

FINAL Meeting minutes



Meeting 2 - MRL CRG 2018	
Wednesday, 30 May 2018	6:15 for 6.30pm – 8.30pm Community Information Centre, Melbourne Regional Landfill, Christies Road, Ravenhall
Meeting called by	Cleanaway
Type of meeting	Melbourne Regional Landfill Community Reference Group meeting
Facilitator	Susan McNair, Currie Communications
Notetaker/Timekeeper	Gillian Doig
Please read	Previous meeting minutes
Invitees	
Community	Marion Martin, Sharon Lee, Mia Marevic
Local Government	Cr Bob Turner - Melton City Council Cr Bruce Lancashire – Brimbank City Council
EPA	Alistair Nairn, Advisor - Community and Environmental Partners
Cleanaway	Ken Gann – Regional Manager Meldina Klehic – Project Manager Nick Stuhleiner – Landfill Operations Manager Lachlan James – Technical Supervisor Olga Ghiri – Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager
Guest	Caroline Duffield, Huong Truong Greens MLC rep
Apologies	Community members David Anderson, Monika Thomas Dept of Justice and Regulation – Melissa Westin, GM Metropolitan Remand Centre EPA Maurice Guibiani, Environmental Protection Officer; Steven Pugh, Acting Manager Metro Region Bob Baggio – Manager Planning Services, Melton City Council, Cr Goran Kesic – Melton City Council,
Non-attendance	Frank Alexopolous, community members
About these minutes These minutes/supporting information are in line with the agreed Terms of Reference. Any concerns/queries about papers supporting the MRL CRG should be raised with the Chair/Facilitator, Susan McNair by emailing susan@curriecommunications.com.au	

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Meeting opened: 6.30pm

1. CRG Governance

a. Guests

The group welcomed Caroline Duffield from the office of Huong Truong, Greens MLC, attending at the invitation of community member Marion Martin. Introductions were completed.

b. Terms of reference

The facilitator reiterated the purpose of the meeting as being about information sharing and reminded participants of their obligations under the Terms of Reference to share all information provided with their networks and communities.

c. Outstanding actions to be addressed

ACTION ITEMS – 28 February 2018 meeting				
Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
180228_1	A.Nairn to provide notes from 3AW interviews.	A.Nairn	30 May	Complete: Provided as Appendix A
180228_2	Cleanaway to confirm the names of the three new councils that have been diverted to this site from Wyndham.	Cleanaway	30 May	Complete: Maribyrnong Hobsons Bay Yarra
180228_3	L.James to email copy of groundwater testing results to Chair for distribution.	L.James	30 May	Complete: Provided as Appendix B
180228_4	L.James to present findings and recommendations from groundwater testing at next meeting.	L.James	30 May	Covered in L.James' environmental update below.
180228_5	Chair to arrange with O.Ghiri and S.Pugh a process for the timely notification of when PANs are issued/lifted	Chair O.Ghiri S.Pugh	30 May	Cleanaway to provide updates through the MRLCRG meetings EPA publishes PANs on EPA website but Alistair Nairn reiterated it was not practical to provide these in single list. Where possible the group will be informed by email outside of meeting schedule.
180228_6	Community members to forward any specific odour management questions to EPA's landfill expert, via A.Nairn	Community members	30 May	None received as of 30 May.
180228_7	Cleanaway to present plan and designs for extending the landfill gas collection system at the next CRG meeting.	Cleanaway	30 May	Covered in Lachlan James' environmental update below.

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Matter to note: Cr Lancashire raised concerns about an omission in the Minutes from the 28 February meeting, regarding a legal objection that was underway trying to prevent Brimbank Council from appearing at VCAT to oppose the EPA's Works Approval application granted to Cleanaway as part of the Planning Application process. The matter to be heard at VCAT end of July 2018.

Olga Ghiri advised Cr Lancashire that the objection he is referring to was put forward by Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group, not Cleanaway, and therefore it's not a matter for the Group to address.

The facilitator reminded the group to review the draft minutes and raise concerns or issues to be clarified within the timelines outlined in all minutes.

2. Site operations

N.Stuhler reported that operationally there had been few changes within the landfill since the February MRLCRG meeting. Things to note included:

- Cleanaway is continuing to focus on best practice operations installing additional horizontal gas wells, to complement the existing vertical wells, within the past three months. These wells come under Cleanaway's annual gas filling licence.
- Litter nets have been moved closer to the tip face providing improved ability to use quickly.
- Cleanaway's licence has been amended to include acceptance of potential acid sulphate soils (PAS). This was expanded upon as part of L.James' presentation to the group later in the meeting, see below.

3. Environmental compliance

a. Cleanaway update

L.James gave a presentation (provided as Appendix B) that covered:

Hydrogeological Assessment

The assessment was completed by independent consultancy Kleinfelder and has been provided to the EPA. The assessment showed the landfill is not impacting on offsite groundwater beneficial uses and hence complies with best practice environmental management (BPEM) and the site licence.

However, leachate management is required to reduce leachate levels down to compliance level. A PAN has been issued which requires additional leachate management be undertaken to reduce leachate levels by October 2018.

A number of leachate sumps have kinked shut as the waste mass settles and now require re-drilling in order to achieve leachate level compliance. This needs to be done without puncturing the liner, and the current assessment, as identified in the PAN, is that drilling must come within 1metre of liner.

Because this is a highly technical process and it is necessary to ensure there is no risk to the liner, these extraction works have gone out to tender and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

With the removal of leachate and exposure of the well perforations, it is anticipated that landfill gas production will increase marginally.

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L.James reported that the most recent groundwater chemistry results indicate leachate is not impacting on groundwater, and the assessment shows the cells are above the groundwater level at this site. He reiterated that Cleanaway is required to monitor groundwater every six months, and that this is reviewed by an auditor.

ACTION 180530_1: L.James to provide an update on the leachate extraction tender process at next meeting, Wednesday, 5 September 2018.

Gas collection system

L.James presented an update on the gas collection system and provided a map showing vertical and horizontal gas wells across the landfill. He reported that Cleanaway is in the process of reinstating gas wells that had shut, as well as installing 5-6 additional horizontal gas extraction wells. These are installed every third 'lift' (approximately every nine meters).

In response to a question from S.Lee, L.James confirmed that the EPA had issued a PAN (4/10/2016) requiring additional gas extraction which was one reason for Cleanaway's investment in this additional gas extraction infrastructure. This PAN concerned the cell along Boundary Road and was discussed at length in the February 2018 meeting with EPA landfill expert Nick Simmonds (refer MRLCRG 28 February 2018 meeting minutes).

The PAN has now been revoked follow assessment that Cleanaway was actioning best practice extraction in that cell - the levels are at 'trigger levels' only and present no risk. S.Lee and M.Marevic noted that Stop the Tip members were not satisfied with the PAN being revoked given the meter levels continued to exceed those permitted.

L.James reported that Cleanaway's initial finger-print analysis on the gas was not pursued by EPA. Rather Cleanaway was required to do everything possible to control the gas at that site, and Cleanaway is beyond best practice gas management on the site. Cleanaway has committed to on-going monthly monitoring in accordance with EPA requirements, as well as additional work detailed in a Gasclam to manage methane.

Biogas powerplant

L.James reported that biogas flaring is reduced and since taking operation of the site, increasing volumes of gas is being captured and is now going into power plant.

Cell 4A

L.James provided a photograph of the construction that has begun in cell 4A, with the subgrade down and a compacted clay liner to go in shortly. Cleanaway is aiming for next year completion.

Potential acid sulphate soils (PASS)

L.James updated the group on changes to the Cleanaway licence that allow the site to accept PASS. He referred all to the EPA website for further information about PASS and explained that PASS are naturally occurring. Cleanaway has been approached about taking soil from the various infrastructure projects underway across Melbourne, which may include PASS. None had been received at the time of the meeting.

The amendment to the licence will allow PASS to be put into the landfill cell, within the category C licence Cleanaway already holds. N.Stuhleiner outlined a number of other sites that take PASS, including Clayton.

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L.James reported that soil movement is tightly monitored by the EPA which takes a hyper-conservative approach. Any soil that comes on to site requires soil disposal classification and can only be transported in EPA licenced vehicles which will be tarped.

Community members expressed concern that the soil might be toxic, and possibly very corrosive. There was also concern it would be highly concentrated.

L.James reiterated the soil is acidic and occurs naturally. He said it will not negatively impact the landfill. M.Klehic explained that PASS can not impact on the liner, and N.Stuhler confirmed that all of Stage 2 is lined in accordance with the BPEM, with PASS is only licensed to go into the current liner.

ACTION 180530_2 – The report from L.James is to be distributed with minutes. (See Appendix C)

ACTION 180530_3: L.James to provide more detail on the federal and international context for soil movement at next meeting, Wednesday, 5 September 2018.

Tarpomatic daily cover

The trial of the tarpomatic cover has been extended for another 12 months. It is used in certain weather conditions and this is the second extension.

b. EPA update

A.Nairn indicated calls to the hotline or via the website received were: February – 17, March – 9 , April – 16, and May – 8 (to date).

ACTION 180530_4: A.Nairn will provide a final report from the Metro region by end of month for the minutes.

UPDATE: A.Nairn confirmed the final figures are as reported: February -17; March – 9; April – 16; May – 8

The metro team had been inspecting landfill regularly and provided a report to A.Nairn for sharing with the group. Compliance was going well, and monthly monitoring of perimeter gas wells is ongoing.

Cleanaway has a new weather station which is going through the system to support report verification. The site is operating 24 hours a day, 6 days, closing Saturday afternoons. Cleanaway are sending monthly updates on reports and investigations.

S.Lee questioned where the odour report was at, with A.Nairn reporting there is a threshold for the number of complaints which hasn't been tripped. However, he reported the EPA are visiting regularly, and the cluster of complaints that were recorded in February were unverified.

O.Ghiri reiterated her request that the community members also call Cleanaway so they can investigate immediately.

The community members expressed frustration at EPA's response to complaints lodged out-of-work-hours, saying that was when people were home and would be impacted by odour. They also seek more transparency around the 'trigger' point for action being taken by EPA.

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A.Nairn reiterated that the EPA's primary focus is preventative so that best practice and compliance is achieved.

S.Lee asked EPA to take action on the litter from trucks enroute to the landfill between Robinsons Road exit to Christies Road exit. S.Lee was encouraged to share this with Matt Walsh from VicRoads as road hazards are in their jurisdiction.

4. Remediation and rehabilitation

No updates were provided at this meeting.

5. Community engagement/Awareness

O.Ghiri informed the group of plans to launch a \$50,000 community fund in the second half of the year to encourage applications from community groups to implement sustainable initiatives. This will follow on from the Sustainability Education Fund of \$35,500 allocated to schools in the area in early 2017.

ACTION 180530_5: O.Ghiri will provide a more detailed report on this process mid-way through 2018-2019.

6. Other business

Urban forest

Cnr Lancashire raised the idea of an urban forest planting program as the site is rehabilitated.

M.Klehic explained that the root systems of trees typically does not allow for them to be planted on the closed landfill as it negatively impacts the cap. However, there are options for perimeter planting and other green space alternatives which will be explored in due course.

Recycling

S.Lee asked whether the volume of recycled waste had increased since the decision by China not to take Australian waste. N.Stuhlemer reported that the site had not seen any council kerbside recycling trucks as yet. A.Nairn informed the group that the EPA has a waste recycling stockpiling taskforce in place.

Operations

M.Martin questioned whether landfill is still being received from Werribee. N.Stuhlemer indicated that waste from Hobson Bay, Maribynong and Werribee is likely to continue. In response to a question from S.Lee, N.Stuhlemer indicated truck numbers were at around 500 per day and the landfill height was at approximately 48 metres which is within the licence.

In response to M.Marevic's question, L.James indicated there had been some unverified odour complaints from the Tarneit area.

Meeting closed 740pm

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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 2	AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	Complete
MTG 2	AGENDA and papers to be distributed	Complete
MTG 2	Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	Complete
MTG 2	Draft minutes to be provided for comment	13-Jun-18
MTG 2	Draft minute review	04-Jul-18
MTG 2	Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website	11-Jul-18
MTG 3	AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	27-Aug-18
MTG 3	AGENDA and papers to be distributed	29-Aug-18
MTG 3	Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	05-Sep-18
MTG 3	Draft minutes to be provided for comment	19-Sep-18
MTG 3	Draft minute review	10-Oct-18
MTG 3	Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website	17-Oct-18

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APPENDIX A: Radio Interview Summary – 3AW re: Ravenhall Landfill

3AW Interview – 31 August 2017

Interview with Damian Wells, EPA; Mitchell asks what the EPA found at Werribee; Wells says the footage of Werribee is footage of illegal dumping activity; he says people dump waste in areas like along train lines and leave the cost of clean up onto the public; he says the EPA does their best to prosecute illegal dumpers and in the last month the EPA has pursued prosecutions to a total of \$100,000 in fines; Wells says people who dump get fined but they are also ordered to pay the cost of the clean up; he says there are different fines for individuals and companies; he says the State Govt has invested significantly in the EPA and the drone technology is helping the EPA catch the illegal dumpers but he encourages members of the community to report dodgy behaviour they witness; he says the EPA has a few drones they use and there are a number of roles the drones are used for; he says drones can be used for emergency management to keep staff safe; he also says they can use drones for air quality and they are looking at the technology; Wells says there are privacy issues and the EPA has obligations they must adhere to; Wells says the EPA works with Parks Vic to stop illegal dumping in national parks.

- DW mentioned drones use in relation to Daily Cover
- Air monitoring, water monitoring
- Toxic smoke
- Air sampling – 12-13 kg air monitoring kit

3AW Interview – 17 October 2017

Interview with Nial Finegan, Environmental Protection Authority; Finegan says the EPA has been granted new powers because the people of Vic wanted a stronger, powerful and enabled EPA which lead to a govt inquiry and 48 fully funded recommendations; he says one of the things they are doing differently is to move into a preventative space so they act before something becomes an issue; he says the EPA should be meeting the expectations of the community and the new bill does that; he says the new legislation will give the EPA regulatory purpose which is around protecting the environment and human health; Finegan says through the inquiry they have found that the expectation of the community and what the EPA does is not aligned; he mentions Hazelwood mine fire and the changes that came out of that independent inquiry; he says the EPA is also now there to protect human health which is new for the EPA; he says the EPA work very closely with local council and through reforms there is a new suite of officers called Officers for the Protection of Local Environment who will work with local councils on issues like littering and cigarette butts; Finegan says community members are able to report litterers under legislation; he says the EPA has a robust review system around litterers who are reported to try and 'weed out' the malicious reports; Mitchell asks about oBikes; Finegan says he saw an oBike that wasn't locked which makes him wonder whether the bikes have been abandoned on a legal sense and could trigger some legal action; he says throwing bikes in river and in trees etc is unacceptable behaviour but the company oBike has an obligation to have a proper management and processes in place; he says the EPA will be writing to oBike in a more formal sense to try and get a more satisfactory response; Finegan takes calls and answers enquiries from listeners

In relation to call in by Sharon Lee re Landfill:

- Encouraged community reporting
- 1300 number suggested
- “That is why we stationed officers at CFA” (past tense – i.e. an assertion of what was undertaken in the past to address community concern, not a commitment to do this at present.)

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APPENDIX B: (DRAFT) Leachate Sump Analytical Data 2016/2017

APPENDIX C: MRLCRG Cleanaway Update