

# NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – Wednesday, 12 June 2024

## Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Community Reference Group
Date:	Wednesday, 12 June 2024
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 minutes	Chair
4. Actions from previous meetings	Chair
5. Correspondence	Chair
6. Site operations and environment update	Cleanaway
7. Community Benefits Fund update	Cleanaway/Chair
8. Emissions reporting	Cleanaway
9. General business	All
10. Next meeting	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 5:07pm.

### 2. Attendance and apologies

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of:

- **Wendy Davidson** (community member)
- **Walter Wood** (community member)
- **Ian Dalzell** (community member)
- **Aaron Carter** (General Manager of Solid Waste Services Queensland, Cleanaway)
- **Michael Azevedo** (Regional Manager, Cleanaway)
- **Mark Biddulph** (Head of Corporate Affairs, Cleanaway)
- **Taku Ide** (Head of Carbon, Cleanaway)
- **Olga Ghiri** (Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, Cleanaway)
- **Andrew Musgrave** (acting as CRG chair on behalf of Cleanaway)
- **Jo Hoban** (acting as CRG secretary on behalf of Cleanaway)

Apologies were received from:

- **Brett Davey - Observer** (Ipswich City Council, Manager City Design) – apology
- **Yvette Phillips** (community member) – apology
- **Bryan Carmont** (community member) – apology
- **Vicki Carmont** (community member) – apology
- **Mark Delitt** (community member) – apology
- **Paul Hurley** (community member) – apology

### 3. Confirmation of previous meetings

The Chair confirmed the circulation of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, 1 May 2024, at 5pm. The Chair provided an opportunity for committee members to comment on the minutes of the previous meeting.

- There were no comments made. The minutes were adopted as a true record of May's meeting.

### 4. Action items from previous minutes

In response to Wendy's query about emissions reporting at the May meeting, Taku Ide (Cleanaway's Head of Carbon) and Mark Biddulph (Cleanaway's Head of Corporate Affairs) attended the meeting to provide information. This is summarised in Section 8 – Emissions reporting.

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The Chair provided a CRG membership update:

- Yvette Phillips, Principal of the Riverview State School, is stepping down from the CRG. She thanked Cleanaway for the opportunity and wished the CRG all the very best moving forward.

## 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.

- CRG members had nothing to note.
- The Chair noted the following:
  - Cleanaway are in contact with [DESI](#) to confirm if they wish to recommence attending CRG meetings, acting as an observer.
  - The CRG Terms of Reference have been revised and shared with all members following feedback received at the May meeting. All current CRG members (both in attendance and not) had no objections to the revised document.
  - As such the Terms of Reference have now been accepted by the CRG.

## 6. Site update - remediation and environmental actions

Michael Azevedo provided an update on remediation and environmental actions at New Chum over the past month:

- It has been a very dry month with minimal rainfall recorded onsite.
- The team are stepping up Cell 3B works. They continue to bring in a lot of fill and there is a lot of earth moving taking place.
- Aaron Carter commented in the last 6-7 weeks they have placed approximately 50,000 cubic metres of earth into the cell to “contour it into shape”.
- Landfill gas activities have slowed onsite after recent feedback from DESI informing New Chum ops that a major amendment was required to Cleanaway’s current Environmental Authority (EA).
- Michael noted the leachate treatment plant is performing well.

## 7. Community Benefits Fund update

Olga joined the meeting via video link to provide an overview of Cleanaway’s 2024 \$50,000 New Chum Landfill Community Benefit Fund (CBF).

- The third iteration of Cleanaway’s CBF (2015, 2023 and 2024) was launched in February, with print advertising and social media campaign was launched in March.
- Olga summarised the governance and review process and thanked the two current CRG members (Mark Dellit and Walter Wood) for participating on the CBF Review Panel.
- Cleanaway received 10 applications for the 2024 CBF, with the CBF Review Panel selecting seven successful applicants.
- Olga confirmed that all applicants have been informed of their success.

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- Public promotion of the winners will commence (via social media) next month.

## 8. Emissions reporting

- The Chair introduced guests Taku Ide, Cleanaway's Head of Carbon and Mark Biddulph, Cleanaway's Head of Corporate Affairs
- Taku spoke to the CRG regarding Cleanaway's emissions reporting activities in response to Wendy's emissions reporting [query captured at the May CRG meeting](#). Wendy was seeking clarity as she had seen data in the [National Pollutants Inventory](#) (NPI) showing an increase in Cleanaway's national emissions.
- Taku confirmed with the CRG Cleanaway's overarching intention is to be a good steward of the environment and climate.
- Taku stated Cleanaway's landfills primarily emit two gases – CO<sub>2</sub> and methane. Under Taku's guidance, Cleanaway set base line targets at the end of FY22 with the intent to reduce emissions year on year (YoY) and track that progress. Since 2022, Cleanaway has been reducing its methane emissions from landfills. Taku confirmed that every year since Cleanaway set the methane target, emissions have gone down at New Chum.
- The emissions reduction data is captured at a national inventory called the [National Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reporting Scheme](#) (NGGERS).
- Taku explained that the increase Wendy has seen in the NPI data is related to Cleanaway's "recently acquired assets". He went on to explain when Cleanaway acquires an asset, they are obligated to take on and report on the existing emissions from these assets. When that happens, they must increase their emissions base lines because they now must take account of all the additional emissions being produced by the acquired assets. For example, between '21-22 Cleanaway acquired assets in NSW that led to a significant jump in Cleanaway's obligatory emissions reporting that year.
- This presents a challenge because publicly, under NGGERS, Cleanaway shows a large increase in emissions. However, internally Cleanaway now have to re-baseline FY22. They originally set a reduction target at a particular level – but whenever they acquire an asset, they have to reestablish what 100% of that reduction target was as if they owned that asset back in FY22 when the original target was set.
- Taku acknowledged there is a disconnect in terms of what's shared in the public domain, which is purely looking at overall numbers, and within Cleanaway, where the percentage reduction is tracked YoY at different sites. Taku noted that "what I do want you all to take away tonight is that Cleanaway are absolutely happy to provide evidence that shows, especially at New Chum, the amount of gas captured over the past two years has increased and that has absolutely decreased the amount of methane emitted from site".

**Question:** Wendy asked whether Cleanaway could show measurements from before 2022?

**Answer:** Taku noted emissions were measured onsite prior to 2022, but since the baselines were set in 2022 there has been a more intense focus on managing the emissions and there has been a clear improvement since then. Taku highlighted that under the current CEO, Mark Schubert, taking care of the environment and the communities that Cleanaway works within has become one of the company's key

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initiatives. Mark brought Taku in to make sure that the company can be a leader in this space. Taku noted “Cleanaway’s current commitment to climate and their performance against climate is non-negotiable”.

- Wendy thanked Taku for clarifying the NPI data increase and that the national measurement did not accurately illustrate the reduction in local New Chum measurements. She noted that while it is hard to forget what has happened in the past, it is pleasing to see the progress being made.
- Ian Dalzell noted that it would be beneficial for them to be provided with clearer information, so they’re not alarmed by the data they find online.
- Mark Biddulph referred to [Cleanaway’s ESG Data Book](#). He showed the CRG this publicly accessible document on the Cleanaway website noting that it will become an increasingly useful information document as it is updated into the future with measurement data.

**Question:** Ian asked Taku a general knowledge question – “is it safe to store carbon underground?”

**Answer:** Taku shared that his graduate school research was on carbon capture and storage (CCS). He referred to a site in Norway that has been successfully injected with CO<sub>2</sub> since 1996, however the findings from this site don’t necessarily apply globally. Every site is different, and a company must complete in-depth geological assessments and consider a wide range of different factors. Global scientific research is ongoing. CCS has been successful on some sites around the world, but it hasn’t been trialled in Australia yet.

## 9. General business

The Chair confirmed all CRG members are happy to move to a bi-monthly meeting schedule (meeting on the first Wednesday of every second month), commencing August 2024.

- There were no objections.
- Chair confirmed that if significant issues were to arise onsite, the CRG would revert to a monthly meeting schedule.

## 10. Next meeting

The Chair suggested the next meeting be held on **Wednesday, 7 August**. This date will be confirmed with the CRG in the coming weeks.

## 11. Meeting close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:15pm.

-ENDS-