

Inkerman Landfill Community Reference Group

Minutes of extraordinary meeting held on 23 January 2020

Meeting commenced 18:00

- 1. Attendance:** Jill Stewart; Danielle Mudge, Lloyd Mudge, Richard Pain, Alan Headon, Tom Gallasch, Terry Cundy, Kelly Westell, Cr Michael Rankine; Sarah Verdonk, Matthew Bench
- 2. Apologies**
Olga Ghiri, Cr Terry Williams, Tony Williams, Marian Lang

Facilitator: Barbara Chappell

Minutes: Brenton Chappell

3. Meeting Opening

Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the events that had led to the calling for an extraordinary meeting of the ILCRG, i.e. the Media Release from the Minister for the Environment Office about the relocation of co-mingled waste from Wingfield and Lonsdale to Inkerman. The group was informed as soon as the media release was issued and before the news was published in the Advertiser on Friday 16th January 2020.

4. Information Sharing

- 4.1 Barbara invited comments and questions from the community members so the Cleanaway and EPA staff would know what they needed to have addressed in the meeting.
- 4.2 Kelly and Cr Rankine from Wakefield Regional Council were in attendance to hear about the relocation plans and what if anything they might need to be aware of for the council area.
- 4.3 Initial questions asked included:
 - 1) What is co-mingled waste?
 - 2) Wasn't this going interstate to be sorted?
 - 3) What is degraded and how is it sorted?
 - 4) What sort of cell will it be put in?
 - 5) Is it going to be buried?
 - 6) How will it be contained?
- 4.4 Tom Gallasch (Cleanaway) let the group know he found out about the decision to relocate the waste at the same time they did. Cleanaway acquired SKM's assets in October 2019 which includes the Wingfield and Lonsdale waste storage sites.
- 4.5 Receivers are still in control of the waste at this point in time.
- 4.6 Commercial arrangement between the Receivers and Cleanaway are currently being undertaken.
- 4.7 Tom explained the following in response to the questions from the group:
 - A suitable location for the co-mingled is being reviewed.
 - The waste will be located temporarily away from the current tipping area.

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- GPS will be used to record where the waste is stored for future excavation if that happens. Waste needs to be in a retrievable area. It will go on top of an existing layer and will be tracked and recorded.
 - Landfill compaction will apply.
 - Baled material being relocated from Wingfield and Lonsdale will be potentially broken up when opened for transport. The bales will be removed with shipping container forks or a bale grab.
- 4.8 Matt Bench (EPA) told the group SKM baling occurred at Wingfield and was sent to Victoria until a fire at the location closed down the site. As a result, the waste was stored at Wingfield and Lonsdale.
- 4.9 He had seen the bales of co-mingled waste which is yellow binned waste. He explained a sample number of the bales were inspected by an expert and deemed to be too degraded for recycling. Some organic elements in the waste impacts on the value of the recycled materials which makes it no longer a viable case for business.
- 4.10 A question from the group was, "What is the issue then if this is business as usual and the waste will be dealt with same as any other waste?"
- 4.11 The issue was more around the process of notification to the Inkerman community, i.e. the group and community reading about it in the Advertiser before hearing it from Cleanaway or the EPA.
- 4.12 Questions from the group were:
- 1) "How long will the transfer of the waste take? Matt indicated two hundred tons will be transferred over a period of 10 days. These figures will need to be confirmed closer to the transport commencing.
 - 2) When will the transfer take place? It is likely to commence in February 2020.
 - 3) How long is temporary storage? There could be no clear answer to this question as there is no technology being researched at this point in time to retrieve the degraded waste and no process that would be financially viable.
 - 4) What is the foreseeable future for this waste? The waste will not improve in quality over time and although some plastics may never deteriorate, it would remain contaminated by the surrounding waste.
 - 5) Who will pay the fees for the transport of the waste to Inkerman? These details are being worked out between the Receivers and Cleanaway.
 - 6) Will the landfill site be capped as per the license conditions even though there is the notion of retrieving the co-mingled waste at some point? It could be capped but under the current thinking from the Minister's Office, it could be uncapped if new technology became available to retrieve the waste. The financial viability of retrieval and process has not been researched.
 - 7) Is the technical innovation for retrieval of this waste likely to occur in the lifespan of the Inkerman landfill site? This is an unknown detail.
 - 8) Should there be a timeframe to declare the retrieval option redundant? Matt to make enquiries with the Minister's Office.
 - 9) Is an alternative site for co-mingled waste being set up? Yes, Northern Waste and Visy will be taking the waste now.

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- 10)** Will the co-mingled waste be odorous given it is in a deteriorated condition? The waste is not hazardous waste so is unlikely to be anymore odorous than general waste. Terry explained that he and Rowdy have ownership over the tipping at the site and they would manage it as they do all the other waste.

4.13 Actions required:

- Tom to report back to the committee on any new developments from Cleanaway
- EPA to add questions and answers from the meeting to their FAQ's on the relocation of the waste; and circulate the update to the group
- Matt to make enquiries to the Minister's Office about whether there will be a timeframe to declare the retrieval option redundant.
- Community members to use the media release; Advertiser article and FAQ sheet to locals.
- Barbara reminded the group about the Cleanaway Inkerman web page where all the group information is posted including the Incident/Comment Form they can hand to anyone who has a specific issue they want addressed.

- 5.** Barbara thanked everyone for taking the time to attend.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27th February 2020.

Meeting closed 19:00.