



Fibre Cement

Air Stack

An air stack was installed in October 2003 and will be commissioned in November to reduce any odours released from the plant during blow downs. The stack is awaiting inspection by the Department of Environmental Protection to confirm it meets specified design criteria, and with this approval will go online for testing.

Once the stack is fully operational, BGC Fibre Cement and PAQMG will conduct further co-operative monitoring to see what improvements the stack has made.

Construction of a stack was recommended by consultants Sinclair Knight Merz, after trials of the OxyGEM odour neutralising system failed to achieve the desired results over summer. The consultative group voted unanimously in favour of the stack at the last consultation group meeting, held in March.

The stack is 30 metres high – less than half the height of the existing BGC Cement silos – and has been designed to run between two smaller silos at BGC Fibre Cement, to reduce overall visual impact. The aim of constructing the stack was that the odour carried in the steam released from the plant would be released at a greater height than at present, allowing the wind to dissipate the odour-causing compound.

Sinclair Knight Merz believe that once the stack is online, residents closest to the plant should experience a 10-fold improvement in odour levels and those at least one kilometre away should not be able to smell anything at all.

If there are still odours in the area after the stack has been in operation for a month or two, it is highly likely that they will be coming from another source, and residents will work with the City of Canning and DEP to identify other possible odour sources in the area.