



# Here for the future

Kei konei mō te wā heke mai



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### Business Update: April 2023

*Kia ora,*

**I hope you managed to have a well-deserved break over the summer months and are looking forward to the year ahead.**

It's certainly been a busy and challenging start to 2023, but also a proactive one. I'm always proud of how our team comes together to support communities in Aotearoa. This summer, we got behind our East Coast families and communities, pitching in to help them cope with the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle. Methanex matched the team's total of \$6,000 raised, so together we donated almost \$12,000 to the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust.

We have recently released our Global Sustainability Report which highlights our performance across a wide range of topics, including our safety record and the actions we're taking to support the transition to a low-carbon economy. We continually work to evolve our sustainability culture and embed sustainability principles into our business strategy – you'll see this reflected in the report. Earlier this year, we released a New Zealand-specific Sustainability Report, which delves into projects like our emission-reducing distillation debottlenecking project, which is due to take place in July, and our e-methanol study. If you'd like a copy, please contact us.

There have been some changes to our leadership teams both here and in Canada. Rich Sumner is the company's new President and Chief Executive after he took over from John Floren in January. Rich has been with Methanex for 19 years and was recently the Senior Vice President, Global Marketing and Logistics.

There have been some changes to our local leadership team too, which you can read about in this edition of Our News.

You can also read about another exciting sustainability initiative, our first-ever net-zero voyage fuelled by bio-methanol. The demand for methanol as a marine fuel is growing worldwide, and we're pleased to see our subsidiary business, Waterfront Shipping, 'making waves' in this space.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Stakeholder Relations team.

*Ngā mihi nui,*

*Stuart McCall*  
Managing Director  
Methanex New Zealand





# COOLING TOWER CELLS REPLACED

"A desire to improve reliability and reduce emissions through improved energy efficiency has driven Methanex's cooling tower refurbishment."

**We're always looking for ways to become more energy efficient. One of the ways we're doing that right now is by refurbishing Methanex's cooling towers.**

A desire to improve reliability and reduce emissions through improved energy efficiency has driven Methanex's cooling tower refurbishment.

Eighteen cells along the top of the large structure at the northern end of the Motunui site are being replaced in a long-term project.

The deconstruction of each cell is complex for our staff and contractors involved. A modular approach has been taken to dismantle the structure of individual cells into nine smaller modules. These are then reassembled with pre-manufactured modules with each cell receiving new walls, structural timber, fill pack, drift eliminator and a water distribution system replacement.

At the time of construction, the cooling tower was the

largest wooden structure in the southern hemisphere measuring 12 metres high, 15 metres deep and 230 metres long.

A cooling tower is common in large industrial plants like ours. They are used to remove excess heat from water or other process fluids by circulating air through the water, which has been heated during production.

It works by directing hot water into the tower, which is then dispersed over a large surface area to allow

maximum air contact. As the water is exposed to the air, some of it evaporates and causes the remaining water to cool down. The cooler water is then collected and reused in the process, while the warm, moist air is released into the atmosphere through the top of the tower. This is the steam you can see from our plant. It's often thought that these big plumes are harmful air emissions, but they're just water.



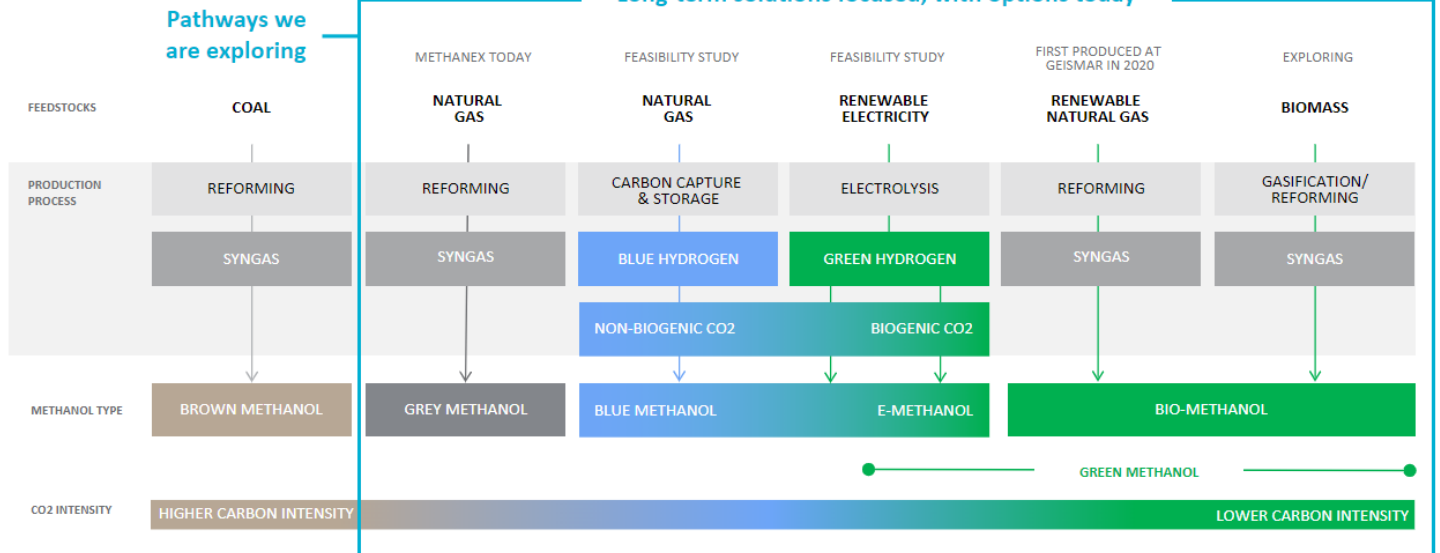
On International Women's Day, we celebrated the amazing wāhine in our Methanex whānau. From engineers, operators, accountants and much more, we have many very valued female staff whose work keeps the plant and business operating so successfully.



Over the summer, we welcomed eight university interns to the plant. We gave them hands-on work experience, mainly in our technical department. In return for the real-world engineering experience we offered, they offered our team fresh perspectives and energy.

# EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE METHANOL PRODUCTION IN AOTEAROA

Long-term solutions focused, with options today



## A study into the production of low-emission methanol using renewable energy sources is underway at our Motunui plant.

Engineer Adam Hinton is leading a small team in New Zealand to discover new opportunities to create methanol from renewable resources or electricity.

As an example, methanol can be produced from CO<sub>2</sub> which has been sourced from biomass or manure and then combined with the green hydrogen

produced from renewable electricity via electrolysis. Other opportunities to produce methanol using lower-emission fuels and electrification of key plant processing equipment are also being explored. Aotearoa New Zealand is an ideal place to carry out this research with high levels of renewable electricity generation.

Although the study will be based here in New Zealand, the findings will be applicable to our other

manufacturing sites around the world.

“We’re excited about the role methanol will play in the energy transition. Methanol, as both a chemical building block and a fuel, is essential for our everyday lives, and we believe it will play an important role in supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy,” Adam said.

Carbon capture and storage feasibility studies are underway in the US and Canada.

Methanol from renewable sources can support long-term decarbonisation.

## BIO-METHANOL FUELS A BREAKTHROUGH VOYAGE

### In February 2023, the first-ever net-zero ship voyage fuelled by bio-methanol was completed.

Methanex and Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) worked together to demonstrate methanol's viability as a marine fuel, propelling us further toward net-zero emissions.



The use of methanol as an alternative marine fuel was pioneered by Waterfront Shipping in 2016, when Methanex and MOL jointly built the world's first ocean-going methanol dual-fuel tanker, the Taranaki Sun.

The Cajun Sun, operated by Methanex's subsidiary Waterfront Shipping and chartered from MOL, departed from Geismar in the US on January 17 and arrived in Antwerp, Belgium on February 4.

By blending bio-methanol with negative carbon intensity and natural gas-based methanol, net-zero greenhouse gas emissions were achieved on a lifecycle basis for the 18-day trans-Atlantic voyage.

This innovative fuel solution allows shipping companies to achieve net-zero carbon emissions today, supporting the industry's transition to a low-carbon future.

“We’re proud to bring the marine industry a tangible solution to transition towards net-zero emissions through our blended methanol product using bio-methanol produced from renewable natural gas at our facility in Geismar, US,” said Mark Allard, Methanex's Senior Vice President, Low Carbon Solutions.



# GLOBAL NEWS:

## Introducing Methanex’s new Chief Executive

After over 20 years with Methanex, 10 of these as President and Chief Executive, John Floren retired at the end of last year. John’s contribution to Methanex and the global methanol production industry was extremely significant.

Under John’s leadership, Methanex increased its safety performance, production and earnings capability, delivered cashflow and maintained a balanced approach to capital allocation.



Rich Sumner,  
President and Chief  
Executive

At the beginning of 2023, Rich Sumner took the lead as President and Chief Executive, Rich has been with Methanex since 2004. In his role as Senior Vice President, Global Marketing and Logistics, Rich focused on strategies that enhanced the company’s global leadership position as the world’s largest producer and supplier of methanol. Rich oversaw our marketing and logistics functions, including the jointly owned shipping subsidiary, Waterfront Shipping, as well as Global Market Development.

“I am excited by the opportunity to lead Methanex and to build on our existing strong foundations as the global leader in the methanol industry with an outstanding team and culture,” Rich said.

## Methanex.com refreshed

The Methanex.com website has been revitalised with a new look and feel.

The project, headed by our Global team in Vancouver, still has all the important information you need to know. Methanex New Zealand’s pages have our Safety Case, job opportunities and news available, but now you’ll see fresh photos from New Zealand. Jump online and check it out.

# SENIOR LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT METHANEX NZ

## We’re pleased to welcome new members to our New Zealand leadership team.

We welcome Jenny Wells as our Director, Business Support, to our country leadership team. Jenny has held a range of leadership roles in finance and has extensive commercial experience, most recently with New Zealand Energy Corp. She is responsible for our Finance, Procurement, IT and Stakeholder Relations teams.

A name that might be familiar to you is Christo Janse van Rensburg. He’s our new Director, Commercial and also joins our country leadership team. Christo previously oversaw Projects and Planning and was last year’s Manager, Turnarounds. He’s responsible for our gas team and government relations.

Hywel Davies and Phil Gard are welcome additions to our management team. Hywel is the new Manager, Technical and has come to us from OMV, where he was the Department Manager, Engineering. Hywel has held management positions with OMV’s predecessor Shell, along with Dow.

Phil is now Manager, Turnarounds, after having been our Projects Executions Lead. He leads a large group of staff and contractors specifically involved in our Turnarounds. Phil started with the company in 2010 when he was the Projects Supervisor for Instrument and Electrical.



Jenny Wells,  
Director, Business  
Support



Christo Janse van  
Rensburg, Director,  
Commercial



Phil Gard,  
Turnaround  
Manager



Hywel Davies,  
Technical  
Manager

## 2023 SPONSORSHIPS

**We support projects that promote health and wellbeing, enhance our environment or demonstrate innovation. This year, we have invested in:**

- Methanex Neonatal Unit | Methanex winch for the Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust
- Tradies Tools Down event | Riding for the Disabled – annual sponsorship of Piper | Four Waitara High School scholarships
- Lepperton Primary School Gala Day | Huirangi School Playground
- Bell Block School Gala Day | Special Children’s Extravaganza event
- Cancer Society – Relay for Life | Hawke’s Bay Disaster Relief Trust | Little Heart Day

## We welcome your feedback

Please call our Stakeholder Relations team  
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