

Inkerman Landfill Community Reference Group
Minutes of Meeting held 10 June 2021
Uniting Church Hall at 21 Mine Street Port Wakefield

Meeting commenced 1:00 pm

- 1. Attendance:** Jill Stewart; Danielle Mudge, Lloyd Mudge, Tom Gallasch, Tom Robertson (via Zoom), Conan Hookings, David Leaney, Kelly Westell, Richard Pain, Alan Headon, Rachel Colella, Trish RobJohns.

Facilitator: Barbara Chappell

Minutes: Brenton Chappell

2. Apologies

Terry Cundy, Marian Lang.

3. Meeting Opening

Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting and restated the guidelines for how the group would work together given it was September 2020 since the last face-to-face meeting and we had people at this meeting who had not previously attended.

The group has kept in touch via email updates. Questions and answers have been circulating over the past few weeks to inform the group of developments with the PFAS application and to raise issues in relation to waste containment.

4. Minutes of Previous meetings

4.1 Motion put that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2020 be accepted as a true and accurate record. Moved by Kelly Westell. Seconded by Danielle Mudge. Motion carried.

5. Matters Arising

Nil. Matters have been dealt with via email. See attached summary.

6. Cleanaway General Update

6.1 Provided by Tom Gallasch.

6.2 Litter over the late 2020 period was on the increase, possibly due to increasing winds and dry conditions. Improvements have been made to contain the litter. It was noted that staff are visible on weekends when needed to respond to escapes. It is believed that a large amount of the rubbish is mainly plastic. On the tip-face trucks deposit the waste and a dozer/compactor spreads the waste. Wind can catch material as it is being unloaded, spread and compacted. This is a risk which may contribute to the escape of plastics but is closely monitored by Cleanaway.

- 6.3 A change in litter notification procedure for weekends is expected to improve captures before they get out of hand. If Terry is unavailable contact details of alternative Cleanaway staff will be provided to the ILCRG.
- 6.4 An agreed hierarchy is a good idea to find someone who is available on weekends to deal with waste issues.
- 6.5 Danielle commented that extreme days of high winds suggest a policy to deal with escapes, including not accepting waste on days of such high wind predictions. Tom responded that Cleanaway implements management measures to address high-wind days. This includes limiting or closing the tip-face, adjusting daily cover, relocating litter nets and increasing litter surveillance and response
- 6.6 Danielle asked if there was an increase in the movement of plastics beyond the containment site because of thermal winds and had there been an increase in height of the landfill? Tom responded that there was not a significant increase in the height of the landfill site and that drier waste due to a change in heat patterns may be risk Cleanaway will continue to consider.
- 6.7 Jill advised she is experiencing problems with her land lease due to the plastic waste landing in crop paddocks. The response was to request the lessee make contact with Cleanaway to discuss the specifics of non-containment of plastics on the land.
- 6.8 Tom indicated the crew at the site is very aware of managing litter containment and the installation of more nets will help to improve the situation. A check around the edge of the site at the end of the day would be made to help with containment of litter.

7. PFAS Application Update

7.1 Assessment of the application to receive PFAS waste is still underway. EPA guidelines would apply to the management of this waste if the application is approved. Tom explained:

- Records of PFAS are tracked very closely in terms of quantity, type of material, volume, etc.
- The waste would be transferred to landfilled immediately upon arrival.
- A watercart would be on standby and used to minimise any dust from the transfer activities.
- Transfer of PFAS would not occur on high winds days.
- Multiple liners already constructed within the low level contaminated waste cell will contain the material.
- It is identified as low level contaminated waste
- Groundwater has been tested as baseline measure to allow for identification of any changes to mitigate any possible risks

7.2 A question was asked about the long term nature of PFAS. The response was that it takes a very long time to degrade.



8. Inkerman Master Plan Update

8.1 The 10 year plan for the site is currently near completion for submission to the EPA in July. The key points from Tom included:

- Multiple uses for the site are proposed which include resource recovery, recycling, production and use of waste derived materials and the continuation of landfilling.
- An aim to reduce environmental impacts on the site in general due to resource recovery resulting in less waste to landfill.
- Waste recovery is a high priority for the long term which could include a Material Recovery Facility.

8.2 Alan asked if Cleanaway had applied for any grants in relation to recycling and waste recovery. They have not at this point.

8.3 Cleanaway wants to be able to expand the use of the site. Conan pointed out that the approval of the Master Plan is need before specific applications can be made for other uses of the site.

8.4 A question was asked about whether there were stop points between stages of the plan to review progress? Each stage has an implementation stage followed by a measure of the outcomes before moving on to the next stage. Continued engagement with EPA and planning authority will occur.

9. Community Members Update

9.1 There was credit given to the team at Inkerman for the past 4 years of operations at the site.

9.2 The pre-consultation process for the PFAS application was acknowledged.

10. EPA Update

10.1 The EPA representatives outlined the expectations for community consultation, and expressed satisfaction with Cleanaway's approach to community engagement.

10.2 An outline of the national plan for PFAS management was provided noting that South Australia was very conservative in its approach to PFAS management.

10.3 Concerns about the perception of the location for the disposal of PFAS in certain areas remain an issue. Reviewing groundwater in landfill area will be a high priority for the EPA.

10.4 There is a precedent set by the Southern Waste ResourceCo that makes it a possibility that the EPA Board will make the final decision rather than delegate it's powers to the EPA.

10.5 A private members Bill and parliament in general is trying to prevent PFAS waste management from being disposed of within 50km of any town or food producing area.

10.6 The need for community consultation was acknowledged. The EPA wants to work closely with the community group and they encouraged questions from the members of the group.

10.6 It was reinforced that expert information is provided independently of any commercial interests; and a high level science informs the EPA in these processes. Groundwater reports are independently assessed by EPA's hydrogeological scientists.

11. EPA Compliance Management Update

11.1 Litter remains of significant concern, meaning the concerns of the community are taken seriously.

11.2 The Cleanaway licence is due for renewal on July 1 2021.

11.3 The EPA noted that Cleanaway is maintaining a professional and positive relationship with the local community.

11.4 PFAS would only be processed with prior arrangements in place and all EPA requirements met.

11.5 Further information on any compliance matters is to be provided to the facilitator for distribution to the group

11.6 It was noted that Tony Williams has moved on from EPA.

11.7 Kelly Westall from Wakefield Regional Council requested a briefing from the EPA on processes at the site.

11.8 Cleanaway is part of the process all along the way, not just an end point of the compliance process.

11.9 Joint information session for all on the scope of compliance is to be provided.

12. Roundtable Discussion

12.1 Alan raised the issue about the transportation of materials to the site and the need for consistency with containment regulations. The trucks need to be re-tarped before departure. The group proposed that the trucks be checked before departure to ensure plastics were not caught up in the tarping mechanism.

12.2 Lloyd asked if recycling is being considered as a local project. Tom indicated this opportunity is included in the Masterplan as much of the waste received directly at Inkerman could be subject to resource recovery.

12.3 Process for closing loops for fires on site to be refreshed so the community can be ensured all fires are extinguished.

12.4 Jill commented that previously there was an LEMP and she wanted to know if there would be one with the new Masterplan. Tom responded that there would be a new LEMP.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Thursday the 9th September 2021 at 1:00 pm

Meeting closed at 1420 hours