

# NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – August 9, 2023

## Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Community Reference Group
Date:	August 9, 2023
Location:	New Chum Boardroom, Cleanaway, 100 Chum Street New Chum
Start time:	5pm

## Agenda items:

Item	Discussion led by
1. Welcome and introduction	Chair
2. Attendance and apologies	Chair
3. Confirmation of previous meetings	Chair
4. Action items from previous meetings	Chair
5. Correspondence	Chair
6. Site update – remediation, environmental actions, other items	Cleanaway
7. Planning and Environment Court Decision	Cleanaway
8. General business	All
9. Next meeting	Chair
10. Meeting close	Chair

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## Minutes:

### 1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open at 5:13pm.

- Aaron Carter addressed the CRG to advise of Geoff Yarham being asked not to attend the CRG Meetings due to previous conduct. Geoff has been welcomed to send any questions he may have to Cleanaway via email.

### 2. Attendance and apologies

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of:

- **Wendy Davidson** (community member)
- *Yvette Phillips (community member) - apologies*
- **Walter Wood** (community member)
- *Ian Dalzell (community member) - apologies*
- *Bryan Carmont (community member) - apologies*
- *Vicki Carmont (community member) - apologies*
- **David Trezise** (community member)
- *Mark Delitt (community member) - apologies*
- *Paul Hurley (community member) - apologies*
- **Aaron Carter** (General Manager of Solid Waste Services Queensland, Cleanaway)
- **Michael Azevedo** (Regional Manager, Cleanaway)
- **Phil Lutton** (acting as CRG chair on behalf of Cleanaway)
- **Andrew Musgrave** (acting as CRG secretary on behalf of Cleanaway)

The Chair noted the attendance as an observer of:

- Brett Davey (Ipswich City Council Manager City Design)

The chair noted the CRG did not hear back from:

- *Cr Andrew Fechner (Ipswich City Councillor) - apologies*

The chair noted that Daniel Phipps (Department of Environment and Science, Manager – Community Engagement) has advised: “At this stage, the Department is reviewing all activities related to the Swanbank area including compliance activities and associated communications and engagement, so we’re unable to commit to tomorrow night but happy to take any questions from the group for response.”

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.

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## 3. Confirmation of previous meetings

The Chair confirmed the circulation of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 5pm. The Chair provided an opportunity for committee members to comment on the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes were then adopted as a true record of the June meeting.

- Minutes were adopted (David Trezise/Walter Wood).
- Group commented: “It would be nice to have received them earlier”.

## Action items from previous meetings

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** Can Cleanaway supply a copy of the 2022 Environmental Report supplied to DES?

**A:** The document has been supplied.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** Why the site manager is not attending these meetings?

**A:** Due to the site’s operating hours, the Site Manager does not attend as it is it would be disruptive to his (and the site’s) operations. In the Site Manager’s absence, the Regional Manager and the General Manager attend. Cleanaway believes that there is sufficient open communication to meet the needs of the CRG. If questions cannot be answered immediately, they are taken on notice and responded to in the following CRG.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** What water is being distributed on the partially completed cells (via the sprinklers). Is it leachate, groundwater or stormwater?

**A:** Ground and storm water is used for irrigation. It used for growing grass, which helps stabilise the interim cap and increase evaporation of water. Leachate is not used for any purpose on site. It is collected and hauled away for final disposal treatment at the Cleanaway’s Yatala Liquid Waste Treatment site.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** How come the latest EA application included a drawing from 2018 that didn’t refer to Cell 3B, which was the nexus of the application change?

**A:** Cleanaway to review and provide further information.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** Can you provide the reasons why the additional application was made after July 25?

**A:** Cleanaway requires further information to answer the request. CRG member David suggested it was due to an amendment to the Environmental Authority (EA).

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** Can you provide responses two weeks before each of the CRG meetings?

**A:** We can set this as a target moving forward. It is dependent on the nature of the questions and level of detail required for the answer.

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- Michael Azevedo/Phil Lutton committed to providing these in a timelier manner moving forward.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** Can you confirm there is a proper liner under that cell?

**A:** We understand all cells were built with liners that meet the specifications required at the time of their construction.

- David Trezise commented he would talk to Geoff Yarham to confirm which specific cell he was referring to – he will email the updated question directly to Phil.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** Why don't you go straight into electricity generation instead of burning the gases onsite?

**A:** The situation with the flares is currently consistent with Australian government's policy and generates Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) which is a source of revenue. While this a technical capability that Cleanaway has done at other sites, like Kemps Creek in NSW, the situation at New Chum requires the business case to be completed. Cleanaway is currently working on the business case to harness methane as an energy source at New Chum.

- David Trezise asked if Cleanaway were meeting State or Federal policy. Michael Azevedo confirmed Cleanaway was currently meeting Federal policy in relation to ACCUs.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** When are you going to do an internal audit against the new conditions and compliance?

**A:** This can't be considered until the compliance conditions are finalised.

**QUESTION ON NOTICE:** When is the next Cleanaway Annual General Meeting (AGM)?

**A:** This will be announced in the Cleanaway website under investor relations.

- Aaron Carter commented the AGM date will be made available on the Investor Relations section of the Cleanaway website. Cleanaway are soon to release their annual results and the group can then check the Cleanaway website ().

**REQUEST from CRG:** Write to the DES DG asking for a senior member from DES to attend the CRG meetings.

**Response:** Cleanaway have a standing invitation to DES to attend the CRG. It is DES's decision as to whether they attend or not, and who they choose as their representative for attendance. As advised earlier, they have offered to answer questions.

#### 4. Correspondence

The Chair asked if any correspondence had been sent or received in relation to the CRG or relevant to operation of the New Chum Landfill site of which the CRG should be aware.

- It was noted that David Trezise had sent through an email to Phil Lutton offering an apology for certain conduct of CRG members at the July meeting.

#### 5. Site update - remediation and environmental actions

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Michael Azevedo provided an update on remediation and environmental actions.

- Stated minimal rain has fallen since the last meeting, two days of rain (7-8mm) and that Cleanaway are continuing to prep for the wet season.
- Interim capping as part of the maintenance schedule continues and the site's water infrastructure upgrade is waiting for approval with ICC.
- The site's 'landfill gas works' have been quiet since previous meeting, a temporary flare arrived damaged (it is not working/connected), the permanent flare has been delayed in delivery (it is not working/connected), working on approvals with ICC for the flaring equipment.

Brett Davey (ICC) made comment around Cleanaway's land use approval application relating to the gas flaring equipment. Brett confirmed that from an infrastructure perspective everything onsite is currently in compliance.

- Leachate treatment plant commission is still ongoing. Michael commented it has been technically challenging and continues to face further delays.
- Work on the EA amendment for the discharge of surface water continues. The company's Gas EPO is still being reviewed for closure.

Wendy asked what would have happened if Cleanaway didn't install/and or seek the necessary approvals for the flaring equipment?

- Brett Davey (ICC) replied landfill gas is traditionally handled without the need for a flare, so when the flare onsite was installed in 2015 the advice at the time was the single flare would cater for all onsite gas being generated. But over time the advice has changed and the single flare is no longer adequate, hence the need for additional flaring infrastructure..
- Michael/Brett also made the point that once waste is no longer being incorporated to site, the gas being generated will "run out" in time.
- Michael committed to exploring how long this will take (i.e., obtaining the estimate [from within Cleanaway] of how long the landfill gas will be being generated).
- Wendy commented she is worried about emissions and the buildup of gas leading to a large explosion sometime in the future.

## 6. Planning and Environment Court Decision

Aaron Carter provided an update on the decision not to appeal.

- Aaron explained what this means for the site and opened the floor to questions:
- David Trezise asked in the absence of New Chum, where will Cleanaway be depositing "demolition waste" from the surrounding regions. Aaron commented that Cleanaway is presently taking C&D waste to other landfills in the region.
- David commented on a Stop the Stink Facebook page post about a great many Cleanaway trucks being observed travelling to and from Willowbank. He was curious as to why this was occurring. Aaron commented that is where Veolia's [Ti Tree Bioenergy waste disposal facility](#) is located and Cleanaway takes C&D waste there.

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- Aaron commented that there are a range of factors that will influence how long a cell the size of 3B would take to fill once it is reopened.
- Brett commented there is no specific plan from an ICC perspective as to what will happen to site after it has closed: “It’s Cleanaway’s land, so it’s up to them to determine what is going to happen here after closure.”
- Aaron followed this up and commented: “Cleanaway will engage with the community when the time comes, but we are a long way off from that point.”
- Brett went on to comment: “It’s a long way away from any alternate uses being considered as the land needs to settle and become totally risk free. This could possibly take as long as 25 years before anything would be considered for the site.”

## 7. General business

- Chair confirmed with Walter Wood that the Question on Notice regarding the AGM relates to Cleanaway.
- David Trezise shared with the CRG that the next hearing for ‘odour contaminant’ (Ipswich Magistrates Court) is occurring on October 17.

## 8. Next meeting

The Chair suggested the next meeting be held on Wednesday, September 6 at 5pm, and that date be confirmed with the CRG in the preceding weeks.

## 9. Meeting close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:46pm.

-ENDS-