

COODE YOUR VOICE



The Coode Island Community Consultative Committee (CICCC) — your voice on safety and environmental issues at the Terminals facility on Coode Island.

WHO ARE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE CICCC?

From an original membership of seven in 1998 the community membership of the CICCC is now made up of five core members from different backgrounds and with different expertise, but all committed to ensuring that the community is well informed about the operations of Terminals on Coode Island.

The members are:

Bro Sheffield Brotherton – has a PhD in chemistry and 35 years environmental activist experience. He was a member of the Coode Island Review Panel that in 1992 recommended that bulk chemical storage end at Coode Island and be replaced by new facilities at West Point Wilson. While the government accepted this recommendation, it was not finally implemented.

Michael Isaachsen – a local resident who has broad interests and training with a particular interest in informing the community and safe and sustainable transportation.

Deborah Macfarlane – is a local resident and lawyer who has particular concern about planning policies that allow residential areas so close to storage of dangerous goods.

Faye Simpson – a neuropsychologist who is interested in the health hazards faced by workers and residents, particularly the way regulators and the industry control those hazards.

Ian Thomas – is the principal of IF Thomas and Associates Pty Ltd, consulting chemical, environment and risk engineers. He attended the 1991 fire and inquest and has written several papers about the possible cause, the limitations of the inquest process, community consultation and the real risk to the community posed by propylene oxide.

Representatives of the key regulatory bodies (EPA, MFB and WorkSafe) have been actively involved in the committee as has the Maribyrnong City Council.

MESSAGE FROM ROBIN SAUNDERS – CHAIR

It has been a great pleasure for me to chair the CICCC for the past nine years. In that time, I believe it has provided an effective community voice on the safety and environmental needs at Terminals' facility at Coode Island. In my time as Chair, I have seen the CICCC make significant contributions in:

- Bringing community issues to the attention of Terminals;
- Commenting on the various stages of the refurbishment of the facility and ensuring that the result is consistent with best practice;
- Monitoring all aspects of the facility, through the consideration of regular operation reports from Terminals, and through involvement in the monitoring of the company's Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP);
- Developing the Improvement Action Report, which provides regular snapshots of the progress Terminals is making with its EIP, and provides for regulators to sign off items which are completed to their satisfaction;
- Ensuring the vigilance of the regulators in oversighting the facility, in particular Terminals' environmental and safety performance;

- Maintaining a focus on the need for better emergency management communication with the community, culminating with the successful trial of the telephone system by the office of the Emergency Services Commissioner in conjunction with Maribyrnong City Council. Council is now seeking funding to fully implement the system and CICCC will continue to focus on this issue until the system is implemented;
- Providing detailed information to the community through its website (www.ciccc.org) and through regular media releases.

As Chair I believe the CICCC provides the wider community with the assurance that there is group of dedicated community representatives actively engaged in ensuring that the community's health, safety and environmental interests and concerns are being addressed at the Terminals facility.

The current CICCC membership is committed to continuing this important role, and would welcome the involvement of other interested community members. Details of meetings and contacts are provided on our website and on the back of this newsletter.



ISSUES DISCUSSED

In the past nine years many issues have been pursued by the CICCC. The following are some of them.

1. RELOCATION

A key issue when the committee was formed was the relocation of bulk chemical storage away from Coode Island as recommended by the Coode Island Review Panel. Most members still support relocation. Although petrochemicals have been stored at Coode Island since 1960, Bro Sheffield Brotherton and Deborah Macfarlane believe community expectations have changed and residents should not be expected to live on the doorstep of major hazard facilities.

2. SAFETY

While most committee members were disappointed at the government's change of stance regarding relocation, their ongoing concern was to ensure community, environmental and worker safety. Committee member Faye Simpson is particularly keen that site management reflects best practice in managing toxic emissions to air.

The site has changed considerably since the fire of 1991 and is now located solely on the west side of Mackenzie Road. The CICCC has worked hard to ensure that the new site is as safe as possible.

Committee member Michael Isaachsen is pleased that chemicals such as acrylonitrile are no longer kept on site and is opposed to the introduction of compressed gas storage. Ian Thomas believes that the vigorous debate of the committee over the years has resulted in numerous improvements to Terminals' Coode Island facility.

CICCC members recognise that safety is constantly improving and they will continue to rigorously examine any changes proposed to ensure that they reflect the highest possible safety standards.

3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

While the CICCC recognises that Terminals has made considerable progress in making the site safer, a major

concern for the community is "What if something does go wrong?"

Members of the CICCC, working with Terminals and the Maribyrnong City Council, oversaw the successful trial of a telephone warning system to be used in the event of a major incident. The committee will lobby for its future implementation.

Most incidents on-site will not impact on residents but could have consequences for workers or for the environment. Recognising this, the CICCC has insisted on best practice levels of protection across the facility, overseeing maintenance schedules and ensuring worker education is both appropriate and timely.

4. COMMUNITY INFORMATION

All members of the committee are strong advocates of the "community right to know" and work to promote an awareness of the chemicals stored on the community doorstep.

This newsletter, the open day, media releases issued after every meeting and the CICCC website are all being used to keep the wider community informed.

Openness and honesty in discussion is fundamental and all parties are committed to this principle.

THE FUTURE FOR THE CICCC

The CICCC has attempted over the years to engage with other operators and the Port of Melbourne Corporation, particularly over issues that affect the wider community, such as transport to and from the facilities.

A goal for the committee in the future is to engage effectively with other operators.

Just as the Terminals facility is not going away any time soon, neither is the committee. There are still many improvements to be made on site and the CICCC will continue to monitor Terminals' operations. Any community member is welcome to attend the CICCC meetings or to advise the committee about community concerns regarding the site.

CONTACT
DETAILS →

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