

# Meeting minutes

## Meeting 2: MRL CRG 2019

**Date:** Thursday, 9 May 2019  
**Time:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm  
**Location:** Community Information Centre, Melbourne Regional Landfill, Christies Road, Ravenhall

Meeting called by Cleanaway

Type of meeting Melbourne Regional Landfill Community Reference Group

Facilitator Susan McNair, Currie Communications

Notetaker Gillian Doig, Currie Communications

### Invitees

Attendees

- Marion Martin, Community member
- Sharon Lee, Community member
- Mia Marevic, Community member
- Sophie Gove, Environment Protection Officer, EPA
- Olga Ghiri, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, Cleanaway
- Lachlan James, Technical Supervisor, Cleanaway
- Guy Edgar, Senior Environmental Business Partner, Cleanaway
- Jack Walker, Operations Manager, Cleanaway
- Cr Bruce Lancashire, Brimbank City Council

Apologies

- Marlene Gormon, Community member
- Cr Bob Turner, Melton City Council
- Daniel Hunt, Manager, EPA
- Alistair Nairn, Advisor - Community and Environmental Partners, EPA
- Meldina Klehic, Regional Manager, Cleanaway

Non-attendance

- Frank Alexopolous, Community member
- Melissa Westin, GM Metropolitan Remand Centre, Dept of Justice and Regulation
- Bob Baggio, Manager Planning Services, Melton City Council
- Cr Goran Kesic, Melton City Council

### About these minutes

These minutes/supporting information are in line with the agreed Terms of Reference. Any concerns/queries about papers supporting the MRL CRG should be raised with the Chair/Facilitator, Susan McNair by emailing [susan@curriecommunications.com.au](mailto:susan@curriecommunications.com.au).

*Meeting opened: 6:30pm*

## **1. Community Reference Group governance**

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S.McNair opened the meeting:

- The group were reminded of the Terms of Reference.
- Apologies were given.
- Monika Thomas has resigned from the committee. Frank Alexopolous has not met the terms of reference.
- S.Gove from EPA arrived at 640pm, so the meeting began with Cleanaway's operational update.

*Summary of governance provided post meeting.*

### **Meeting agenda and minutes governance**

- Meetings held every three months
- Quorum = 5 members (including a minimum of 3 community members, 1 Cleanaway representative and the Chair)
- DRAFT minutes to be provided the community members within two weeks of meeting for comment
- Review period for DRAFT minutes is 21 days (3 weeks)
- Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website within 5 working days of finalisation.
- AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair seven working days before the next meeting.
- AGENDA and papers to be distributed five working days before next meeting.

## 2. Action items

ACTION items	Update
<b>ACTION 180906_5:</b> D.Hunt to pass on community members' concerns about litter on Christies Road to Matt Walsh from VicRoads.	S.Lee reported that highway clean-up is much improved recently and urged Vic Roads to keep it up. Provided in EPA update <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_1:</b> D.Hunt to provide community members with the breakdown of suburbs that the January odour reports originated from.	Provided in EPA update <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_2:</b> D.Hunt agreed to seek expert advice from within the EPA on the potential impacts of evaporate leachate on nearby residents and provide information on these impacts.	To provide at 15 August 2019 meeting.
<b>ACTION 190207_3:</b> L.James to talk about the groundwater monitoring event.	Refer to Cleanaway presentation (attachment 1). <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_4:</b> L.James to provide survey data to the EPA.	Issued to EPA on 7 May 2019. <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_5:</b> D.Hunt to review the survey data and report back that the top of waste contours have not been exceeded.	Provided in EPA update. <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_6:</b> L. James to report back to the group at the next meeting on vegetation options for rehabilitation, timing of shrub planting, capping phases and types of caps.	Provided in Cleanaway update. <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_7:</b> O.Ghiri to report what Cleanaway is doing for rehabilitation and replanting at the Clayton landfill at the next meeting.	Provided in Cleanaway update. <i>Complete</i>
<b>ACTION 190207_8:</b> L.James to provide the committee with a clear understanding of the disparity between the leachate and compliance levels for LP16A/B provided in Tables 5 and 6.1 of Attachment 2 in the previous minutes.	Provided in Cleanaway update. <i>Complete</i>

### 3. Site operations

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L.James provided a site operations update (See Attachment 1) summarised as follows:

- Filling is complete in Cell 3B. Currently placing an intermediate cap of 500mm of clay-rich material. Cell 4A is half-filled and is currently on hold due to limited operational space. Cell 4B-1 is currently being filled, and construction of Cell 4B-3 is due for practical completion in August 2019. The section toured by the CRG last year has now been filled.
- There was a fire on the premises at the end of March this year. The fire started underneath a parked dozer that had been used by a contractor to spread mulch as part of erosion control measures. The cause of the fire is likely to be from trapped mulch being ignited by the heat in the belly guard of the dozer. Strong winds helped to fuel the fire and it spread to the surrounding mulch, to become approximately half the size of a sports field. Upon noticing the fire, a Cleanaway operator immediately called 000 and notified EPA. The site was closed and CFA and MFB took control, with assistance from Cleanaway's water trucks and dozers to create fire breaks. The fire was extinguished that night.
  - Key learning: Operator parked the dozer too close to the mulch.
  - Corrective actions: Mulch is no longer being used for erosion control, pending a revised risk assessment. At Cleanaway's request, CFA to conduct a fire audit and recommend improvements. Ensure location of fire hydrants are known.
- An update was provided on the repair and maintenance of the gas collection system. Installation of new gas wells is continuing, and a tender will soon be issued for detailed design. Each well can extract gas from a 20m radius (40m diameter) area. A contractor is determining how adequately the wells are working. Several wells with damaged flows lines have been identified and are progressively being repaired. These repairs will improve gas extraction and supplies to the biogas plant. In addition, three new wells are being drilled as part of the repair work.

#### Questions about the gas collection system:

- S.Lee asked what causes the damage. L.James said it is caused by the settling of the waste mass as gas and leachate are extracted. This is expected and allowances are made in budgets and work schedules to accommodate these occurrences.
- S.Lee asked about gas line repairs within quarantine cells. L.James responded that they don't have separate quarantine cells. Instead, Cleanaway has deep burials that are dug as a pit in regular cells, to a depth of 6m. Waste that is disturbed as part of repair works is reburied immediately into a landfill cell under strict handling conditions. L.James explained there are two types of deep burials: quarantine deep burial and secure deep burial. Department of Agriculture require quarantined waste to be buried in quarantine deep burial and immediately covered by 2m of material to prevent access by vermin. L.James agreed to provide information on the quarantine waste criteria at the next meeting.

**ACTION 190509\_1:** L.James to provide information on the quarantine waste criteria at the next meeting.

L.James continued his site operations update summarised as follows:

- The EPA-appointed auditor is assessing whether the landfill gas monitoring network is compliant with Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM). EPA issued Cleanaway with a Pollution Abatement Notice (PAN) to complete this work. As a result, Cleanaway engaged Cardno to recommend upgrades of its monitoring

network to the auditor. Cardno recommended installation of a delineation bore on Parks Victoria land to the east of the site to detect any migration of landfill gas. Appropriate approvals will be sought. Cardno also recommended increased bore spacing and additional bores to address data gaps. The EPA auditor will comment on the recommendations.

**Questions about the gas monitoring network:**

- S.Lee asked why there were no bores on the western perimeter boundary. L.James explained that they are not necessary because it: a) is next to a former quarry – a hole in the ground – and landfill (methane) gas does not migrate downwards, and b) there are no ‘receptors’ i.e. it is vacant land.

L.James continued his site operations update summarised as follows:

- In response to Action 190207\_6, L.James provided information on the rehabilitation plan. Cleanaway is expecting to complete a site-wide rehabilitation plan by late June. A tender has been issued. The plan will articulate the staged capping and rehabilitation timeline and must be endorsed by the EPA. The BPEM requires that landfill caps provide a long-term stable barrier between waste and the environment. As caps can span several cells, S.Gove requested that the plan clearly showed the cells allocated for rehabilitation in each stage. L.James confirmed that the plan must be regularly updated as new cells are opened. Plant roots can compromise the cap. The rehabilitation plan will not include definitive answers over whether trees can be planted as this depends on the design of the landfill cap, which is not determined until the cap’s detailed design is completed. Caps with a liner are not compatible with trees, and ‘phyto’ caps generally have a grass covering. However, the final decision occurs once the future use is known and an environmental audit can be carried out. There are no plans for trees in the near future.

**ACTION 190509\_2:** L.James to provide an update on progress of the rehabilitation plan at the next meeting.

**Questions about financial assurance:**

- S.Lee asked how EPA will ensure the landfill is properly taken care of if Cleanaway sells it to new owners or becomes insolvent. L.James explained that under Cleanaway’s licence it is required to provide a financial assurance to the EPA which acts as a bank guarantee. Responsibilities for paying the financial assurance and after care transfers to new owners. G.Edgar confirmed that the amount of financial assurance is recalculated every year to keep pace with inflation and technological changes. O.Ghiri noted this same issue has been discussed before and agreed to recirculate the previous information provided and the date of the meeting when it was discussed.
- S.Lee raised concerns that new owners may be less experienced than Cleanaway, and is concerned about the prospect of issues arising as a result. L.James reassured her that the EPA would not approve a transfer if new owners were deemed to be incapable of assuming the responsibilities for long-term management of the landfill and meeting the requirements of the post-closure PAN. The group requested that D.Hunt should provide more detail and a clear explanation of financial assurance, including rough figures of the financial calculations and how much money EPA is setting aside to provide this surety.

**ACTION 190509\_3:** D.Hunt to provide details on the financial assurance process, including rough figures if possible.

L.James continued his site operations update summarised as follows:

- In response to action 190207\_8, L.James addressed questions that were raised at the previous meeting about the data from leachate riser LP16A. The two spikes shown on the graph were due to interference with the dipping probe used to measure the leachate levels. This can sometimes be caused by gas or leachate foam within the riser. This interference has caused two 'false positives'. The baseline leachate level is above the compliance level because the previous owners, Boral, didn't drill the riser to the correct depth to achieve the compliance. It needs to be redrilled but as the compliance line is just 300mm above the landfill liner, the consultant engaged by Cleanaway must carefully design the risers to ensure the liner is not damaged.

**Questions about the leachate level compliance:**

- S.Lee queried why the leachate level has not yet been addressed given the PAN was first issued two years ago. S.Gove explained that Cleanaway had to source expertise from the UK, which delayed its response. Her objective is to protect the regional groundwater and so it is imperative that time is taken to ensure the liner is not damaged.
- S.Lee asked EPA why they allow additional cells to open if Cleanaway's existing operations are non-compliant. L.James confirmed they are not allowed to commission a new cell unless active leachate extraction is in place. They now place their leachate risers along the edge of the cell to prevent them from getting damaged.

L.James continued his site operations update summarised as follows:

- In response to action 190207\_7, L.James and O.Ghiri discussed Cleanaway's rehabilitation plans for its closed Victory Road solid inert landfill site in Clayton. There will be walking paths, bike tracks and an observation platform as part of a \$10million investment. The site will be handed over to Kingston Council once complete. This exceeds the requirements of the post-closure PAN. The investment is in recognition of the long history of landfills in the area and the fact Clayton residents have experienced significant odour issues over the years. L.James provided rehabilitation status updates on Fraser Road, Ryans Road and Deals Road. These together with the Victory Road site will form part of Kingston Council's plans for a green wedge.

**Questions about Clayton:**

- S.Lee queried why Cleanaway acknowledged that the Clayton landfills produce odour but does not acknowledge similar complaints about Melbourne Regional Landfill. O.Ghiri stated that all odour complaints were investigated and it was difficult to pinpoint the source of odour with so many other landfills and waste-related facilities in close proximity, not all managed by Cleanaway.
- S.Lee asked EPA if there are minimum standards for landfill designs. L.James confirmed that new landfills must comply with BPEM. S.Gove confirmed that all of the closed Clayton landfills have post-closure PANS in place.

#### 4. Environmental compliance

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S.Gove provided an environmental compliance update from the EPA, summarised as follows:

- EPA issued a PAN for the landfill gas wells. S.Gove hopes that Cleanaway installs all wells as planned and is pleased to see that Cleanaway has located one in the paddock.
- EPA notes that filling of Cell 4B-1 is underway.
- EPA notes the aspirational date of 30 June for the completion of the rehabilitation plan.
- As the tipping face is frequently exceeding the licence limits, EPA is considering which licence tool it can use to encourage Cleanaway to bring it back into compliance.
- In response to action 180906\_5, S.Gove confirmed that Matt Walsh has left VicRoads and she has been discussing with another staff member the possibility of getting signage installed to encourage drivers to cover their loads and to prevent illegal dumping.
- The following figures were provided in response to action 190207\_1:
  - January: 65% from Caroline Springs, 14% from Derrimut, 7.5% from Deer Park, Hoppers Crossing and Truganina (combined)
  - March and April (combined): 42% from Caroline Springs, 33% from Burnside, 25% Derrimut, 8% from Ravenhall.

EPA was unable to confirm the odour sources because the numbers of complaints were not big enough (there were only 4 reports in April and 8 in March).

- In response to action 190207\_5, S.Gove confirmed the top of the waste is not above the contour limit. Some of the slopes are too steep but this does not impact the height or visual impact, which was the nature of the original inquiry. S.Gove will discuss the slopes with Cleanaway to understand why this has occurred. L.James said the steepness would be reshaped during rehabilitation.
- The gas extraction wells in Cell 2M need to be finalised. L.James said Cleanaway would have proposals by 1 July.

#### **Questions about environmental compliance:**

- S.Lee asked for an update on the 15 pieces of advice issued to Cleanaway by the EPA. L.James is still working through them. S.Gove will provide a summary of the advice at the next meeting, or via the minutes.

<p><b>ACTION 190509_4:</b> S.Gove to provide a summary of the 15 pieces of advice at the next meeting.</p>
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## 5. Community engagement

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O.Ghiri provided an update on Cleanaway’s community engagement, summarised below: Cleanaway launched its MRL Community Benefit Fund \$50,000 and ran advertisements in 3 local publications. A total of 13 eligible community and environment groups were also contacted and encouraged to apply for funding.

Two applications were received:

1. Caroline Springs Rotary Club seeking \$10,000 for their Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) project – a community aid program that collects and redistributes second-hand furniture, bedding, electrical and whitegoods to assist refugees, victims of domestic violence, homelessness and mental health across the West of Melbourne. WERN currently services an average of 60 families per month.
2. The Deer Park Cricket Club’s “Community Connectivity Through Cricket” project is seeking \$10,000 to encourage memberships from asylum-seekers and new immigrants through their community cricket programs. This initiative has previously received funding from Cricket Victoria and Brimbank Council. The club will contribute one-third from their own funds to support their program and is asking Cleanaway to fund the remainder.

Cleanaway will consider accruing unused funds to next year.

## 6. Other business

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The Chair invited participants to raise any other business.

B.Lancashire spoke about unusable urban land being repurposed for forests or solar generation. M.Martin said a community meeting would be required if solar panels were being considered for MRL. O.Ghiri said there were no plans at this stage, but acknowledged the need to discuss similar opportunities with the community in the future, should they arise.

## 7. Schedule of 2019 meetings

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- Thursday 15 August 2019
- Thursday 14 November 2019

### *Summary of meeting deadlines provided post meeting*

<b>MTG 2 2019 (9 May 2019)</b>	
AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	29 April 2019
AGENDA and papers to be distributed	2 May 2019
Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	9 May 2019
Draft minutes to be provided for comment	23 May 2019
Draft minute review	6 June 2019
Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website	13 June 2019
<b>MTG 3 2019 (15 August 2019)</b>	
AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	2 Aug 2019
AGENDA and papers to be distributed	8 Aug 2019
Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	15 Aug 2019
Draft minutes to be provided for comment	29 Aug 2019
Draft minute review	12 Sep 2019
Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website	29 Sep 2019

*Meeting closed: 8pm*

<b>New and ongoing actions items as at 9 May 2019</b>	
<b>ACTION items</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>ACTION 190207_2:</b> D.Hunt agreed to seek expert advice from within the EPA on the potential impacts of evaporate leachate on nearby residents and provide information on these impacts.	To provide at 15 August 2019 meeting.
<b>ACTION 190509_1:</b> L.James to provide information on the quarantine waste criteria at the next meeting	To provide at 15 August 2019 meeting
<b>ACTION 190509_2:</b> L.James to provide an update on progress of the rehabilitation plan at the next meeting	To provide at 15 August 2019 meeting
<b>ACTION 190509_3:</b> D.Hunt to provide details on the financial assurance process, including rough figures if possible	To provide at 15 August 2019 meeting
<b>ACTION 190509_4:</b> S.Gove to provide a summary of the 15 pieces of advice	To provide at 15 August 2019 meeting

# Attachment 1

Cleanaway presentation slides (attached)