

KURNELL COMMUNITY UPDATE

JUNE 2024



Quibray Bay

In January 2024, a team of independent mangrove ecologists and marine scientists assessed an area of mangroves in Quibray Bay. The objectives of the survey were to assess the health of the mangroves in an area showing signs of defoliation (i.e. leaf loss) and evaluate the likely cause of the defoliation.

The assessment concluded that hydrocarbons from the April 2022 oily water overflow were not considered to be the cause of the mangrove defoliation.

A total of 115 samples of sediment, surface water and mangrove tissue were collected during the assessment and analysed at a specialist laboratory. The results of the analysis have shown limited low levels of hydrocarbons and the majority of these were from natural, biogenic sources or had been in the environment already for a long time (25+ years old).

Several lines of evidence indicated the mangrove defoliation may be due to significant volumes of freshwater inputs during 2022 and ongoing persistent freshwater conditions. Plants that cannot ordinarily survive within a mangrove environment were also found to be growing in the area of defoliated mangroves. The presence of these plants further indicated that freshwater conditions are present and persistent.

Mangrove dieback is not unique to Quibray Bay, and it has been reported in other places in New South Wales, expected to also be due to very wet climatic conditions. While mangroves can tolerate freshwater, they cannot survive persistent inundation of freshwater.

The results of the assessment have been presented to the NSW EPA and the assessment report was submitted for EPA review in May 2024.

Terminal Updates

Stormwater Improvements - It has been a wet start to the year with the Terminal having already received more than last year's total annual rainfall.

Ongoing improvements to stormwater management have proven effective and these will be further strengthened once the stormwater management project is completed. The Project recently obtained Development Application approval from Sutherland Shire Council and construction of the levee wall around the wastewater treatment plant is scheduled to commence over the coming weeks.

Wharf drain - As part of a Pollution Reduction Program being undertaken in conjunction with the EPA, stormwater pit repairs and pipeline relining within the Terminal was completed at the end of April. The scope has been extended to include one additional pit. We are currently awaiting favourable conditions and contractor availability to complete the works. Once complete, independent environmental consultants will conduct sampling and analysis to determine the success of the repair works.

Odour mitigation - We continue to implement upgrades and process improvements to minimise hydrocarbon vapour release and to mitigate odours. In addition, new odour neutralising systems that target and destroy odour particles are currently being manufactured and are scheduled for installation in February 2025.

Ampol would like to acknowledge the Gweagal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands where the Ampol Kurnell Terminal is located, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Kurnell Battery Energy Storage System

Ampol is investigating a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Kurnell as part of our Future Energy and Decarbonisation Strategies.

The BESS would consist of multiple interconnected batteries in containers that would connect directly into the Ausgrid Kurnell South Substation on Captain Cook Drive.

Community consultation and engagement is continuing with the project team providing an update at the recent Kurnell Progress and Precinct Residents Association meeting and a community drop-in session was held on Thursday 27 June at Marton Community Hall.

During these engagement activities, the community asked questions and provided feedback on various aspects including risk of fire, traffic impact and noise levels. These, along with other considerations, will be investigated and addressed in the project environmental assessments.

For more information, please visit www.ampol.com.au/kurnell



BESS investigation area within the Ampol Kurnell Terminal

Community support

Ampol is proud to once again partner with the Wanda Surf Life Saving Club as sponsors of the 2024 Sutherland 2 Surf.

For 52 years, the event has brought the community together to help raise funds for surf lifesaving equipment.

For more information on the event and how to enter, head to www.sutherland2surf.com.au



Terminal siren

Our siren is tested everyday at 12noon with a 1 x 10 second blast, and 2 x 10 second blasts on Mondays.

The siren is for on-site personnel only and people in the community do not need to take action.

In the event of a major incident that has potential to impact the community, Ampol will provide initial alerts and information via its community notification platform. Residents are advised to always following any direction from emergency services.

To subscribe to the platform, scan the QR code below and complete the form, or forms are available at Kurnell Village Post office.



Contact us

For enquiries, questions or complaints, please contact us via the following:

Community Hotline

1800 719 669

Email

community@ampol.com.au

Community support

We are proud to support local groups, organisations & events including:

Kurnell Stingrays JRLFC

Kurnell Catamaran Club

Kurnell Men's Shed

Wanda SLSC

North Cronulla SLSC

Cronulla SLSC

Kurnell Pre-School

Kurnell Public School

Kurnell Santa Run

Kurnell Village Fair

Kurnell Outrigger Canoe Club