

# NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – 3 August 2022

## Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Flood Remediation Community Reference Group
Date:	3 August 2022
Location:	Community Information Centre, Cleanaway, 100 Chum Street New Chum
Start time:	4.20pm
Finish time:	5.55pm

## Agenda items:

Item	Discussion led by
1. Welcome and introduction	Chair
2. Attendance and apologies	Chair
3. Site induction, orientation and facility briefing	Cleanaway
4. Site tour for all CRG members	Cleanaway
5. CRG Terms of Reference and objectives – Discussion	Chair
6. Remediation update	Cleanaway
7. Environmental update	Cleanaway
8. Community Benefits Fund	Chair
9. Schedule of meetings	Chair
10. General business	All
11. Next meeting date	Chair
12. Meeting close	Chair

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## Minutes:

### 1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open at 4.20pm

The Chair introduced all members of the CRG.

### 2. Attendance and apologies

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of ...

- Walter Wood (Community member)
- Yvette Phillips (Community member)
- Kristy Barnes (Cleanaway Senior Project Manager)
- Suzanne Wauchope (Cleanaway General Manager of Solid Waste Services Queensland)
- Nev Conway, acting as CRG Chair on behalf of Cleanaway (Three Plus)
- Paul Larter, acting as CRG Secretary on behalf of Cleanaway (Three Plus)

The Chair noted the attendance as observers of:

- Ander Pedersen (Cleanaway Queensland Engineering Manager)
- Aaron Michael (Cleanaway Health and Safety Business Partner)

Ander and Aaron were present to provide a site induction and to assist with the site tour.

The Chair acknowledged the receipt of apologies from:

- Keith Steel (Community member)
- Mark Dellit (Community member)

The Chair noted the absence of:

- David Curtain (Community member)

The Chair noted that Cleanaway Branch Manager Nick Gifford would normally be part of the meeting, but that illness prevented him from attending the first meeting.

The Chair also noted that community groups 'Stop The Stink' and 'IRATE' had been invited to participate in the CRG but declined.

Ipswich City Council and the Department of Environment and Science (DES) had also been invited to participate as standing members of the CRG but declined. The ICC and DES wanted observer status.

The Chair suggested that the CRG write to the ICC and DES with a standing offer for representatives from each organisation to attend the CRG at any time.

This suggestion was agreed to by all present.

**ACTION:** CRG write to ICC and DES and invite them to attend all future meetings as observers of the CRG.

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## **3. Site induction, orientation and facility briefing**

The Chair invited Aaron Michael from Cleanaway to provide all CRG members with a site induction and facility briefing.

After the briefing the Chair thanked Aaron for the fulsome briefing.

## **4. Site tour for all CRG members**

Cleanaway provided attendees of the CRG with a site tour to illustrate the site’s operations and the flood recovery and remediation efforts.

The Chair thanked Cleanaway staff for the site tour. CRG members noted that the site tour was very informative and well worthwhile.

## **5. CRG Terms of Reference and objectives – Discussion**

The Chair tabled a draft of the proposed New Chum Community Reference Group Terms of Reference for discussion.

The Chair asked CRG members to review the document and provide feedback before the next CRG meeting with the view that the Terms of Reference will be finalised and adopted at the next CRG meeting.

This suggestion was agreed to by all present.

**ACTION:** CRG to circulate the draft Terms of Reference document to all CRG members for their review ahead of the next CRG meeting.

## **6. Remediation update**

Kristy Barnes and Suzanne Wauchope of Cleanaway provided the CRG with an update on the site’s flood remediation and recovery efforts.

Cleanaway used aerial photographs to orientate CRG members to the site and cell 3B, the cell that was flooded and has been the source of the odour. The company explained that:

- the site had a long history of mining activity, starting as an underground coal mine in the 1800s and operating as an open cut mine in the 1970s and 1980s;
- cell 3B was under construction at the time of the flooding in February;
- the site has been affected by the same flooding rainfall that had impacted many other businesses in February and again in late April and May;
- the February rain had deposited approximately 140 megalitres of floodwater into the cell; Cleanaway had reduced this to approximately 23 megalitres when subsequent heavy rain events in April and May increased the water levels in the cell to approximately 58 megalitres; and the volume was now down to about 11 megalitres;
- The ponded water became anaerobic and created an odour;
- Cleanaway has been doing everything it can to treat and remove the water as quickly as possible;

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- up to 15 water tankers have been carting the water to Queensland Urban Utilities for further treatment and disposal since April at approximately 3.0 million litres per day
- the water is being chemically treated as well as mechanically treated using aerators and deodorisers; and
- the odour from the water is now gone except a light chlorine smell, and the water is likely to be removed by end-August.

The Chair thanked Cleanaway for the presentation and update. The Chair asked community members if they wanted more information, but they said that they were happy with the report and the tour, which helped them understand the site's operations and the flood recovery efforts.

## **7. Environmental update**

Kristy Barnes and Suzanne Wauchope of Cleanaway provided the CRG with an update on the site's environmental rehabilitation works.

The company said next steps included checking the integrity of the cell lining system. Cleanaway adhered to stringent engineering standards, using a physical model to show layers of the cell lining system used to separate waste from the surrounding earth, incorporating (in order from the base):

- Construction Quality Assured compacted earth;
- A geosynthetic clay liner ;
- High Density Polyethylene;
- Geotextile fabric;
- Gravel incorporating pipes to collect leachate and distribute it to a collection point; and
- Geotextile fabric.

They noted that improvements to the site have and continue to be made to prevent impacts from future flood events, including redirecting stormwater flow and constructing bunds to prevent ingress to cell 3B.

Once again, the Chair thanked Cleanaway for the presentation and update. The Chair also asked community members if they wanted more information, but they said that were happy with the report, which complemented the information provided earlier in the meeting and during the site tour.

The Chair noted that a site update would be provided at each CRG meeting and that it would be added as a standing agenda item for CRG meetings.

## **8. Community Benefits Fund**

The Chair stated Cleanaway intends to create a New Chum Community Benefits Fund (CBF).

He noted that CBFs were common practice around industrial sites and that Cleanaway believed this was an appropriate way to continue to engage with the local community on an ongoing basis, and one way in which the company can give back to the local community.

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The Chair stated that a policy and procedure would be developed ahead of the next CRG and tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

He said the broad concept was that Cleanaway would advertise in the community to request grant applications; these proposals would be discussed and voted on at a CRG meeting; then the grants would be awarded.

ACTION: CRG to create draft CBF guidelines to be tabled for discussion at the September meeting.

## 9. Schedule of Meetings

The Chair tabled a draft schedule of proposed meetings for discussion by the CRG.

He noted that the intention was to hold one meeting per month, on a Wednesday afternoon at 4pm. And that the meeting date for the subsequent meeting would be set at each meeting.

The Chair noted that the schedule of meetings would be distributed to CRG members before the next meeting.

This suggestion was agreed to by all present.

ACTION: Circulate the schedule of meetings to all CRG members for their attention.

## 10. General business

The Chair opened the meeting to general discussion and asked each CRG member to raise any matter for discussion.

There was general discussion that industrial odours were not unusual from time to time in communities.

Committee member Walter Wood noted that the site tour had been helpful in providing information and answering his questions.

He said that he hoped a representative of Ipswich City Council and perhaps the local State Member might attend future meetings so that they would be aware of the remediation work under way and completed.

Committee member Yvette Phillips, Principal at Riverview State School, noted that the odour had been a topic of conversation among pupils at the school. She said it would be beneficial for an explanation of the odour to be provided to the pupils.

Suzanne Wauchope of Cleanaway said that company representatives would be very happy to provide options for education. She said the company has a dedicated education team and would be happy to put them in contact with the school.

She noted that:

- Cleanaway had proudly been part of the community for a long time and would continue to be as it had obligations to protect the site for 30 years;
- The company was committed to making a positive contribution, but the odour issue demonstrated that there was room for improvement;

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- There continued to be public discussion about the site and greater participation from the community in the CRG would be welcomed;
- There had been media reports that there had been a direction from the Department of Environment and Science to close the site but that this was not correct. The department had proposed an amendment to the Environmental Authority for the site that would, if enacted, result in closing and rehabilitating the cell currently within the water footprint. This proposal is subject to a process and Cleanaway is considering what the proposal means.

Ms Phillips requested that she be able to invite other participants for the CRG.

The Chair responded that this would be welcomed within the Terms of Reference for the CRG, which allow up to 10 committee members. The Chair encouraged all community members to invite others to be actively involved with the CRG. He said Cleanaway was committed to the community having its say.

The Chair thanked all present for the honest, and respectful manner of the discussion and hoped that would set the standard for all interactions during CRG meetings.

ACTION: Cleanaway to investigate ways the company can proactively engage with Riverview State School on education programs.

## **11. Next meeting**

The Chair noted that the next meeting of the CRG was set down for Wednesday, 7 September, at 4pm.

He asked all present if that was an acceptable time to reconvene the CRG. All present agreed.

ACTION: CRG to send a notice to all CRG members advising them of the date and time of the next meeting.

## **12. Meeting close**

The Chair asked all present if there was anything else they wanted to discuss. He said the minutes of the meeting, once approved at the next CRG, would be added to the Cleanaway website. As there was nothing else to be discussed the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

-ENDS-