

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – June 7, 2023

Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Community Reference Group
Date:	June 7, 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. General business	All
8. Next meeting	Chair
9. Meeting close	Chair

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Minutes:

1. Welcome and introduction

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

2. Attendance and apologies

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of:

- Wendy Davidson (community member)
- Yvette Phillips (community member)
- Walter Wood (community member)
- Ian Dalzell (community member)
- Bryan Carmont (community member)
- Vicki Carmont (community member)
- Aaron Carter (General Manager of Solid Waste Services Queensland, Cleanaway)
- Michael Azevedo (Regional Manager, Cleanaway)
- Paul Larter (acting as CRG chair on behalf of Cleanaway)
- Georgie Olivier (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 apologies from:

- Cr Andrew Fechner (Ipswich City Councillor)
- Daniel Phipps (Department of Environment and Science Assistant Director Community Engagement)
- Paul Hurley (community member)
- David Trezise (community member)
- Suzana Cosic (Cleanaway project manager)
- Mark Delitt (community member)

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, May 3, 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 May meeting.

4. Action items from previous meetings

David Trezise posed the following question for Cleanaway at a previous meeting, which had been taken on notice: *There are statutory provisions under the EP Act relating to the notification requirement for contaminated lands in Queensland. Has the Cleanaway New Chum site been placed on either Environmental Management Register (EMR) or the Contaminated Lands Register (CLR)?* Michael Azevedo of Cleanaway responded that all landfills are a Notifiable Activity (like service stations, they have potential to cause land contamination) and must, therefore, appear on the Environmental Management Register. He said the New Chum site was not on the Contaminated Lands Register because it did not meet the criteria.

5. 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. Michael Azevedo described a recent conversation he had with Andrew Smith, General Manager South Australia and Tasmania for Cleanaway, in which Andrew had remarked that CRGs were a critical part of the community.

6. Site update - remediation and environmental actions

Michael Azevedo provided an update on remediation and environmental actions. He said Cleanaway remained focused on maintaining high operational and environmental standards at the site. Recent emphasis had been on processing historic material in the resource recovery area; installing additional flaring capacity in the landfill gas recovery system; and installing a plant on site to treat leachate.

Mr Azevedo said leachate – a feature of all landfill sites – is water captured after it comes into contact with waste. Cleanaway engineers design cells with at least six layers of heavy engineered lining to protect the environment surrounding a landfill from leachate. Sumps are used to safely collect New Chum's leachate, which is transported to a specialist Urban Utilities treatment facility at Yatala. A specialist water treatment engineering company has installed a plant at New Chum to partially treat leachate on site, for final treatment by Urban Utilities at Bundamba. The plant, following final commissioning and approvals related to the safe disposal of impurities such as iron, copper and PFAS, will enable leachate to be processed and removed from the site more quickly. As an additional benefit, trucks required to transport leachate will be on the road for fewer hours.

On landfill gas, Mr Azevedo said Cleanaway had recently completed a program to double the size of the network of wells that capture landfill gas, which is gas produced in all landfill sites by decomposition of organic matter (mostly methane and carbon dioxide). These wells are connected to a gathering network

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and flares that operate 24 hours a day. Flaring is the most environmentally responsible way of dealing with landfill gas until it reaches a certain volume, at which point it is possible for the gas to be sold or used to generate electricity. Cleanaway is exploring these options while the gas increases in volume. In the meantime, the company needs to expand the capacity of the flaring system and is commissioning an additional temporary flare while a second permanent flare is procured.

Mr Azevedo said extreme weather events of recent years had considerably raised groundwater levels, prompting Cleanaway to propose a new design for the site's remaining cell, 3B. The design features a base raised above the original concept and a groundwater depressurisation system, both of which would provide a further safeguard for groundwater. Cleanaway has applied for an approval from Ipswich City Council (ICC) for cell construction.

7. General business

Aaron Carter said Cleanaway was planning a celebration for beneficiaries of the New Chum Community Benefits Fund. The company relaunched the annual \$50,000 fund this year to support local community projects that enhance liveability or sustainability including: waste reduction initiatives; welfare groups; sports participation; community events; or programs that encourage community health and well-being. Details of the celebration would be finalised soon, and all beneficiaries and members of the Community Reference Group will be invited. Yvette Phillips said Riverview State School had received \$10,000 for musical instruments that have enabled 20 students to learn how to play. She said it could be possible for pupils to play at the celebration.

Bryan Carmont asked why Cleanaway had applied to DES to amend its Environmental Authority in relation to groundwater management associated with Cell 3B. Mr Azevedo said that the application was to clarify the quality of water that could be released to the environment in the case of extreme weather events and the circumstances in which a release could take place.

Mr Carmont asked whether groundwater levels were above the level stipulated in the site's Environmental Authority and, if so, what Cleanaway was doing about it. Mr Azevedo said the levels of groundwater remain higher because of extreme weather events in recent years and that the new design of Cell 3B, including a raised base and groundwater depressurisation system in addition to heavy engineered lining, were designed to protect groundwater.

Mr Carmont and Wendy Davidson asked if the Anderson report could be made available. Mr Azevedo said the groundwater monitoring document had been used to inform the redesign of Cell 3B and had been shared on a commercial-in-confidence basis with DES and ICC. **ACTION:** Cleanaway undertook to respond to the request to make the document public.

Ms Davidson asked if there was a timeline for the potential closure of New Chum. **ACTION:** Cleanaway undertook to provide an update on the status of the site and potential reopening of Cell 3B.

Ms Davidson inquired about continuing odours in the local area. Mr Azevedo said Cleanaway continues to monitor air quality at the site despite the testing no longer being mandated by the authorities. The results

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of DES monitoring in the area and Cleanaway monitoring on site – which is available on the DES website – show New Chum landfill is highly unlikely to be the source of odour.

FURTHER ACTION: Cleanaway to answer a question previously asked by David Trezise seeking to confirm that all cells had geo-fabric liners and whether some had been damaged.

8. Next meeting

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

9. Meeting close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6pm.

-ENDS-