

PROPOSED NEWSPRINT BRIGHTENING FACILITY
AUSTRALIAN NEWSPRINT MILLS LTD, ALBURY

Australian Newsprint Mills Ltd (ANM) proposes to develop a newsprint brightening facility at its existing Albury newsprint mill. A development application (folio 1) and environmental impact statement (rear envelope) were lodged with the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation.

The Minister is responsible for determining the application under sections 89 and 101(8)-(10) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

The proposal and issues are detailed in the report at folios 20-24.

Approval is recommended, subject to a number of conditions.

Issues

The proposed brightening facility is a designated development under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Consequently, an EIS was prepared and exhibited with the development application. Over 300 submissions were received.

ANM proposes to continue discharging its treated waste water into the Murray River. Considerable concern was expressed in many submissions (including by many government agencies) about the impact the additional salt and other chemicals in the waste water stream (resulting from the brightening process) could have on the river.

A Commission of Inquiry was held into the environmental aspects of the proposed development. The Commissioners considered that the treated waste water would have minimal or insignificant impact on the water quality and ecosystem of the river. They recommended approval (folios 5-7).

The proposed conditions of consent will require extensive monitoring and testing of the waste water and its impact on the river ecosystem; will require ANM to investigate alternative methods of waste water disposal (ANM is already doing this [folios 8-14]); and will require the payment of a fee for the funding of salt interception schemes and investigation programmes.

ANM has given its commitment to the Department that if the investigations show that an alternative is both economically feasible and environmentally more desirable than in river disposal it will seek to implement the alternative as soon

as practicable. ANM has agreed that this commitment should be made public (folios 17-19).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Approval of the proposed development would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Commissioners of Inquiry.

The disposal of waste water into the river remains a concern to the community, departments and NSW, Victorian and South Australian downstream councils. The various monitoring and testing provisions incorporated in the Instrument of Consent will provide data on the impact of the developments. The State Pollution Control Commission, through licensing conditions, will be able to control discharges to the river. This will enable the impacts of the development to be minimised and the riverine ecology to be protected.

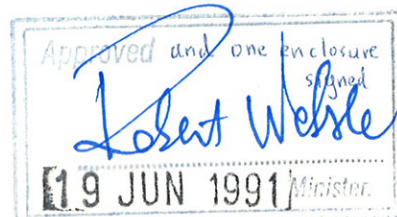
The agreement with ANM on alternative disposal options should ensure that, ultimately, the most appropriate disposal option is implemented.

Accordingly, it is RECOMMENDED that the Minister:

- (i) under sections 89(1) and 101(8) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, approve the application by Australian Newsprint Mills Ltd. to develop a newsprint brightening facility at lots 21 and 22, DP 604181, Hume Highway, Table Top via Albury, subject to the conditions at folios 25-31;
- (ii) sign the instrument of consent, tagged, A ; and
- (iii) in accordance with section 101(10) of the Act, approve the Secretary issuing advice to the applicant, consent authority and persons who made submissions (under section 87(1) of the Act) on the exhibited development application.

Neville Apitz

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Acting Director 23.5.91.



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT, 1979

**DETERMINATION OF A DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PURSUANT TO
SECTIONS 89(1) AND 101(8)**

In pursuance of Sections 89(1) and 101(8) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, I, the Minister for Planning, determine the development application referred to below by granting consent to that application subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule.

The reason for the imposition of the conditions is to minimise the adverse impact the development may cause.



ROBERT WEBSTER
Minister for Planning

Sydney, 19 JUN 1991

File: Q90/00341

APPLICATION

- APPLICANT** : Australian Newsprint Mills Limited.
- DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION** : No.N687, dated 7th March, 1990.
- COUNCIL** : Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation.
- LAND** : Lots 21 & 22, D.P.604181, Hume Highway, Table Top via Albury.
- PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT** : Modification to an existing pulp and paper mill by the installation of a newsprint brightening facility.
- NOTE** : (1) To ascertain the date upon which this consent becomes effective, refer to section 101(9) of the Act;
- (2) To ascertain the date upon which the consent is liable to lapse, refer to section 99 of the Act.

SCHEDULE

1. General

The development is to be carried out generally in accordance with Section 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty. Ltd. dated March 1990.

2. Other Approvals and Licences

The applicant shall, at its own expense, obtain and keep current all licences, approvals and other forms of authorisations required to construct and operate the brightening facility, and in particular shall obtain all statutory approvals and licences required from the State Pollution Control Commission (SPCC) under the Clean Air Act 1961, the Clean Waters Act 1970, the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985 and the State Pollution Control Commission Act 1970 and from the Department of Water Resources under the Water Act, 1912.

The applicant shall obtain all approvals or licences as may be required by future legislation or regulation become necessary for the conduct of the development and shall conduct the development within the terms of such approvals and licences.

3. Monitoring of abstracted water, waste water and receiving waters

The applicant shall, at its own expense, monitor and keep records of the quality and quantity of water abstracted from the Murray River and waste water discharged from the applicant's pulp and paper mill ("the mill") into the River. The applicant shall also, at its own expense, monitor and keep records of the characteristics of the waters which receive waste water discharged from the mill.

The monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with a water monitoring programme (the "programme") developed by the applicant, at its own expense, and approved by the SPCC. The programme shall be submitted to the SPCC and approved prior to the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility. The applicant, in developing this programme, shall consult with the SPCC, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Water Resources, and the Murray Darling Basin Commission within one month of the date this consent was granted and incorporate any comments made by these authorities into the programme.

The programme shall ensure that:

(i) the following parameters are monitored -

- (a) pH
- (b) Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD;mg/l)
- (c) Non-Filterable Residue (NFR; mg/l)
- (d) Ammonia (N-NH₃;mg/l)
- (e) Total Nitrogen (N;mg/l)
- (f) Phosphorous (P;mg/l)

- (g) Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD;mg/l)
 - (h) Oil and Grease (mg/l)
 - (i) True Colour (Hazen Units)
 - (j) Temperature (°C)
 - (k) Total Dissolved Solids (TDS;mg/l)
 - (l) Flow (ML/day)
 - (m) Diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) (or other similar chelating agent)
 - (n) Metals, including iron, manganese, zinc, copper, chromium, cadmium, lead and cobalt (ppm).
- (ii) monitoring occurs at regular intervals as specified by the SPCC; and
- (iii) monitoring continues for the life of the brightening facility.

Records of all monitoring undertaken pursuant to the programme shall be made available to organisations in accordance with conditions 6 and 7.

4. Bioassay Testing and Environmental Monitoring Programmes

The applicant shall, at its own expense, undertake and keep records of bioassay testing and environmental monitoring.

All bioassay testing and environmental monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with programmes developed by the applicant, at its own expense, and which are generally in accord with Appendix 13 of the EIS referred to in condition 1. The environmental monitoring programme shall also incorporate testing of river bed sediments (including metals, nitrogen and phosphorous).

The bioassay testing and environmental monitoring programmes shall be submitted to NSW Agriculture and Fisheries and approved by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries prior to the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility. The applicant, in developing these programmes, shall consult with the SPCC, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Water Resources and the Murray Darling Basin Commission within one month of the date of this consent, and shall incorporate any comments made by these authorities into the programmes.

The bioassay testing and environmental monitoring programmes shall start prior to the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, and shall take place at monthly intervals for the first year of the facility's operation, except that the bioassay testing may take place less frequently during this period if agreed to by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries.

The applicant shall carry out subsequent bioassay testing and environmental monitoring at regular intervals, and shall seek and obtain NSW Agriculture and Fisheries' approval of the testing and monitoring intervals. The testing and monitoring shall continue for the life of the brightening facility, unless otherwise agreed by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries.

Records of all bioassay testing and environmental monitoring undertaken pursuant to the programmes shall be made available to organisations in accordance with conditions 6 and 7.

5. Independent Audit

If required by the SPCC, the applicant shall, at its own expense, carry out an independent environmental audit of the testing and monitoring programmes referred to in conditions 3 and 4.

The results of any such audit shall be made available to organisations in accordance with conditions 6 and 7.

6. Provision of Records

The applicant shall submit the results of the monitoring programme referred to in condition 3 to the SPCC one year after the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, or within such further period agreed to by the SPCC, and thereafter on an annual basis, or such longer period agreed to by the SPCC.

The applicant shall submit the results of the bioassay testing referred to in condition 4 to NSW Agriculture and Fisheries four months after the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, or within such further period as agreed to by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries and thereafter on an annual basis, or such longer period agreed to by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries.

The applicant shall submit the results of the environmental monitoring programme referred to in condition 4 to NSW Agriculture and Fisheries one year after the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, or within such further period as agreed to by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, and thereafter on an annual basis, or such longer period agreed to by NSW Agriculture and Fisheries.

The applicant shall submit the results of these monitoring and testing programmes, and the results of any audit referred to in condition 5, to the following agencies, upon request in writing from them: the Department of Planning, SPCC, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Water Resources, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Albury Wodonga Development Corporation, and Albury, Hume and Corowa Councils. The applicant shall forward these results to the agency within one month of any such request.

7. Annual Report

The applicant shall prepare on an annual basis, starting one year after the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility (the "due date"), a report which analyses the principal findings of the waste water monitoring, bioassay testing and environmental monitoring programmes, and any audit. This report shall also state the findings of any investigations carried out into alternative waste water disposal options. This report shall be made available, within three months of the due date, to the Department of Planning, SPCC, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Water Resources, Soil Conservation Service, Murray Darling Basin Commission and Albury Wodonga

Development Corporation. It shall also be provided, within three months of the due date, to Albury City Council and Hume and Corowa Shire Councils for public access.

8. Investigation of Alternative Waste Water Disposal Options

The applicant shall continue its investigations into alternative waste water disposal schemes and shall, within three months of the date this consent was granted or such further period as the Minister for Planning may agree to, submit a programme of proposed investigations for the approval of the Minister for Planning. In preparing this programme, the applicant shall consult with, and have regard to the views of the Department of Planning, State Pollution Control Commission, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Water Resources, Soil Conservation Service, Murray Darling Basin Commission and any relevant local government authority.

The applicant shall, within twelve months of the date this consent was granted, provide a report to the Minister for Planning on the results of these investigations.

9. Discharge of Salts

The applicant shall not discharge salt into the Murray River except in accordance with any licensing conditions imposed by the SPCC.

10. Removal of Salts

- (a) Subject to condition 10(c) during the period of time that the brightening facility operates, the applicant shall pay to the Department of Water Resources an annual sum of money calculated at the charge rate ("the charge rate") of \$31 per tonne of salt contained in the waste water discharged from that facility into the Murray River, as a result of the brightening process, during the 12 month period immediately preceding the due date. The first payment shall be due 12 months after the date of commencement of operations of the brightening facility and subsequent payments shall be due every 12 months from that date. These dates shall be regarded as the due date. The applicant shall make its payments on or after the due date, as agreed to by the Department of Water Resources.
- (b) The amount of salt discharged in any 12 month period shall be that identified in the monitoring programme established in accordance with condition 3 of this consent.
- (c) The charge rate for the first payment shall be increased by the actual increase, if any, in the consumer price index during the period 1st July 1991 to the date the first payment is made pursuant to condition 10(a). The charge rate for each subsequent payment shall be increased by the actual increase, if any, in the consumer price index for the period between payments.

- (d) The money paid by the applicant pursuant to this condition shall be used by the Department of Water Resources to construct and maintain salt interception schemes and carry out investigation programmes into future schemes.

11. Hazard and related issues

At least one month prior to the commencement of construction of the brightening facility, or within such further period as the Director of Planning (the Director) or her nominee may determine, the applicant shall, at its own expense, prepare and submit for the approval of the Director:

Hazard and Operability Study

- (a) A Hazard and Operability Study (HAZOP) for the brightening facility. This shall be chaired by an independent qualified person approved by the Director.

Final Hazard Analysis

- (b) A hazard analysis and risk assessment of the detailed design layout of the brightening facility and the mill. This shall be prepared by a qualified person approved by the Director.

Fire Safety Study

- (c) A fire safety study for the brightening facility, which shall cover all aspects detailed in the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.2 Fire Safety Study Guidelines. This study shall also be submitted for the approval of the New South Wales Fire Brigades.

Transport of Hazardous Materials

- (d) Details of arrangements covering the transport of hazardous materials including details of routes to be used for the movement of trucks. Further, the applicant shall enter into contractual arrangements with contract drivers to require the use of routes determined under this condition except where necessary for local deliveries.

12. Emergency Plan

At least two months prior to the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, or within such further period as the Director may determine, the applicant shall prepare and submit for the approval of the Director a comprehensive emergency plan and detailed emergency procedures for the brightening facility and the mill. This plan should include detailed procedures for the safety of people in areas outside the site. The plan should be in accordance with the Department's Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No.1 Industry Emergency Planning Guidelines.

13. Hazard audit

Twelve months after the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, or within such further period as the Director may determine, (the "due date"), the applicant shall carry out a comprehensive hazard audit of the brightening facility and the mill and submit a report on the audit to the Director for approval. This audit is to be carried out at the applicant's expense by a duly qualified independent person or team to be approved by the Director. Further the applicant shall comply with any reasonable requests of the Director in respect of the implementation of any measures arising from the approval, within such time as the Director may advise. Further audits will be required every two years from the due date or as may be requested by the Director.

14. Compliance

The applicant, at its own expense, shall comply with all the reasonable requirements of the Director in respect of the implementation of any measures arising from the approvals given in respect of conditions 11 and 12 above within such time as the Director may agree. Such compliance shall be prior to the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility and the applicant shall bring to the Director's notice those matters which the applicant considers may require further investigation. Upon the receipt of the Director's reasonable instructions relating to compliance with conditions 11 and 12, the applicant shall proceed to implement those instructions to the satisfaction of the Director within such time as the Director or her nominee may determine.

15. Notifications of commencement

The applicant shall notify the Department of Planning, SPCC, NSW Agriculture and Fisheries, the Department of Water Resources and the Murray Darling Basin Commission, the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation, and Albury City Council of the date of commencement of construction and the date of commencement of operation of the brightening facility. Such notifications shall take place within one month of these commencement dates.

16. Solid Waste (Sludge) Disposal

Solid waste disposal shall be carried out in accordance with the following conditions:

- (a) the applicant shall, within two years after the date on which this consent was granted, submit to the SPCC and Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for their approval a Solid Waste Management Plan indicating how the applicant will handle and dispose of solid wastes in the long term and how the applicant will restore the existing disposal site. The Plan shall be prepared in consultation with the SPCC, SCS, Albury City Council and Hume Shire Council.

- (b) The applicant shall, within four years after the date on which this consent was granted, implement and dispose of solid waste in accordance with the approved Solid Waste Management Plan and to the satisfaction of the SPCC and SCS. The fulfilment of this requirement shall be subject to the applicant obtaining any necessary approvals, licences, and other authorisations.
- (c) The applicant shall, at its own expense, within one year of cessation of solid waste disposal at the existing site restore that site with top soil and planting of grass and trees and in accordance with any requirements received from the SPCC and SCS.

17. Limitation on Discharge of DTPA

The applicant shall not discharge diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) into the Murray River except in accordance with any licencing conditions of the SPCC.

18. Aluminium Sulphate Dosing

The applicant shall, within one month of the commencement of the operation of the brightening facility, commence aluminium sulphate dosing within its waste water treatment plant in accordance with the requirements of the SPCC with regard to the quantity of phosphorus, organic compounds and colour discharged into the Murray River.