

Final Meeting Minutes



Meeting 3 - MRL CRG 2017		
Thurs 17 August, 2017	6:15 for 6.30pm – 8.30pm	Community Information Centre, Melbourne Regional Landfill, Christies Road, Ravenhall
Attendees	David Anderson, Marion Martin, Sharon Lee, Mia Marevic	
Community	Cr Bruce Lancashire – Brimbank City Council, Steve Finlay – Melton City Council	
Local Government	Alistair Nairn, Advisor - Community and Environmental Partners	
EPA	Maurice Gubiani – Environmental Protection Officer	
	Peter Kerr – Acting Manager, Major Investigations Unit	
Cleanaway	Mark Globan - Regional Manager Post-Collections, Olga Ghiri - Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, Lachlan James – Environment and Technical manager	
Apologies	Monika Thomas, Bob Baggio – Manager Planning Services, Melton City Council, Cr Bob Turner - Melton City Council, Cr Goran Kesic – Melton City Council, Melissa Westin, Metropolitan Remand Centre, Nick Stuhlemer - Landfill Operations Manager, David Hunt - EPA	
Membership changes	Haileluel Gebre-Selassie (3 rd missed meeting) Frank Alexopolous (3 rd missed meeting), Margaret Hewitt – resigned, Eyal Cohen – resigned	

Meeting start 6.35pm

Agenda item 1. CRG Governance

a. Previous minutes – member comments

b. Outstanding actions to be addressed

- Introductions for Peter Kerr (EPA), Steve Finlay (Melton Council) and Lachlan James (Cleanaway)
- Resignations: Eyal Cohen and Margaret Hewitt provided resignation in writing and were thanked for their contributions.
- According to the agreed Terms of Reference, the group retains sufficient community representation although there are some members who have now not attended the required number of meetings, and are not contributing in line with expectation. Follow up to be undertaken to determine member intentions.

NEW ACTION 170817_1: Facilitator to follow up with non-contributing members to establish ongoing presence. Following review a recommendation regarding potential member recruitment/replacement will be put to Cleanaway.

a. Previous minutes – member comments

- No member comments on previous minutes.

b. Outstanding actions to be addressed:

- 1700518_2: Awaiting response from Cr Kesic, Melton City Council
- 170518_3, 170518_5: Awaiting response M. Walsh from VicRoads
- 170518_8, 170223_5: Community group members to confirm where/how response to STT questions are being shared, and provide ongoing direction for Cleanaway information sharing.
- 170518_9: D. Anderson acknowledged that queries regarding Quarantine process had been actioned. Further action required to ensure Quarantine Site signage is not obscured (current signage obscured when front gate is open).

NEW ACTION 170817_2: Mark Globan to remedy obscured Quarantine signage.

c. Proposed change in day/date for future meetings

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- November 2017 meeting to be Wed 29 rather than Thurs 30, would also like to change next year's schedule.
- Group in general agreement. David will not be able to attend Wednesday.
- Facilitator requested that where possible, apologies be submitted as far in advance of the meeting times as possible

NEW ACTION 170817_3: O. Ghiri to distribute updated Nov 2017 meeting invite.

Agenda Item 2. Site operations including air/water quality, amenity, vermin control and truck movements

1. Site operations – M. Globan

Cell 3B construction

- 24/6 operations have continued, construction journey of Cell 3B continues, looking for approval from EPA before Xmas, looking to be able to start filling that cell from February 2018.
- Working with auditors/consultants to ensure necessary documentation completed.

Coolaroo waste management

- Under supervision from EPA, Ravenhall received some of the waste resulting from the Coolaroo recycling depot fire. Bulla landfill will also receive some of the Coolaroo waste.
- Group discussed implications of receiving potentially toxic waste. EPA confirmed that strict heat monitoring and toxin evaluation was conducted on site at Coolaroo, all necessary precautions in place to protect people and the environment.

High winds

- The impact of high winds on site was discussed at length. Mitigation actions were outlined and included water spraying for dust, increased numbers of on-the-ground pickers (minimum of two on site, in recent high winds increased to 12) to manage and contain wind-blown loose plastic, and the parameters for ceasing operations. As an example, the Columbian tipper won't operate in winds of over 80km/hour.
- Cr Lancashire queried the process for dust monitoring, and whether consideration had been given to sealing roads. Cr. Finlay queried whether sufficient water carts were on site.
- M. Globan outlined the challenge of sealing roads in a landfill given the amount of settling that occurs. Dust monitoring also a challenge given proximity of other sites close by with similar challenges (Boral as an example). Stated that current size of water carts provided sufficient dust-damping.

Biogas project update

- Update of Biogas project indicated completion date of 8 September, and that following on from that project, Cleanaway would be going straight into feasibility study for two more 12-month projects. M. Globan suggested group may wish to view updated site at November meeting.

NEW ACTION 170817_4: Cleanaway to include Biogas site tour in November meeting agenda.

Air/water quality update

- M. Globan provided update on Tonkin and Taylor (independent monitoring) review as per panel hearing commitment. Activities are ongoing until September. Report to be released to this group in November. Tonkin and Taylor are also able to investigate complaints.
- O. Ghiri outlined purpose of letter drop to residents to remind of odour reporting options which include contacting the Cleanaway hotline as well as the EPA.

Air/water quality update (cont.)

- SL raised concerns over speed of response/investigation, and the potential conflict of interest in Cleanaway investigating complaints against them. SL also highlighted that Caroline Springs train platform between 6.30am and 8.30am is a location where odours are very noticeable.
- A. Nairn confirmed that the EPA preference is for complaints to come to EPA first and foremost.
- Group discussion ensued in regard to lack of satisfaction with EPA reporting processes. Similar themes as raised in previous meetings. Community sentiment is that EPA response to complaints is unsatisfactory, and does not provide a useful indication of actions taken as a result of complaints.
- Group agreed to move onto next agenda item to discuss EPA update on environmental compliance and preferred approaches to customer service.

Agenda item 3. Environmental compliance including Cleanaway update on gas movement and monitoring, and EPA update on preferred approach to EPA customer service re: pollution reporters for the site

- Brief update on gas leak/movement – L. James outlined that as per the publicly available minutes of last meeting (18 May 2018) the report undertaken to identify the gas source indicated that landfill was not the source of the gas. Cleanaway has undertaken to install additional works to increase the capture of the gas through increased vacuum.

EPA update on preferred approach to EPA customer service re: pollution reporters for the site.

- Significant discussion was undertaken by the group on this topic. A. Nairn acknowledged that work had been undertaken with S. Lee since the previous meeting based on community concern that reports were not being satisfactorily escalated or followed up. A. Nairn also acknowledged that there is a broader question around community interaction with EPA customer service centre – essentially exchanges are not satisfying to the community. Also outlined there are limits to EPA responses based on resources (people in the field).
- M. Martin confirmed the frustration of ringing and reporting with no clear outcomes. S. Lee sought more specific details on responses for reports provided to A. Nairn. A. Nairn stated that all reports to EPA had been responded to except for one – **S. Lee disagreed that responses had been provided for all 24 reports provided by her, and requested evidence of those responses. A. Nairn advised that he was unable to provide that kind of internal reporting, and recommended S. Lee make an FOI application.**
- P. Kerr outlined that the ephemeral nature of odours made them challenging to investigate and it can also be difficult for people to accurately identify an odour source. Example given of seaweed odour traveling due to wind conditions in January of this year (refer Attachment 1, p.10, *EPA provided reporting data*). P. Kerr committed to share the current triage policy for odour reporting management. Outlined that in relation to odours, EPA will respond to a cluster of reports, the response is leverage off the quality of report. P. Kerr demonstrated the 5 criteria EPA look for in a report:
 1. Frequency
 2. Intensity
 3. Duration
 4. Offensiveness
 5. Location
- Discussion ensued regarding online form criteria not matching report criteria – see action below.

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- Request made by D. Anderson that rather than a report stating number of complaints made about landfills, that the EPA provide information about the type of complaint, and action taken/proposed.
- Concern from group that the 'burden of proof' for odour reporting rests with the community, and that it is unfair to expect community members to make multiple calls to report an odour. Despite Cleanaway's reporting obligations, group again expressed preference for EPA to be lead.
- A. Nairn presented an option that calls made to the EPA could be simultaneously conference-called to Cleanaway for investigation. This would result in both reporting and action. Group agreed that option worth investigating, and would like to invite EPA Customer Service Manager to next group.

NEW ACTION 170817_5: EPA to provide link outlining triage policy to be shared with group. Investigate online form and ensure it aligns with stated odour reporting processes (specifically relating to odour source question).

NEW ACTION 170817_6: EPA Investigate establishment of conference-call option for EPA/Cleanaway odour reporting, and invite EPA Customer Service Manager to November meeting.

Further EPA updates on environmental compliance:

Coolaroo:

- M. Gubiani outlined activities and due diligence relating to supervision of Coolaroo waste to Ravenhall. Also outlined a minor breach relating to a hot load and small (mattress) fire that has been investigated and resolved. Breach was reported within the 24-hour timeline, and there will be no sanctions as a result. Hot load was the result of poor operator behaviour outside the control of Cleanaway.
- M. Marevic queried the nature of the fire, which was explained to be doused and extinguished immediately.
- S. Lee raised concerns about highly toxic materials being transferred from Coolaroo and potentially impacting ground water and environment of Ravenhall. **Strongly suggested that proactive testing should be undertaken immediately to ensure Ravenhall site was effectively monitored.**
- M. Gubiani/P. Kerr outlined the diligence in place for Coolaroo waste transfer which included temperature checks for loads, with infra-red being used for on the ground waste. Toxicity levels on site showed nil impact on local waterways. *In-stream monitoring at the Coolaroo site has shown E.coli to be the greatest concern – which is not linked to the waste fire. Working with Yarra Valley Water.* EPA is confident that Cleanaway's existing prescriptive license requirements are sufficient.
- **S. Lee reiterated that a spot check of water quality should be undertaken sooner. Specifically requested a spot check on water be done before the scheduled November audit. Expressed that it's a community concern that taking waste from Coolaroo will impact local groundwater.** M. Gubiani outlined that given the size of the cell where Coolaroo waste was received, impact would not be seen for months, and given the diligence of ongoing cell management, EPA had no concerns in relation to this matter. *M. Gubiani reinforced construction and safety measures of fully engineered cells, that they are designed for Category C waste, and designed to hold everything in it.*
- *L. James confirmed Cleanaway has no plans to increase/change currently scheduled water monitoring program.*
- *M. Gubiani explained that earlier testing would be a waste of time because any potential contaminants from that waste would take months to work their way through a cell, and there is no pathway to groundwater through the cell anyway.*
- *S. Lee repeated request that further ground water testing be done, sooner* and questioned the efficacy of EPA management of closed landfills, and requested further details be provided on current landfills under management by the EPA.

NEW ACTION 170817_7: L. James to provide detail of scheduled groundwater monitoring.

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NEW ACTION 170817_8: EPA to provide details of closed landfills being monitored.

Agenda item 4. Remediation including update on Stage 2 capping

- M. Globan highlighted that the cap on Stage 2 has sunk by 4-5 metres, and is receiving clean fill to reshape to get it to planning permit contours. Responding to Cr. Lancashire, it was explained that the fill comes from local housing developments and meets Industrial Waste Refill Guidelines.
- M. Martin queried information shared recently that some landfills are being handed back to community. M. Globan explained that Cleanaway is investigating options. At Ravenhall, there is private land so there's no requirement to hand it back to community. Potentially could be returned to green space. When capped, landfill becomes a dry tomb. Landfills potentially can be used for industrial activities, or solar farms. Will not become local government responsibility. As outlined in previous meetings, closed landfills entail a 30-year commitment to run a landfill without waste coming in. Goes into a post-closure PAN (pollution abatement notice).

Agenda item 5. Community engagement/Awareness including community feedback/complaints update and two-way information sharing

- O. Ghiri outlined recent letter drop to 54,000 households (suburbs covered included Ravenhall, Burnside, Cairnlea, Deer Park, Derrimut). Purpose was to raise awareness of options for reporting, including Cleanaway hotline.
- O. Ghiri raised again the expectation as outlined in the Terms of Reference that group members distribute the information provided in these meetings to the broader community. Queried whether this was happening effectively.
- O. Ghiri gave an overview of grant funding made available to local schools looking to fund sustainable waste management initiatives, with winners to be announced in November.
- S. Lee identified that corporate funding can be perceived in different ways, and that successful grant recipients may be less likely to make potential complaints due to a fear of losing funding.
- Opinions on this were varied.

Agenda Item 6. Other business (including response to D. Anderson: Request number of Ravenhall landfill complaints received by EPA and Cleanaway for May, June and July 2017.)

- Query from D. Anderson: Request number of Ravenhall landfill complaints received by EPA and Cleanaway for May, June and July 2017 and what were the outcomes/investigations. Report of complaint numbers only provided by A. Nairn for inclusion in minutes.
- Suggestion from Steve Finlay (Melton City Council) that O. Ghiri liaise with Council's Sustainability Officer to discuss potential activities.

NEW ACTION 170817_9: Facilitator to include EPA report provided afternoon of 17/8 in minutes, with report to also provide commentary around how many and the actions taken.

NEW ACTION 170817_10: Steve Finlay (Melton City Council) to pass on Olga Ghiri's details onto Council's Sustainability Officer.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: David Anderson directed group to the recent Cleanaway (Frank Sufferini) response to Four Corners Report of 7 August, 2017 (as available on Cleanaway website). David presented three questions for Cleanaway's response:

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Statement: 'Our entire Value Operating Model is built around extracting the maximum value from waste, which means recovering more recyclables each year and exploring ways to continually reduce the volume of waste going to landfill.'

Question:

1. If Cleanaway is working towards less waste, why do you need such a massive expansion (at Ravenhall)?
2. What is Cleanaway doing to recycle and recover (at Ravenhall)?

Statement (in relation to not transferring waste from NSW to QLD) "...This decision was made for two reasons: first, because there are unacceptable risks associated with moving large volumes of waste across very long distances..."

Question:

3. If it's unacceptable to transport over long distances (NSW to Qld) why is it okay to transport large volumes of waste from one side of Melbourne, through suburban streets, to the MRL at Ravenhall?

- *Discussion followed regarding inconsistencies in hard-waste collection and recycling, and querying why Cleanaway doesn't do more to support effective recycling. Discussion included observations that there are a number of Councils involved in hard waste collection also. Community representatives stated that Cleanaway could look at doing more around resource recovery.*

NEW ACTION 170817_11: Cleanaway to secure responses to three questions on notice presented by D.Anderson.

Remark to be minuted: Cr Bruce Lancashire stated that as a member of Melbourne Metropolitan Regional Waste Authority, he would like it noted that they do not support the EPA in its recent action questioning the legitimacy of the Stop the Tip group.

UPDATE TO MINUTES: Specific transcript notes as requested by STT members regarding comments made by P. Kerr, EPA during 'other business'

Male Voice:
(Peter Kerr)

The whole aspect of transporting waste across suburbs and across States, no one wants waste in their backyard. I've heard of people in the western suburbs saying, we don't want landfills in our patch, dig it up and send it over here.

Female Voice:
(Mia Marevic)

That's not what we say.

Male Voice:
(Peter Kerr)

But you want the tip over there.

Female Voice:
(Mia Marevic)

No, we don't. We want environmental justice. So what we want is that everybody is actually responsible for where the waste is going to go and for waste reduction instead of the burden being placed on one area.

Female Voice 2:
(Sharon Lee)

Just quietly go back a minute. Can I just make – guys – can I just make it very clear, Stop the Tip has never been not in my backyard. We have never recommended, suggested that the landfill you move to anywhere else. We have strongly suggested that the government on both sides look into waste energy technology. So we have never asked for Ravenhall to be moved anywhere.

Meeting closed 8.35pm

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Paper due dates as per group request:

Meeting agenda and minutes governance
Meetings held every three months
Quorum = 5 members (min 3 community plus 1 Cleanaway plus Chair)
DRAFT minutes to be provided within two weeks of meeting for comment
DRAFT minute review period of 21 days
Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website within 5 working days of finalisation
AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair 7 working days before next meeting
AGENDA and papers to be distributed 5 working days before next meeting

MTG 5	Meeting 5: 29 November 2017	
	Agenda items confirmed (7 days prior)	20.11
	Agenda and papers distributed (5 days prior)	22.11
	DRAFT minutes distributed for review (within two weeks)	15.12
	FEEDBACK provided within 21 days	5.1.18
	MINUTES finalised and distributed to members and website	12.1.18

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Action table (please note that completed actions can be viewed in Meeting #2 minutes, February 2017)

Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
170817_1	Facilitator to follow up with non-contributing members to establish ongoing presence. Following review a recommendation regarding potential member recruitment/replacement will be put to Cleanaway.	Facilitator	29.11	
170817_2	Mark Globan to remedy obscured Quarantine signage.	Cleanaway	29.11	
170817_3	Updated meeting invite to be distributed, Wed 29 November to replace Thursday 30 November.	Cleanaway	29.11	Complete
170817_4	Biogas project tour to be included in November meeting agenda	Facilitator	20.11	Complete
170817_5	EPA to provide link outlining triage policy to be shared with group. Investigate online form and ensure it aligns with stated odour reporting processes (specifically relating to odour source question).	EPA, P. Kerr	29.11	
170817_6	EPA to investigate establishment of conference-call option for EPA/Cleanaway odour reporting, and invite EPA Customer Service Manager to November meeting.	EPA, A.Nairn	29.11	
170817_7	Cleanaway, L. James, to provide detail of scheduled groundwater monitoring	Cleanaway	29.11	<p>Complete – response as follows</p> <p>Monitoring was completed June 2017. The next round of monitoring is being completed at the end of September / start of October. These works are being undertaken as part of the Auditor approved monitoring plan, and are conducted 6 monthly (not quarterly). The next monitoring round has been shifted forward to provide additional data for a Hydrogeological Assessment being undertaken at the Site.</p> <p>The groundwater reports are provided to the Environmental Auditor so they can assess potential impact to groundwater.</p>

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Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
				<p>The audit reports are publicly available on the EPA website.</p> <p>It is not a requirement of the monitoring plan to test soil. Soil disposed of at the Site is only accepted if it has been classified in accordance with the EPA IWRG guidelines.</p>
170817_8	EPA to provide details of closed landfills being monitored.	EPA, M. Gubiani	29.11	
170817_9	Facilitator to include EPA report provided afternoon of 17/8 in minutes, with report to also provide commentary around how many and the actions taken.	Facilitator	1.9	
170817_10	Steve Finlay (Melton City Council) to pass on Olga Ghiri's details onto Council's Sustainability Officer.	Steve Finlay, Melton City Council	29.11	
170817_11	Cleanaway to secure responses to the three questions on notice from D. Anderson.	Cleanaway	29.11	
170518_2	Review use/status of unmade road causing resident concern – Middle Rd.	Cr Goran Kesic	17.8	Not complete – Cr Kesic to provide update.
170518_3	M.Walsh to raise issue of Caroline Springs traffic with appropriate VicRoads staff and provide responses to questions regarding number of TSS vehicles assigned to the North-West metro region, their hours of operation and whether logbooks checked by officers include routes	M. Walsh, VicRoads	17.8	Not complete - response not received by August Meeting. Cleanaway to continue follow-up.
170518_4	Cleanaway to provide B-Double route as applied to their fleet at next meeting	Cleanaway	17.8	Complete – routes made available at August meeting, and at Attachment 2 to this document.
170518_5	M. Walsh to ensure gravel at roundabout cleaned up, and communication undertaken with Boral around preventative action.	M. Walsh, VicRoads	17.8	Not complete - response not received by August Meeting. Cleanaway to continue follow-up.
170518_6	EPA to invite Nick Simmons to meet with group prior to PAN notice deadline in January 2018.	EPA	29.11	Update to be provided prior to January deadline.

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Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
170518_8	Reference group members to ensure answers for STT questions are shared in a public forum.	Reference group members	17.8	Not complete – answers remain available on Cleanaway website only.
170223_5	Members to provide suggestions/requests for information sharing as needed	Reference group members	18.5	Not complete - group to advise.

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Attachment 1: EPA provided reporting data – page 1 of 2

Ravenhall Landfill Pollution Reporting Data

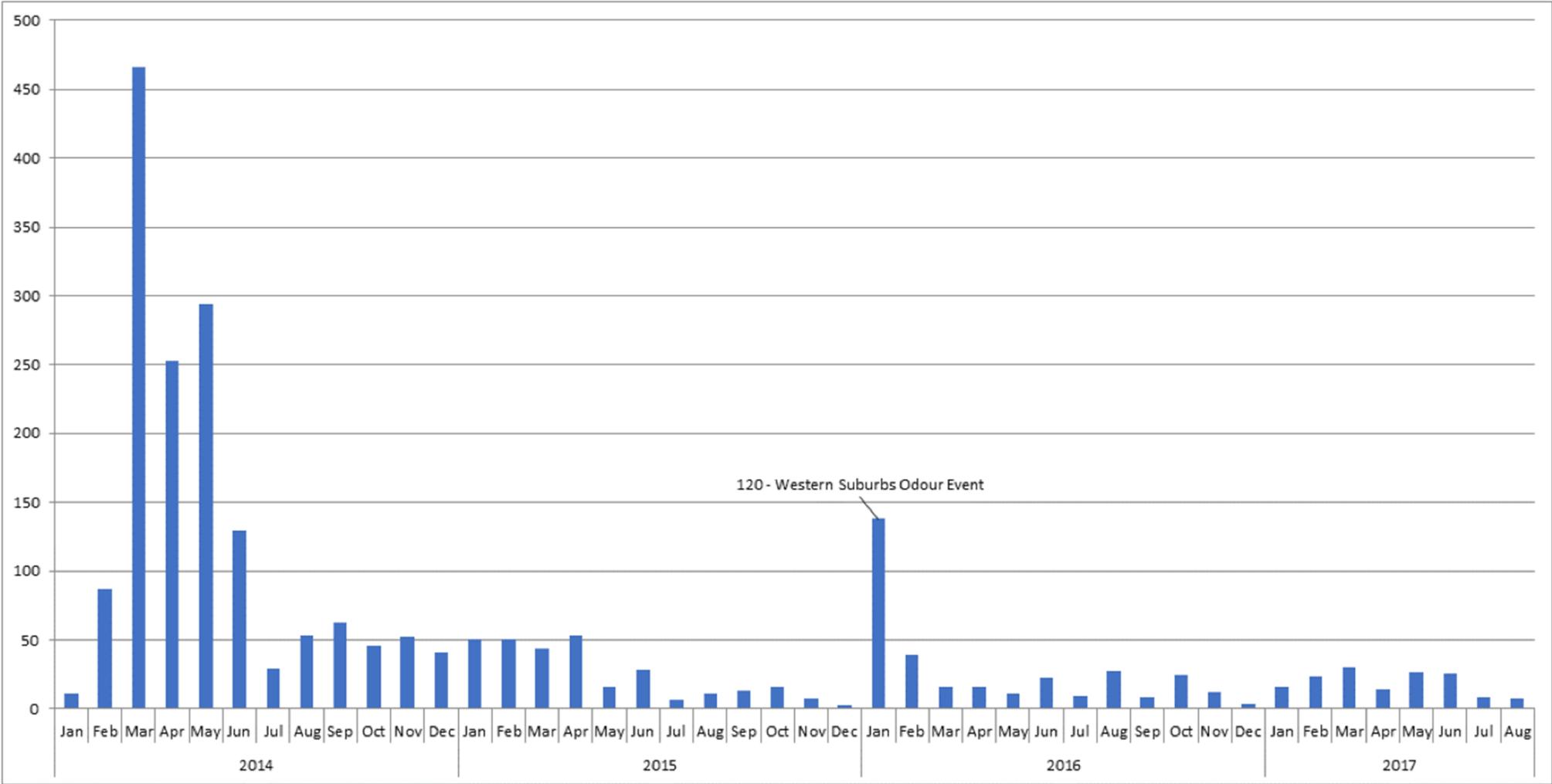
Row Labels	Count of IR number
2014	1524
Jan	11
Feb	87
Mar	466
Apr	253
May	294
Jun	129
Jul	29
Aug	53
Sep	63
Oct	46
Nov	52
Dec	41
2015	297
Jan	50
Feb	50
Mar	44
Apr	53
May	16
Jun	28
Jul	6
Aug	11
Sep	13
Oct	16

Nov	7
Dec	3
2016	326
Jan	138
Feb	39
Mar	16
Apr	16
May	11
Jun	22
Jul	9
Aug	27
Sep	8
Oct	24
Nov	12
Dec	4
2017	149
Jan	16
Feb	23
Mar	30
Apr	14
May	26
Jun	25
Jul	8
Aug	7
Grand Total	2296

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EPA provided reporting data – page 2 of 2



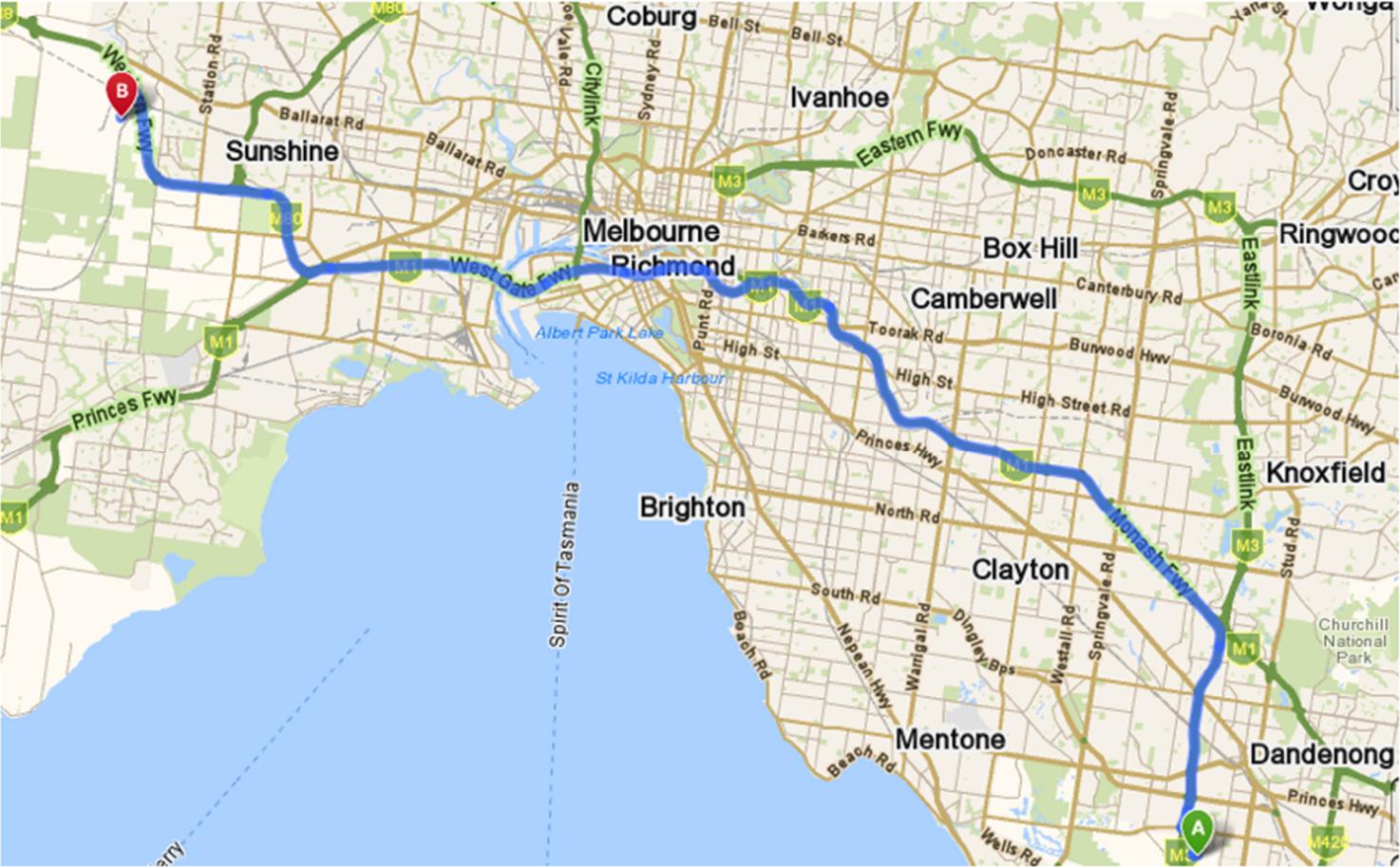
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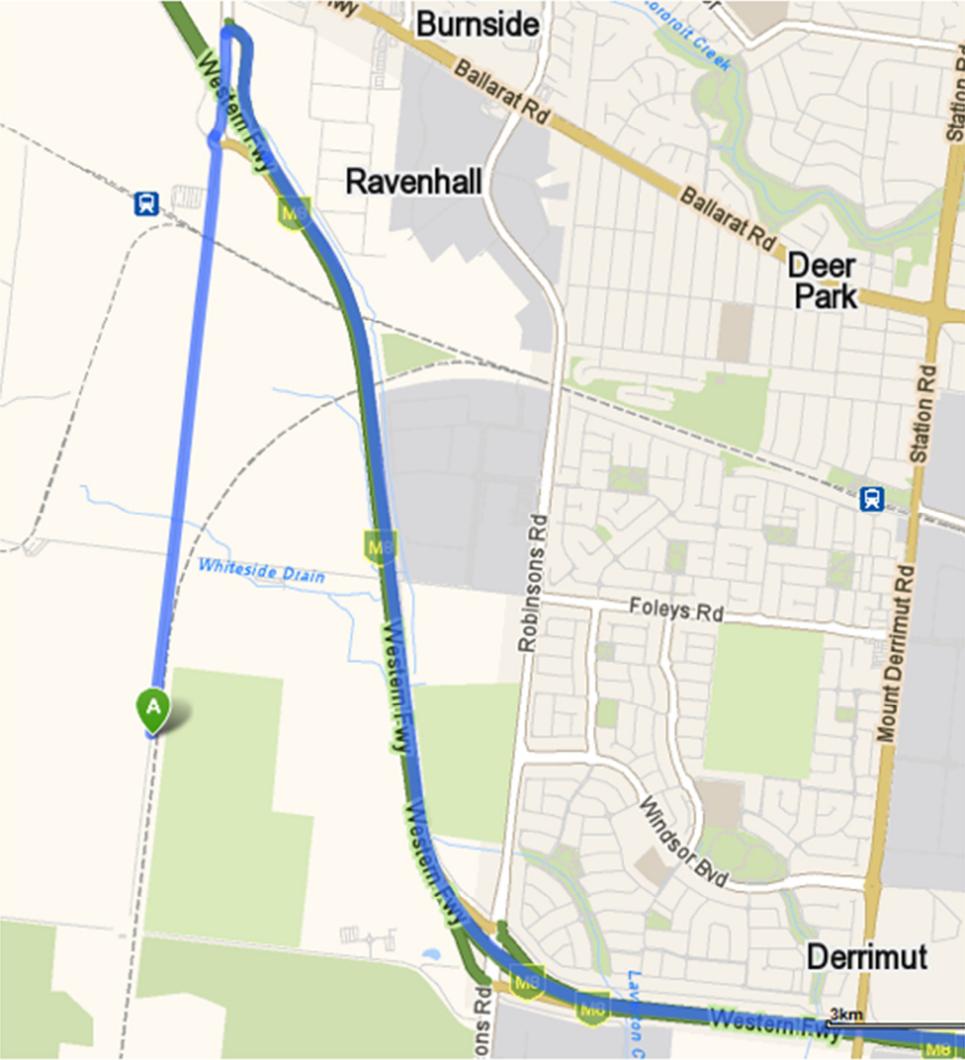
Attachment 2: A-Double Approved Route from MRL to SEMTS, p1/4



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Attachment 2: A-Double Approved Route from MRL to SEMTS, p 2/4



Christies Road to the Western Freeway.
Western Freeway on to the Western Ring Road

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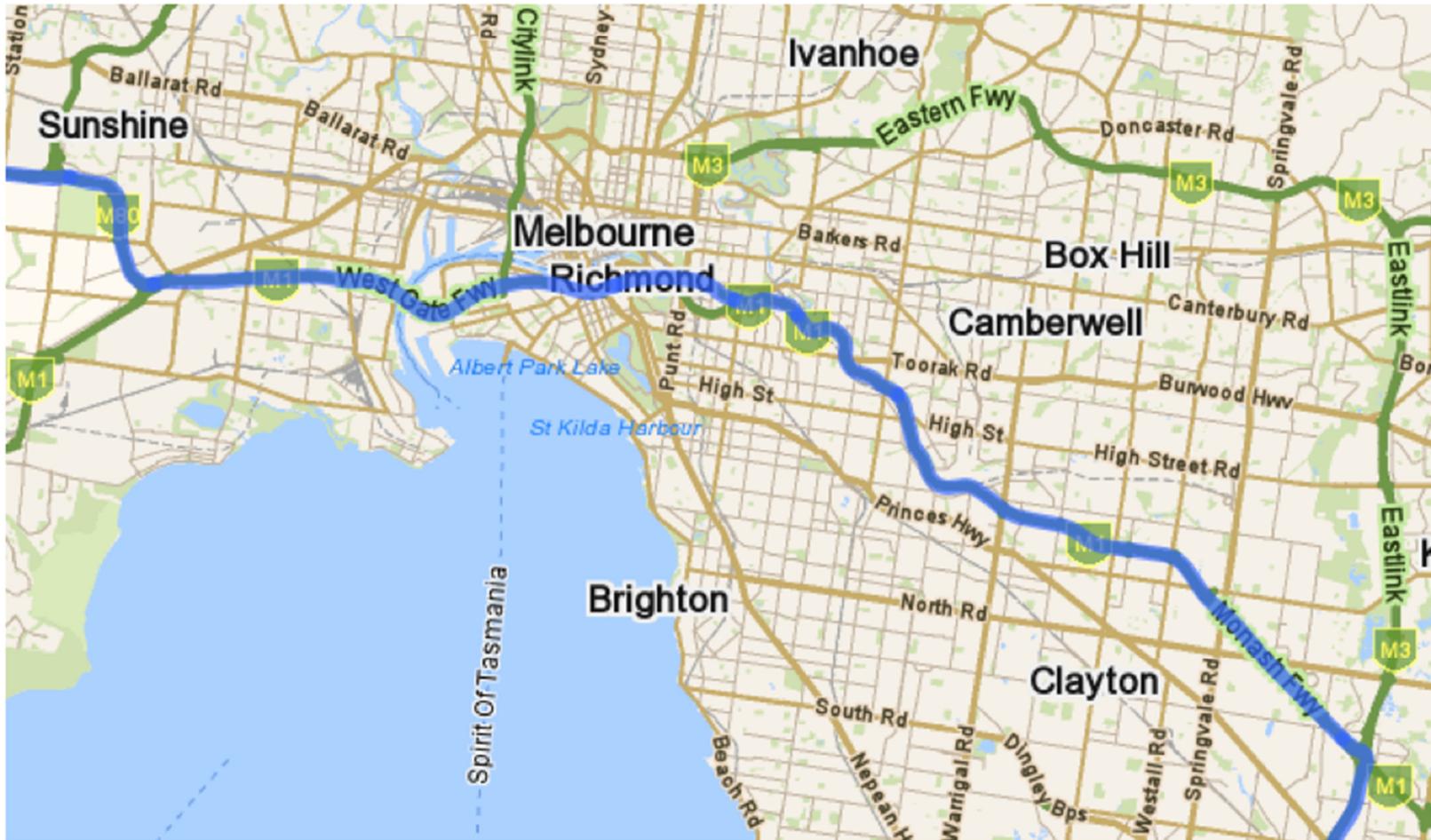


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Attachment 2: A-Double Approved Route from MRL to SEMTS, p 3/4

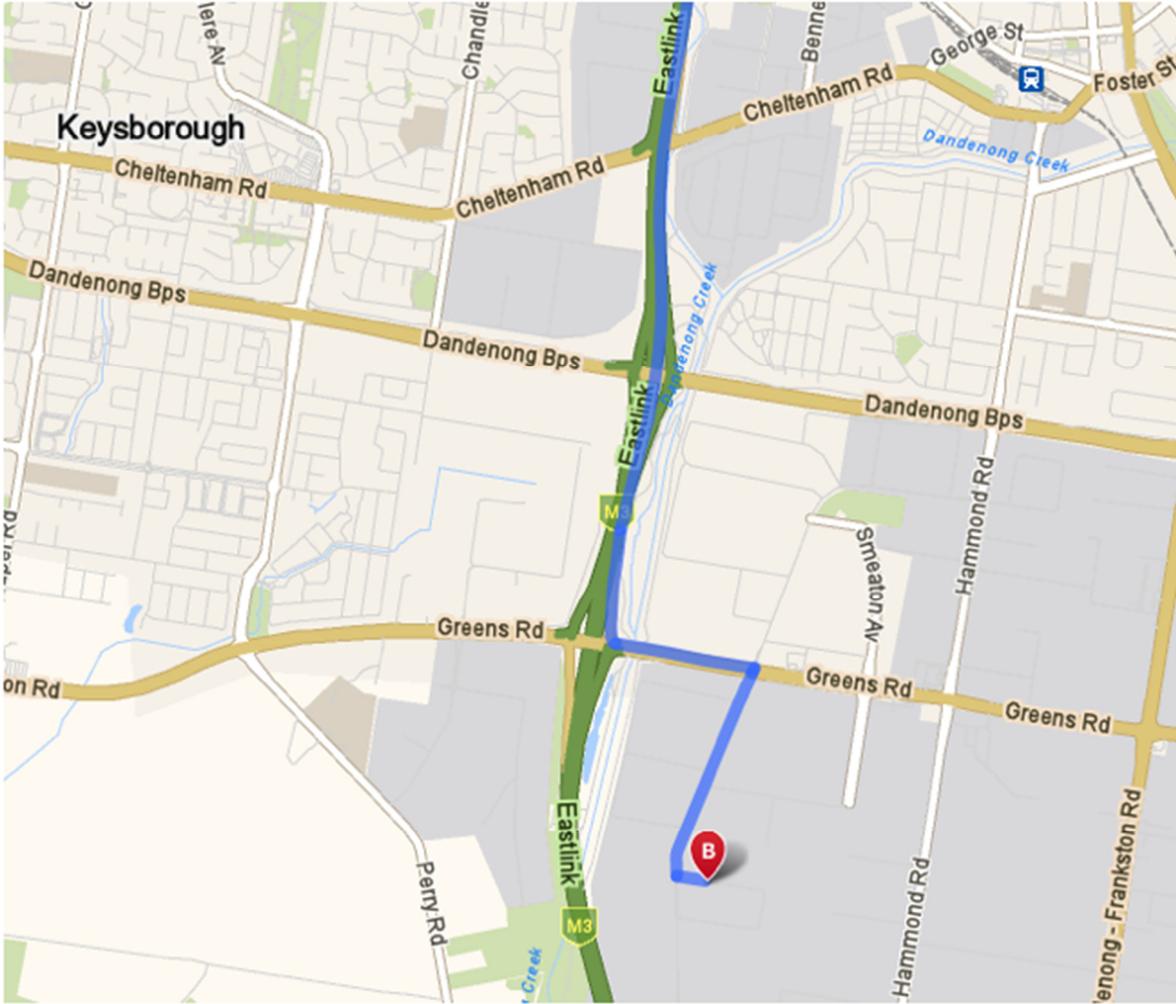
Western Ring Road on to the Westgate Freeway | Westgate Freeway onto the Monash Freeway | Monash Freeway on to Eastlink



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Attachment 2: A-Double Approved Route from MRL to SEMTS, p 4/4



Eastlink on to Greens Road
Greens Road on the Ordish Road