

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – September 6, 2023

Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Community Reference Group
Date:	September 6, 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

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – September 6, 2023

Minutes:

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open at 5:02pm.

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)
- *Bryan Carmont (community member) - apologies*
- Vicki Carmont (community member)
- 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)
- *Cr Andrew Fechner (Ipswich City Councillor) - apologies*

The chair noted that DES is continuing to evaluate its engagement in the Swanbank area and will not be attending. DES will be sent Minutes from the meeting.

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 previous meetings

The Chair confirmed the circulation of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, August 9, 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 August meeting.

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – September 6, 2023

- Minutes were adopted (David Trezise/Walter Wood).

Action items from previous meetings

- Michael Azevedo committed to exploring how long gas will be generated at the New Chum landfill.
 - Michael commented he had obtained some data but isn't able to provide a specific date when the New Chum landfill gas project will cease (for reasons outlined below).
 - Cleanaway are in the process of rolling out the necessary infrastructure to capture and manage the gas being produced onsite. All the wells and connections are established – Cleanaway has extended their existing landfill gas network to cater for onsite gas being produced.
 - Michael presented modelling (see below) as justification for this extension, highlighting there has been a considerable increase onsite gas production which occurred post Feb-2022 floods. He emphasised the degree of uncertainty relating to estimating “how much gas is being produced onsite, and for how long” as the gas is produced through a “biological process” and with many contributing factors, and that “over time it will taper off and disappear completely due to it not having any further food sources”.

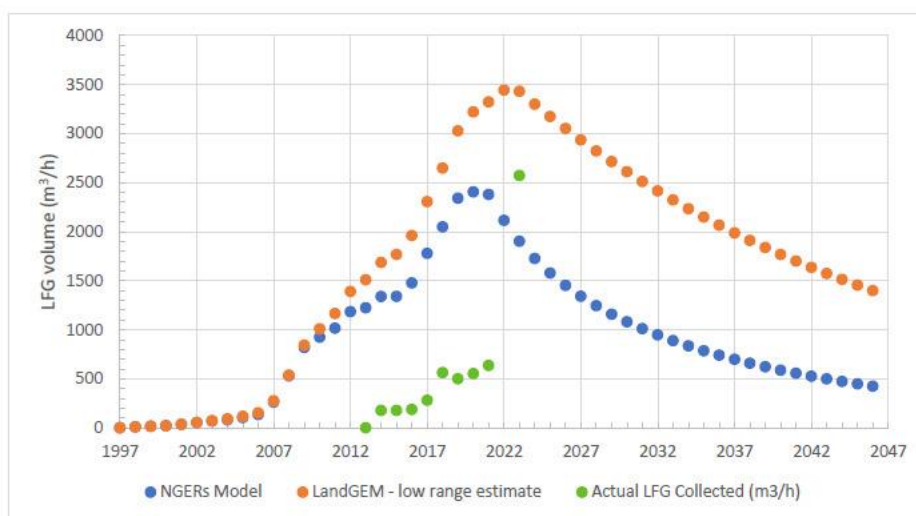


Figure 2.1: Modelling estimates compared with actual LFG collected

- Ian Dalzell asked if the date for “no more gas being produced onsite would be around 2047?” (Referring to Michael’s modelling slide)
 - Michael commented they do not know at this stage but that was a possible projection according to available data.
 - Aaron Carter confirmed there is a finite amount of gas and there are a lot of uncertainties. Cleanaway has built a gas capture system that can accommodate these fluctuations. The landfill gas network is presently flaring, with an additional permanent flare to be added as the need for gas capture increases.
 - Aaron noted discussions around converting the captured gas to energy are ongoing.

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – September 6, 2023

- Currently site has one permanent flare and two temporary flares. Cleanaway are waiting for the second permanent flare to arrive which will then negate the need for the two temporary flares. All infrastructure and activities are complying with regulations. Ian was satisfied with this answer.

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.

- No correspondence registered/mentioned.

5. Site update - remediation and environmental actions

Michael Azevedo provided an update on remediation and environmental actions.

- Michael commented the New Chum site has been running through various remediation activities, maintaining interim cover, monitoring ground water levels, and progressing their application for storm water infrastructure upgrades and Cell 3B works.
- Cleanaway are waiting for all necessary approvals relating to the Construction of Cell 3B and no works will occur now until April 2024 – noting some minor maintenance and preparatory activities will be undertaken before then.
- As part of ongoing maintenance, staff identified a leak in the Basin 1 after it was drained into perched pond. With the ICC approvals not expected in time for the work to be done this wet season, site will instead undertake maintenance works only.
- The current focus of activities onsite is minimising risk.
- Updated plans for the commissioning of the leachate treatment plant, which is still ongoing due to technical difficulties.
- David Trezise asked if the Leachate plant would handle PFAS?
 - Michael responded yes and went on to explain what the treatment plant can handle, the system components and how the treatment process operates. He noted Cleanaway are currently trucking treated leachate to Yatala but will be able to utilise the Bundamba Advanced Water Treatment Plant (approx. 5km away) for disposal of treated leachate once the leachate treatment plant is operational. David was satisfied with this answer.
- Ian Dalzell asked how much the flares cost?
 - Aaron estimated a few million dollars each, noting they were “purchased quite a while ago” and he couldn’t recall the exact cost. Ian was satisfied with this response.

6. General business

- Phil Lutton (CRG chair) committed to sending around the latest New Chum Newsletter as a PDF. He noted it will also be posted to the Cleanaway’s website and social media profiles. Hard copies were distributed to the CRG.
- Ian Dalzell raised the matter of Geoff Yarham being asked not to attend. He noted he didn’t think it was the right thing to do to “silence him and his legitimate concerns”. Aaron Carter gave a synopsis of why Geoff had been asked not to attend the meetings, reiterating there remains an open line of communications (via email) for Geoff to ask any questions of New Chum.

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – September 6, 2023

- David Trezise commented he had “spoken to Geoff this morning and there are no questions he would like to ask at the moment”.
- Michael Azevedo commented about Griffith University students and program lead Dr Ruby Michael visiting site on the Ekka public holiday to continue the phytocapping rehabilitation works on the cell adjacent to the main site office.
- Sophie Formica radio interview was discussed, which turned into a broad discussion around sewerage sludge management and costs. New Chum does not receive sewerage sludge.
- Walter Wood directed a comment and question towards Brett Davey (ICC): “Ipswich is regarded as the waste dump of East Coast of Australia – does Ipswich City Council benefit financially from any of the waste being dumped in Ipswich?”
 - Brett provided a general overview of waste costs and waste levies.
 - Ian Dalzell asked for an update on New Chum’s Community Benefits Fund (CBF) event. Andrew Musgrave (CRG chair) outlined the celebratory event is still in the planning stages, with all fund recipients interviewed and their stories collated. Ian was happy with this response and commented that it was good to see Cleanaway being involved in the local community. He asked if the CBF was an annual fund and Aaron confirmed. It was slated to launch again in March 2024, with Cleanaway to confirm in coming months.

7. Next meeting

The Chair suggested the next meeting be held on Wednesday, October 4 at 5pm, and that date be confirmed with the CRG in the preceding weeks.

8. Meeting close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5:42pm.

-ENDS-