

# Visy's Recycled Paper Mill – Reservoir

Community update - July 2024



Since our last update in November 2023, we've continued to reduce potential odour sources at the mill. This update includes:

- new improvements in the mill to further reduce odour
- results from an independent odour field survey
- findings from an odour extraction performance assessment
- an update on our sanitisation program.

## Odour extraction work further prevents smells from mill

Last year, we identified a potential source of odour that smells like wet paper from the machine that dries paper after it's made. We communicated the planned odour extraction works to further reduce odour in our November 2023 update.

We followed an independent odour expert's advice to remove the odour source by extracting the odour from inside the building through new fans installed in the roof and discharging the odour through three new stacks.

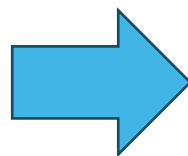
To do this, we:

- replaced a large section of roof to seal holes and openings (completed Jan 2024)
- strengthened the building frame to support new fans and stacks (completed Jan/Feb 2024)
- installed three new roof fans with five-metre-high stacks (completed March 2024)
- reversed airflow from outside to inside to assist movement of air towards roof mounted fans (completed May 2024)
- sealed off a section of louvred wall vents to prevent odour from escaping (completed May 2024).

An independent assessment confirmed these improvements are preventing odours coming out of the building.

## Further improving dispersion to reduce smells

Emissions from a steam box exhaust was identified by our independent odour expert as a source of off-site odour. Following the expert's recommendations, we extended the exhaust's stack to a height of five metres above the nearest structure to improve dispersion of the odour. This stack extension was completed in November 2023. An independent assessment confirmed a reduction in off-site odour.



## Odour field survey shows significant improvement over last six months

An independent odour expert carried out an odour survey in May 2024 to assess the effectiveness of our odour works.

The assessment detected no odours in the area surrounding the mill which is a significant improvement compared to the assessment from November 2023.

Some odour was detected some distance from the mill where the dispersed plume from elevated stacks descended to the ground. This odour plume was relatively narrow and reduced in intensity rapidly. The survey confirmed our improvements to the mill decreased the distance this offsite odour can be detected.

The next odour survey and assessment are scheduled for August 2024.

## Odour extraction performance assessment shows system is working

An independent expert conducted an odour extraction performance test using a smoke generator inside the mill in May 2024.

The smoke plume was observed to be moving towards the extraction fans, which indicates the extraction system is effectively eliminating odour emissions in the area surrounding the mill. The assessment also showed we achieved the technical requirements for good dispersion from the stacks.

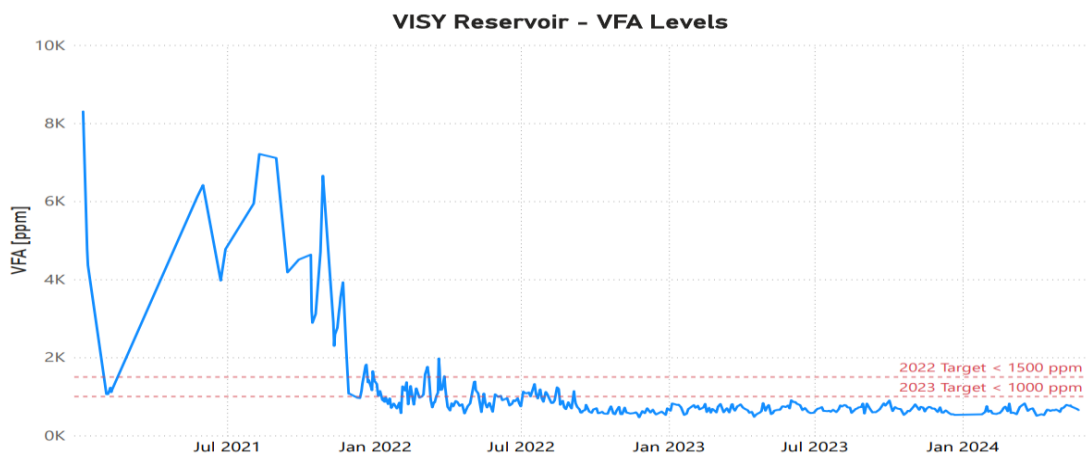
The extraction system has improved air capture in this part of the mill both at ground level and, more importantly, at an elevated level. This has reduced odour intensity inside the mill and the potential for unintended low-level odours in the surrounding area.

All odour emissions are now captured and directed to appropriately designed discharge points.

## Sanitisation program keeps bacteria below target

Our sanitisation program continues to control odour causing bacteria. Online and manual tests, to monitor known odour related compounds and other key indicators, provides instant feedback on the system's effectiveness.

Volatile fatty acids (VFAs), a known contributor to bacteria related odour and a key measure of the system effectiveness, have remained between 500 – 800ppm, well below the revised target of 1000 ppm.



## Visy Paper Reservoir issued an Operating Licence under new Act

In February 2024, the EPA issued us with an Operating Licence for the scheduled activities of waste and resource recovery and paper pulp production, as required under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.

## Visy achieves compliance with EPA improvement notice

We achieved compliance with improvement notice IMPN-00005227-2 resulting in EPA revoking the notice.

## Contacting us

We encourage you to continue to provide us with feedback or ask questions via our website

<https://www.visy.com/vp2reservoir> or by email [CommunityFeedback@visy.com.au](mailto:CommunityFeedback@visy.com.au).