

# NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – 7 September 2022

## Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Flood Remediation Community Reference Group
Date:	7 September 2022
Location:	Community Information Centre, Cleanaway, 100 Chum Street New Chum
Start time:	5.05pm
Finish time:	6.40pm

## Agenda items:

Item	Discussion led by
1. Welcome and introduction	Chair
2. Attendance and apologies	Chair
3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting	Chair
4. Actions arising from previous meeting	Chair
5. CRG Terms of Reference – Adoption	Chair
6. Remediation update	Cleanaway
7. Environmental update	Cleanaway
8. Community Benefits Fund establishment - Discussion	Chair
9. General business	All
10. Next meeting date	Chair
11. Meeting close	Chair

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## Minutes:

### 1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open at 5.05pm

The Chair introduced all members of the CRG.

The Chair thanked Cleanaway staff for the site tour for CRG members, held before the meeting, to illustrate the site's operations and the flood recovery and remediation efforts.

### 2. Attendance and apologies

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of:

- Walter Wood (Community member)
- Mark Dellit (Community member)
- David Curtin (Community member)
- Keith Steel (Community member)
- Kristy Barnes (Cleanaway Senior Project Manager)
- Suzanne Wauchope (Cleanaway General Manager of Solid Waste Services Queensland)
- Paul Larter, acting as CRG Chair on behalf of Cleanaway (Three Plus)
- Phil Lutton, acting as CRG Secretary on behalf of Cleanaway (Three Plus)

The Chair noted the attendance as observers of:

- Carolyn Carruthers (Department of Environment and Science (DES) Manager Community Engagement)
- Brett Davey (Ipswich City Council (ICC) Manager City Design)

The Chair acknowledged the receipt of apologies from:

- Yvette Phillips (Community member)

The Chair noted that ICC and DES had opted to be observers, rather than standing members, of the committee and that their presence was very welcome.

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

The Chair also noted that up to 10 members of the community can be part of the committee and encouraged those present to pass on the details of any interested parties to Three Plus or Cleanaway.

### 3. Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

The Chair provided opportunity for committee members to comment on the minutes of the previous meeting. There were no further comments. The minutes were adopted as a true record of the meeting on August 3.

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## 4. Actions arising from previous meeting

The Chair referred in turn to each of the actions arising from the previous meeting and the status of completion. There was agreement from the committee that each of the actions had been completed.

## 5. CRG Terms of Reference - Adoption

The Chair noted that CRG members had been asked to review the proposed New Chum Community Reference Group Terms of Reference and provide feedback before the September meeting. As no feedback had been received before the meeting, and none was forthcoming at the meeting, all present agreed with a proposal from the Chair that the draft be considered final and adopted.

## 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 had previously been a source of 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;
- The ponded water became anaerobic and created an odour;
- Cleanaway has been doing everything it can to treat the water mechanically and chemically and remove it as quickly as possible;
- The volume is now down below 2 megalitres and is expected to be removed completely very soon;
- The remaining water remains oxidised and is no longer causing odour except for a light chlorine smell;
- Our team has continued to cart excess water, on a continuous loop, to Urban Utilities discharge points on Bognuda and Gliderway Streets since April. Truck numbers will decrease in line with the reduction in water.

The Chair thanked Cleanaway for the presentation and update. Further discussion on matters under this agenda item took place as part of General Business.

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## 7. Environmental update

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

They said significant stormwater diversion works had been carried out to minimise further pooling of water in the cell but this may not totally prevent water from gathering as this is a low point of the site.

In advance of the wet season, Cleanaway is preparing to install an engineered protective layer of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic on the walls around the cell to prevent any stormwater that gathers from coming into contact with waste in adjacent cells.

In addition, temporary holding ponds have been constructed on site as a contingency for water storage and management.

The elevated water table continues to cause groundwater ingress that will require ongoing management. We are continuing to work with independent groundwater specialists and the regulators to finalise next steps in managing the groundwater.

In terms of the cell lining on the base of the cell, it has been constructed to stringent engineering standards. Cleanaway used 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 clay;
- A geosynthetic clay liner (GCL);
- High Density Polyethylene (HDPE);
- Protection geotextile fabric;
- Gravel incorporating pipes with drainage holes to collect leachate and distribute it to a collection point; and
- Separation geotextile fabric.

Cleanaway also provided an update on a program Cleanaway started in August to extend its network of landfill gas extraction wells at the New Chum site.

Landfill gas is produced in all landfill sites by decomposition of organic matter and is composed mostly of methane and carbon dioxide along with small amounts of water vapour and other gases. While methane and carbon dioxide do not smell, other landfill gases can produce odours from time to time if they are not captured.

Cleanaway, in line with best practice, seeks to safely collect and burn the landfill gas. This is done through wells that are connected by an extraction network to a flare. There is currently a network of 63 wells and Cleanaway will more than double that number in the next few months.

Biogas Systems, a specialist contractor engaged to install the new wells, has started the works which are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. This includes drilling, pipework and connection to the flare.

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Some odour may be created by the drilling, however, there are procedures in place to mitigate this. Cleanaway expects any odour to be short-term.

Once again, the Chair thanked Cleanaway for the presentation and update. Further discussion on matters under this agenda item took place as part of General Business.

## 8. Community Benefits Fund – Discussion

The Chair stated Cleanaway intends to create a New Chum Community Benefits Fund (CBF) and had developed a draft policy and procedure as per an action item from the previous CRG meeting.

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.

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.

The Chair asked CRG members to review the policy and procedure and provide feedback before the next CRG meeting with the view that the document be finalised and adopted at the next CRG meeting, enabling the CBF to be implemented. The suggestion was agreed to by all present.

A community member requested information about previous grants made in the area.

**ACTIONS:** Cleanaway to circulate the draft CBF guidelines to all CRG members for their review ahead of the next CRG meeting; and Cleanaway to provide a list of previous recipient and grant amounts.

## 9. General business

There were several items of general business and actions arising.

- There was comment from some community members that odour was noticeable when it rained. Cleanaway said they had not previously received this feedback.  
**ACTION:** Cleanaway to investigate and provide an update at the October meeting.
- There was discussion about the number of water-tanker trucks and timing of truck movements on local roads and whether movements could be limited around school drop-off and pick-up times.  
**ACTION:** Cleanaway to examine the tanker schedule to ensure maximum safety for the community and provide an update at the October meeting.
- There was general discussion about the future of the Cleanaway site. Cleanaway sought to clarify media reports that the Department of Environment and Science (DES) was forcing New Chum landfill facility to close permanently. Cleanaway said it had received a proposed amendment to its Environment Authority that only the cell that was flooded receive no further waste and be remediated. Cleanaway said this proposal was subject to a statutory process and that it would continue to work with DES on the best outcomes for all stakeholders.

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- There was also general discussion about potential future uses of the site. Cleanaway said it had a responsibility to manage the site for 30 years after final waste is deposited (post closure).  
ACTION: Cleanaway to provide examples of rehabilitated sites at the October meeting.
- There was discussion about the presence and provenance of dust in surrounding suburbs and that there could be many sources. Cleanaway provided information on the New Chum site's dust management protocols.
- There was discussion about ensuring the community had every opportunity to access information about flood remediation and site operations. The Chair said Cleanaway provided a newsletter to ~30,000 homes; posted weekly updates on social media; engaged with media; and provided information through the CRG. Community members cited of use of video Q&A updates; a webcam on cell 3B; and timelapse photography of progress as potential further ideas.  
ACTION: Cleanaway to report back to the CRG with proposed actions to ensure every opportunity is provided to the community to access timely and relevant information.

## 10. Next meeting

The Chair noted that the intention is 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 next meeting of the CRG was set down for Wednesday, October 5, at 4pm but a number of those in attendance raised concerns about not being able to attend. It was suggested 5pm would be a more appropriate time.

ACTION: Cleanaway to send a notice to CRG members asking about their preference for a meeting time before the new time is confirmed.

## 11. 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 6.40pm.

-ENDS-