILDRA MILLING  
CORPORATION U.S.A.

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## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING 10.00AM**

**WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2005**

**MANILDRA ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM**

**BOLONG ROAD, BOMADERRY**

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies.
2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes.
3. Progress Report on the Wastewater and Solids Removal from the Ponds.
4. Review of Community Complaints.
5. Quarterly VOC and Odour Monitoring.
6. Comments and suggestions from the Community on the environmental performance.
7. General Business.



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## MINUTES

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

### HELD IN THE MANILDRA GROUP ADMINISTRATION MEETING ROOM

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2005

#### Present

Peter Courtney	Chairperson
Brian Hanley	Manildra Group Manager
Warren Priest	Community Representative Terara Area
Terry Barratt	Community Representative Bomaderry Area
Stephen Thompson	Manildra Group Farm Manager
Scott Foggo	Manildra Group Environment and Technical Manager
Glenys Lugg	Manildra Group Environmental Scientist
Peter Tallent	Manildra Group Chief Chemist

#### 1. Apologies

Alf Taylor	Community Representative	Meroo Meadow
Anthony Rizzuto	Community Representative	Bomaderry
Carol Rizzuto	Community Representative	Bomaderry

#### MEETING

- The Chairperson requested that the previous minutes be accepted.

**Moved – Brian Hanley**

**Seconded – Stephen Thompson**

#### 2. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes.**

Terry Barratt has been appointed as a Community Representative for the Bomaderry Area.

Terry Barratt requested a copy of the Environmental Audit Report discussed at the previous meeting.

**3. Progress Report on the Wastewater and Solids Removal from the Ponds.**

Manildra advised that irrigation was going along reasonably well. There had been a few wet days, 529ML stored in ponds at the end of September and 509ML at the end of October. Providing there is no wet weather the level will be back down to the 400's. The solids, which are all under cover in Pond 4, are down to about 84ML and are slowly being mixed with the condensate for irrigation.

The Pond covers are holding up well and the recent winds did not have any affect on them. Working at reducing the washdown waters from 1 to 1/2ML per day.

**4. Review of Community Complaints**

Manildra advised that the complaints have been in the cooler months with complaints dropping away. Seven out of ten complaints had been for the yeasty or vegemite odour. One out of ten have been for the farm. Two complaints were non-descript. One call over two weeks had been received where people rang the complaints line.

With regards to the yeasty smell an odour scrubber had been operational in June with an improvement of 80% in the odour being experienced. This operation had to be shut down due to a design fault and OH&S issues with only about a quarter of the air discharged from the Plant being processed at the moment.

Additional Capital Expenditure of \$640,000 has now been approved to make the necessary changes to the system. The new system will incorporate the following:

1. The DDGS will be cooled down to reduce vapour.
2. All the transfer air will be collected in the scrubber which will reduce the vegemite odour.
3. The DDGS will have improved quality by the installation of screens to remove balls.

The total cost of the project is about \$1M and the new system should be operational by the end of December 2005.

**5. Quarterly VOC and Odour Monitoring**

Manildra advised that VOC and Odour Monitoring reporting had been completed by Stephenson Environmental Management. A copy of the Conclusions from the Report was distributed to members.

Manildra advised that an odour unit is a measure of mass discharge. Graphs of emissions on page 16 shows the difference of the effluent ponds before and after PRP7 which shows a significant improvement in odours relating to the ponds.

Manildra will be having discussions with the Department of Environment and Conservation to stop testing other parts of the factory, except Ethanol, as the readings are quite low.

Manildra advised that investigative work is currently being carried out in relation to the DEC prosecution. Manildra is not the only potential odour source in the area.

Other potential odour sources, which have not been quantified or assessed, include the Sewerage Plant, Papermill, Dairy CoOp and Probiotec who irrigates onto Bryce's farm.

**Noise Report**

The Acoustic Report for June 2005 was distributed to members. The results on Page 3 of the report shows a noise exceedence at Nobblers Lane. Manildra is presently in the process of trying to identify the source of the noise which created the exceedence .

A further report was done in September and Manildra is trying to work out where the noise is coming from. There has been no known process change.

**6. Comments and suggestions from the Community of the environmental performance of the development.**

Phil McKenzie asked what additional monitoring will occur with the Ponds now that the warmer weather is approaching, what is happening with Pond 6 and what contingencies are in place for the summer months.

Manildra advised that a procedure to prevent odour has been determined with advice from Consultants which involves keeping the water level above the 100ML level to ensure cooler temperatures in the water column. Manildra's Environmental Scientist will be monitoring the water column.

Manildra advised that previous soil samples taken are in the hands of the Department of Primary Industries.

Warren Priest advised by phone that things were generally fine at Terara. They were still experiencing the yeasty odour.

## **7. General Business**

Manildra advised that they were currently talking to the Golf Club about running a pipeline from the Plant to the Club to enable the Club to use the reclaimed water. Survey work has been done and a couple of meetings have taken place. Talks have also started again with local farmers about using reclaimed water.

Manildra advised that they have been working with Manly Hydraulics and CSIRO who have been doing work on the clean water to enable Manildra to release clean water into the river under controlled conditions.

Manildra is getting ready to have a meeting shortly with DEC and Department of Planning to obtain their consent for a river release trial. This will enable the mixing zone work which has been done to be validated in the river and verification of toxicity work. There are no standards for discharge into a salt water estuary all standards are for discharge into freshwater rivers. The toxicity work which has been done by the CSIRO.

Terry Barrett asked whether Manildra had approach Council about using their water in the REMS scheme. Manildra advised that Council has been approached and they did not want it.

Terry Barrett felt that if approval was given for a river release community consultation would have to take place.

Manildra advised that if they were given approval to release the water the Company's Licence would be amended to accommodate a river release.

Manildra advised that there was an issue with land on the farm and the horse paddock has been on the market for some time. The other parts of the farm are half owned by the Retirement Farm and the remainder owned by the Company. APRA has been looking at how the Company's retirement fund is structured and as a consequence Manildra will be selling some of the land that is owned by the Retirement Fund in order to reduce the property component and increase the cash component. Any land sold that is needed for irrigation will be sold on the basis that irrigation would still take place.

Phil McKenzie asked how the Company's position was regarding permanency and its cash position.

Manildra advised that for over two years the Company had been running at a reduced capacity right across the operation because of the Ethanol situation. The current state of play is that the oil companies are now preparing action plans to use the volume of ethanol in the Government's policy.

Manildra has cut back on maintenance expenditure and there has been almost no Capital Expenditure. The workforce has been reduced by 18 people and further ways and means are being looked at to reduce costs and save money.

**The Meeting closed at 11.20.**

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2005, 10.00am.**

**The Agenda and Minutes are available on the Manildra Group web site [www.manildra.com.au](http://www.manildra.com.au) under the heading Community.**

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**Chairperson**