

ORICA OUTLINES PROGRESS ON AMMONIA PLANT RESTART

22 December 2011

Orica has today provided more information on the progress of the restart of the Ammonia Plant at its Kooragang Island site.

Repair work on the plant will be completed this week, with a return to the pre start testing phase planned for next week, as a final check prior to start-up. As part of that pre start testing between Christmas and New Year, steam may be seen coming from the Ammonia Plant stack.

Plant start-up will not commence until all pre start activities are complete and independent technology experts are onsite. This will not be until the New Year.

Site Manager, Sean Winstone said, "Restarting the Ammonia Plant in a safe manner is our prime focus at this time. We recognise that having the correct expertise onsite for this restart is important. So we won't move into the start-up phase until we have the appropriate oversight in place.

"We will take as long as is necessary to ensure that the Ammonia Plant is started safely. As we do this we will continue to keep the community and our customers informed," he said.

"The Ammonia Plant is a key supplier of carbon dioxide to the agriculture, water supply, food, dairy and medical sectors, and we are working hard to resume that supply as soon as we can."

The pause in starting the Ammonia Plant has not affected ammonium nitrate production.

The Nitric Acid and Ammonium Nitrate plants at Kooragang Island are safely back online and producing ammonium nitrate.

A letter outlining improvements at the Kooragang Island facility has been distributed to local residents today and to people who have registered for e-mail updates.

A copy of the letter is available on www.oricaki.com.au. Residents can register for SMS or email updates on the Ammonia Plant start-up at that website or by calling Orica's community complaints and enquiries hotline on 1800 789 044.

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