

EGEE 497 Dispatch
Friday March 8, 2019
Methanex Plant
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On Friday afternoon, we traveled to the Methanex plant in Motunui. It was a rainy day and we could not find anyone to get a tour of the facility. We had originally just planned on sitting outside the gate and discussing the plant. However, we were able to find a visitor's center that had the history of the plant, as well as, the processes that take place in the plant. There was an informational video that played going over the history of the plant. There was also a large model of the facility in the center of the room used for the original planning of the site. We spent a short time at the visitor's center before departing for Auckland to finish the remainder of our trip.



The Methanex plant we visited was one of three production facilities operated by the same company. Methanex generates roughly \$834 million for the country's GDP each year. They employ around 3,171 employees across all their New Zealand facilities. The Motunui Plant was the largest methanol plant in the world when commissioned in 1985 and cost roughly \$1.4 billion. There is currently a ban on all new offshore oil and gas production. At first, this ban was expected to effect Methanex's production substantially; however, as of yet, their production capacity has not decreased. The Methanex plant in Taranaki uses approximately 41% of the country's natural gas output. Between all facilities, Methanex is able to produce around 2.4 million tonnes of methanol per year. Methanex supplies to countries like North America, Asia Pacific, Europe, and South America. The plants in New Zealand mainly supply the Asia Pacific.

