



## Business update

Tēnā koe,

It's certainly been a bumpy ride so far this year, challenging for all of us in so many ways. As this is being written we are in Alert Level 2 in Taranaki, which means an increased focus on safety including social distancing and wearing masks within 1-metre, increased hand washing, cleaning of physical spaces and of course, staying at home if unwell. All of us have a role to play in keeping ourselves and the community safe from Covid-19 spreading.

It has also been a challenging economic time as we have navigated through Covid-19 restrictions, reduced gas supply and lower demand for methanol. Our staff have gone above and beyond in keeping the plants operating safe and reliably.

Like many commodities, methanol demand has been impacted by the pandemic and as a global business we've been taking steps

to weather the storm including shutting plants in Chile and Trinidad, deferring a large plant build in Louisiana, USA, and reducing the dividend to shareholders.

We have now turned our attention to planning for an extended maintenance programme at our Waitara Valley site early next year. You may have seen on our MethanexNZ Facebook page pictures of the new large Waste Heat Boilers trucked to Waitara Valley (see photo above) and installing these will be some of the complex work undertaken.

This investment demonstrates our long-term confidence in the global methanol and local gas markets while supporting the local economy during these challenging times. Stay safe.



**Noho ora mai.**

**Dean Richardson**  
Methanex NZ Managing Director.

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## Renewing resource consents

Work is underway at Methanex to apply for replacement of resource consents issued by the Taranaki Regional Council.

Nine Methanex consents are up for renewal by mid 2021 relating to taking water from the Waitara River and the discharge of stormwater and treated wastewater to the Waitara Marine Outfall. A consent relating to air discharges at the Waitara Valley plant site, and a jointly held consent with the New Plymouth District Council relating to the Waitara outfall structure on the seafloor will also be part of the applications.

Methanex Environment Lead Gary Rielly says the consents were last issued in 2008. The plan is to lodge applications at the end of this year. The process so far has involved working with technical experts and gathering information to assess environmental impacts and the latest science studies, such as water flows on the Waitara River.

“We are looking at all the options regarding how we use water in our operations and how we can reduce and minimise impact on the environment in the future. Our work on the applications has been somewhat challenging with Covid restrictions but we’ve largely managed to adapt with

lots of Zoom meetings, in times where we haven’t been able to get out and about on site,” says Gary.

Consultation has also started with hapu and iwi, with several meetings held and visits to Methanex water intake sites on the Waitara River and the water holding and treatment areas. Gary says the aim is to be open and transparent about the process and work closely with relevant stakeholders.



Hapu members at the Motunui Control Panel room

## WorkSafe inspectors visit Motunui

Inspectors from WorkSafe visited Motunui recently following the acceptance of four Safety Cases as required by Health and Safety regulations.

All Major Hazard Facilities, like our sites, must develop a Safety Case – an extensive written report demonstrating plans, scenarios and procedures in place – under the Safety at Work Act 2016 regulations.

The four safety cases cover the Motunui and Waitara Valley methanol facilities, and methanol storage sites at the Omata Tank Farm and Port Taranaki.

Worksafe Inspectors Andrew Hanson and Amy Whelan were monitoring compliance and meeting with people across the business to review areas, such as emergency response plans and safety assessments.

Methanex Senior Process Safety Engineer Kelly Ng says it was a good visit. “They got to engage with various department experts, who not only shared good information and demonstrated that we are following what we’ve stated in the Safety Case, but also provided a consistent message that we know our business and are continuously improving to make our facilities safer.”

To read a summary of Methanex safety cases, go to our website, [methanex.com](http://methanex.com), in the New Zealand section.



Worksafe Auditors and Methanex staff on the site tour



Clockwise from left: WITT students Tim Riley and Jordan Richardson with Panel Operator Jahid Hasolkar; Canterbury engineering students Sam Plummer, Hannah Lilley, Phillip Dain and Mitchell Couchman, and summer intern students Marianne Trye and Hugh Barlow.

## Students enrich workplace

A steady stream of tertiary students continue to enrich the Methanex workplace.

Over the summer 11 university students were part of the paid-internship programme, working across a range of departments.

Hugh Barlow, studying chemical engineering, and Marianne Trye, studying computer science, focused on trialling 3-dimensional scanning software for use in the Methanex Drawing office. Before resuming their studies, they said they enjoyed working at Methanex and it had been a 'great experience in a great team'.

A more recent visit was from a group of four Canterbury university students in the final year of their Engineering

degree. They were at Motunui investigating reformer tubes, which are a vital part of the chemical reaction.

They took tube height measurements every second to work out if frequent temperature changes are leading to damage (metal expands or contracts depending on heat changes). Their final report involves correlating their laboratory experimental work and the field measurements at Motunui.

Two lots of WITT students from the Process Course have also been on 6-week work placements at Motunui and Waitara Valley sites, with the aim of learning the ropes for a career as an operator.



## Scholarships awarded

As part of our Social Responsibility programme we've awarded three scholarships. Andrew Hislop and Indy Platt-Byrnes, both at Canterbury University, each received \$5000 as recipients of the Methanex NZ Undergraduate Scholarship for Future Leaders in Engineering. Justine Toribio, at WITT, will have his fees paid as the recipient of the Methanex Operator Scholarship. A big congratulations to the trio!



Andrew Hislop



Indy Platt-Byrnes



Justin Toribio

Our Safe Days recipient for 2020 is Taranaki St John. That means for every day without injury at our sites we are donating \$150 over the year for St John to support them deliver their community programmes



We donated personal protective equipment to Waitara High School's technology department

# Supporting our local communities



We supported Ngāti Rahiri hapu members to upskill with a first aid training course

During Lockdown we reached out to organisations we've previously supported, who were working tirelessly to support vulnerable individuals and families. We donated \$2000 to the Waitara Foodbank and \$2000 to Taranaki Women's Refuge.



We collected lots of books from staff for the Taranaki Toy Library's annual fundraiser



Our IT team volunteered their time to do some gardening for Mahia Mai in Waitara



We donated some desks to the Electoral Office in Hawera



We sponsored Ngāti Mutunga iwi for water quality equipment to support their ongoing environmental science project measuring the health of the Urenui, Mimi and Onaero Rivers



We donated IT equipment to Puketapu School