Chlorine Liquefaction Project FAQ

This information relates to the current and future proposed operations by the IXOM Chlor Alkali Plant at 16-20 Beauchamp Road, Matraville NSW

Questions and Answers

1. What chemicals are currently produced on the IXOM site?

- IXOM's plant currently produces chlorine and caustic soda.
- Chlorine and caustic soda are then used to manufacture several other products, including sodium hypochlorite (bleach), ferric chloride (a coagulant) and hydrochloric acid.

2. What are these chemicals used for?

- These products are used in various water treatment applications, as well as industrial applications such as food and beverage process cleaning and sanitation, cleaning products, paper and packaging manufacturing, and steel processing (for roofing).
- More specifically:
    - **Chlorine:** disinfection of drinking water and wastewater.
    - **Sodium hypochlorite:** drinking water disinfection, swimming pool water disinfection, domestic/industrial cleaning (bleach), food and beverage process cleaning and sanitation.
    - **Ferric chloride:** drinking water and municipal wastewater treatment (including desalination), industrial wastewater treatment for processes such as food and beverage processing and paper manufacturing.
    - **Caustic soda:** used in a wide range of industries, including drinking water and wastewater treatment, food and beverage process cleaning, paper manufacturing.
    - **Hydrochloric acid:** used in a wide range of industries including food/beverage process cleaning, steel processing (for roofing) and fertilisers.

3. Why is IXOM proposing chlorine liquefaction as an additional activity on site?

- Chlorine is the main product used to disinfect water, making it safe to drink.
- The Australian water industry needs large quantities of it to ensure the health and safety of the public and the environment.
- Currently IXOM's plant in Victoria is the only place in Australia that liquefies and packages chlorine to provide to water authorities.
- Because chlorine is so important to Australia, water authorities and the Australian government have expressed that they want a second plant as a backup to liquefy and package chlorine in Australia.

4. What is IXOM's commitment and contribution to the local community?

- IXOM has been a part of the Matraville community since the 1950s (under various names), at this time directly employing around 60 people on site.
- Safety is central to everything IXOM does and IXOM has safely distributed chlorine for over 100 years.

- IXOM is committed to the health and wellbeing of everyone involved in our business and the communities in which it operates.

5. Is there a risk of ground and water contamination as a result of the past, existing and future activities on this site?

- IXOM's project will not impact land and groundwater contamination.
- IXOM will work with the landowner (Orica) to ensure that construction is managed according to their existing contamination management plans.

6. Are there currently emissions from the site and are these dangerous?

- All activity at site is in line with our licence conditions and IXOM has safely operated in this community since 1956.
- More information about the site, including EPA monitoring data, is available on this IXOM website.

7. Will there be additional odour impacts?

- No.

8. Will there be new structures built on the site?

- To restart operations, some equipment will be installed in a new building on the site.
- This new building will also be used for the storage of chlorine containers. The building will be in character with the surrounding industrial land use and will not be visible from the nearest public road.

9. Why is this modification approval considered by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) as a State Significant Development?

- The site is already classified as a Major Hazard Facility and as such the proposal constitutes a modification to an existing State Significant Development.

10. Who will make the decision about whether it proceeds?

- An application will be assessed by the NSW DPHI, and it will be subject to consultation with the community and statutory agencies.
- NSW DPHI approval is required before any development can occur.

11. When will this decision be made? When will the proposed additional activity commence?

- The proposal has been submitted to NSW DPHI for review.
- Typically, the approval process is about 20 weeks.
- We expect the construction phase is expected to take about 12 months.
- The planned work is expected to be completed by 2027.
- Any construction activity will take place during standard daytime hours.

12. Does the government consider the social costs of this proposal and the resulting risk?

- NSW DPHI and other relevant Government agencies consider risks and potential impacts to the community as part of the assessment of the application.

13. What are the potential risks to community health and safety as a result of adding chlorine liquefaction facilities?

- IXOM has a demonstrated capability to manage the toxics risk that can be presented by Chlorine.
- Further information about IXOM's management of hazardous substances will form part of the planning application that is made available to the public on the NSW DPHI website.

14. Are there other chlorine liquefaction facilities in Australia?

- IXOM also has a plant at Laverton in Melbourne, Victoria. This is the only place in Australia that liquefies and packages chlorine to provide to water authorities.
- In the past liquid chlorine was safely produced and stored at both Sydney and Melbourne and transported around Australia since the 1940's.

15. Is this using the best and safest technology and processes that are available worldwide?

- Yes. The new building will incorporate the latest safety technology and management practices to manage risks. This includes a spare (empty) tank and bunding within the building to contain spills, and a system to capture and treat emissions within the building.

16. Are there other chemicals that can be used in the disinfection of drinking water?

- Liquefied chlorine gas is the main product used for the disinfection of drinking water and the safe management of wastewater by Australian water utilities due to its high reliability and unlimited shelf life. Water utilities that use liquefied chlorine gas are generally unable to use an alternative product due to the design of their plants.

17. How many additional trucks will come and go from the site as a result of this additional chlorine liquefaction activity?

- The proposal will require 3-4 additional trucks per week, being an additional 3-4 trips in and out of the site. This is well below the allowance of IXOMs current licence in terms of number of truck movement.
- The additional trucks are not significant as IXOM operations currently have approximately 76 truck movements per day for the delivery of raw materials and dispatch of all products.

18. Why this site – why not another less populated location?

- The Botany Industrial Park is considered, based on assessment, to be the only viable location for the plant.
- IXOM's existing operations to make chlorine are located in the Botany Industrial Park, the land is available and appropriately zoned for industrial, and the safety infrastructure it needs to operate is currently in place on site.
- The site is also close to water treatment plant customers that need the chlorine for disinfection, reducing transport distances.

19. Have there been incidents on sites where there have been similar chlorine liquefaction facilities?

- IXOM has safely manufactured and distributed chlorine for over 100 years and has never had a chlorine incident at a manufacturing site that has impacted the community.
- IXOM operates 7 Major Hazard Facilities across Australia, all of which safely store or manufacture chlorine products.
- SafeWork and other relevant agencies and regulatory bodies regularly and thoroughly audit IXOM's operations.

20. With Qenos and Indorama leaving, is this still an appropriate use of the site?

- IXOM remains committed to investing in the Matraville site.
- The closure of Qenos and Indorama will remove hazardous activities from the site, decreasing the overall risk of the Matraville site, and the risk of this project.
- Based on our assessments, the Botany Industrial Park is the only viable location for the plant.
- IXOM already has operations located in the Botany Industrial Park, the land is available and appropriately zoned industrial, and the safety infrastructure it needs to operate is currently in place on site.

21. What is the commercial relationship between IXOM and other companies at the Botany Industrial Park site?

- The IXOM site is privately owned by Orica Australia Pty Ltd and leased by IXOM.

22. When so much industry is being replaced by housing, why is IXOM expanding rather than reducing activity on this site?

- The products made by IXOM on the Matraville site are vital for water treatment and the supply of safe drinking water in Sydney and other parts of Australia.
- There is a long history of industrial use at the Botany Industrial Park.
- Continued industrial use on this site is supported by both the *Botany Bay Planning Strategy 2031* and the *Eastern City District Plan*, both of which acknowledge the need to keep land for industrial use and critical services in the area.

23. Are there any benefits for the community from this proposal?

- The products made by IXOM at the Matraville site are vital for water treatment and the supply of safe drinking water in Sydney.
- Jobs and industry is kept in Australia.

Information is available via:

- Phone: 1800 194 718
- Email: chlorineliquefactionproject@ixom.com
- IXOM website: https://www.ixom.com/locations/botany
- NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure website: https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-6-chlorine-liquefaction-plant