

ORICA ANNOUNCES RESTART OF KOORAGANG ISLAND AMMONIA PLANT

14 December 2011

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has today announced that it has lifted the Prevention Notice on Orica's Kooragang Island Ammonia Plant.

Sean Winstone, Site Manager, said "We are very pleased that the EPA has lifted the Prevention Notice on the Ammonia Plant and that they, and the Ammonia Start Up Committee, are satisfied we are ready to restart the plant.

"I want to reassure the community that everyone at Kooragang Island has their sights set very firmly on a safe start-up," he said.

"As permitted by the EPA, we will be commencing the Ammonia Plant restart activities on Thursday 15 December. We will take as long as is necessary to ensure that the plant is started safely.

"In addition to the plant and process changes that have been made in response to the Independent Engineer's Report, Orica has also put in place a number of organisational changes, including the use of both internal and external experts, to ensure there is comprehensive and experienced oversight of safety during the start-up process," Mr Winstone said.

Orica is contacting key stakeholders to advise them of the EPA's approval to restart the Ammonia Plant, and has put in place a program of communication activities to advise the community of the progress of start-up activities. Residents (who have registered for the service) have already begun to receive email and sms alerts of key activities. A fact sheet on the start-up process is available on www.oricaki.com.au.

Orica is committed to the safe operation of our Kooragang Island plant and to being a responsible corporate neighbour in the Newcastle community. Our operations play a key role in the NSW economy, supplying critical ammonium nitrate to the mining and infrastructure sectors, and ammonia, nitric acid and carbon dioxide to the agriculture, water supply, food, dairy and medical sectors.

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