

FINAL Meeting minutes



Meeting 3 - MRL CRG 2018	
Thursday, 6 September 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
EPA	Alistair Nairn, Advisor - Community and Environmental Partners Sophie Gove, Environment Protection Officer Daniel Hunt, Regional Manager
Cleanaway	Meldina Klehic – Regional Manager Lachlan James – Technical Supervisor Olga Ghiri – Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager
Apologies	Community members David Anderson, Monika Thomas Dept of Justice and Regulation – Melissa Westin, GM Metropolitan Remand Centre Bob Baggio – Manager Planning Services, Melton City Council, Cr Goran Kestic – Melton City Council, Cr Bruce Lancashire – Brimbank 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. Welcome

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. Recruiting members to the CRG

S.Lee highlighted the dwindling number of community members attending the meeting and requested more be recruited. O.Ghiri will provide S.Lee an application form to share with interested members of the community, including Marlene Gorman, a previous applicant who may be interested in re-applying. O.Ghiri stated that new members must agree to the terms of reference. The group agreed on the importance of identifying members who have a genuine interest in waste and landfills, rather than people who may use the position for political purposes. Cleanaway will consider a broader recruitment drive for new members in the new year if this approach is unsuccessful.

ACTION 180906_1: O.Ghiri to provide S.Lee with an application form for new members, and commence a broader call for nominations if required.

2. Site operations

L.James provided an operations update:

- Cell 4A will be ready later in 2018, depending on weather and approvals. The clay liner has been completed, the high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic is in place and the cell is being filled with rock. The design of Cell 4B is complete and the plans are with EPA for approval. Construction may be underway by the end of the year.
- In response to a question from S.Lee, L.James confirmed that the lifespan of cell 4A would be approximately 12 months depending on compaction, and Cleanaway may start filling it before 3B is full, if construction is completed early. Cell 3B is currently the only cell accepting waste.
- Cleanaway is laying mulch for erosion control in Cell 3A and Cell 2I and is laying clean fill to reinstate contours that have sunk as a result of gas and leachate removal.
- N.Stuhlemer no longer works for Cleanaway, and will be replaced by Jack Walker the new Western Operations Manager at the next meeting.
- M.Klehic has been promoted to Regional Manager for Cleanaway.

3. Environmental compliance

a. Cleanaway update

- L.James confirmed Cleanaway is appealing the pollution infringement notice (PIN) that was issued for the working face site.
- There were a number of notifications filed about litter escapes during July and August, including a serious litter escape on 10 August due to high winds. Cleanaway has taken steps to prevent a repeat of this incident, including some actions that have been incorporated into a pollution abatement notice (PAN) and minor works PANs. He said litter picking crews were mobilised immediately and remobilised again after they were forced to stop due to flying debris. EPA was notified and issued a minor works PAN to repair the damaged fences.

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Repairs are being made to the 12m fence and brackets, and to the 6m nets to the south; 12 new 'soccer goal' portable panels will be purchased for the front of compactors; 2km of 6m semi-permanent fences are being erected; and a tender is out for an upgrade of the 12m litter fence on the southern boundary.

- In response to a question from M.Marevic, D.Hunt from EPA confirmed that no comment could be made on whether a fine would be issued as the litter incident was still under investigation. D.Hunt explained that a PAN is a remediation tool rather than a punitive measure. There is no financial penalty associated with a PAN unless Cleanaway fails to comply with it. D.Hunt said that EPA can theoretically issue a sanction (a penalty) too, but couldn't comment any further while the matter is under investigation. EPA will provide an update at the next meeting. The community members expressed their disappointment about the incident.

ACTION 180906_2: EPA to provide an update on the outcome of the investigation into the litter incident on 10 August.

- L.James provided an update on the leachate works being done in connection with the PAN issued earlier in the year. SMEC has been engaged to do an options assessment of the leachate sumps, and sonic drilling has been conducted to unblock the kinks. This has had mixed success and other options are being considered.

ACTION 180906_3: L.James to provide update on the leachate works at next meeting.

- Cleanaway is continuing to monitor landfill gas where there have been BEPM exceedances. The landfill gas masterplan for the life of the landfill will be completed in the next month. A tender for a gas infrastructure upgrade, including the installation of 40 new gas wells for Cell 2L/2M will be issued later in the year and has been budgeted for this financial year.
- The Landfill Environmental Monitoring Plan (LEMP) and the landfill operations risk assessment update is due in mid-October. It will include a litter management plan and response procedure for high wind events. This work is included in the PAN. The site's litter management plan that was already in place is being audited independently.
- There were no verified odour complaints and only one complaint to Cleanaway's hotline and 12 to EPA's hotline in August; four of which were litter-related.
- L.James provided an overview of Category C contaminated soil. He showed a table comparing two sets of guidelines: the 2013 national standard for contaminated soil (20136 NEPC) and groundwater in Australia, and the EPA's IWRG criteria from 2009. Trigger levels are set for different land uses, and landfills are classified as commercial/industrial use. L.James said that the EPA criteria are very conservative compared to the national guidelines. He reviews all soil testing reports before allowing any soil on site to ensure it has been tested correctly and is suitable. Cleanaway doesn't do additional soil testing on site.
- In response to S.Lee's question about acid sulphate soil coming onto site without community consultation, L.James stated that it was done with EPA's knowledge and that the landfill cells are the safest place as the soil is removed from the environment. The EPA instructed them to treat it as waste rather than use it for daily cover. It is usually found in the soil in drained wetlands, and it causes fish kills when it oxidises. The risk is associated with its impacts on waterways, not from breathing in airborne compounds. M.Martin reminded the group that Boral tried to bring contaminated soil in to site in 2000 which 'caused big problems' and she stated that the community did not want contaminated soil entering the landfill. S.Lee stated that the community wanted more information about the risks from acid sulphate soil and Cleanaway agreed to prepare graphics or easy to

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understand information on the topic for sharing publicly. The method for sharing that information would be discussed at the next meeting.

- Currently Cleanaway is accepting acid sulphate soil from the Cross Yarra Partnership. In response to the community members' concern over the potential volume of soil from that project, S.James informed the group that not all of the tunnel soil would end up in the landfill as it would likely be split up among several sites.

ACTION 180906_4: L.James to prepare information on acid sulphate soils for the next meeting, to be suitable for sharing with the community.

b. EPA update

- A.Nairn indicated calls to the hotline or via the website were: June – 31, July – 1, August – 12, of which 7 were odour related.
- S.Gove said EPA is continuing to inspect regularly, with monthly site visits to check licence compliance, litter movement, compaction, size of the tipping face and litter controls. She stated that EPA issued the leachate PAN on 2 March 2018 to bring the levels into compliance with the licence conditions. This is due for compliance in October, and S.Gove referred to the works that were outlined by L.James to address that. In response to S.Lee, L.James confirmed that leachate levels where pumps were functional were around 300ml above the liner. S.Gove explained that the notice requires Cleanaway to take action to bring the levels back into compliance.
- S.Gove outlined EPA's response to the litter incident on 10 August and expressed the EPA's disappointment with the event, particularly after the existing litter problems that EPA had raised with Cleanaway. EPA carried out litter inspections on 10, 11 and 29 August to observe the efficacy of the litter pickers and will inspect again next month. EPA's response to the incident included issuing a minor works PAN on the 11 August and subsequently 2 PANs, one to update the Landfill Environmental Management Plan, which will be auditor-verified, and the other one to complete the fencing and soccer nets work that L.James previously referred to. S.Gove will integrate inspections of the affected paddocks into her regular monthly visits from now on, and would take further action if necessary. M.Martin said the litter had not all been cleaned up.
- S.Lee complained about the increased litter on Christies Road. She has notified Matt Walsh from VicRoads. D.Hunt will also relay community concerns to VicRoads.
- L.James confirmed that litter pickers were still working daily in the affected paddocks.

ACTION 180906_5: D.Hunt to pass on community members' concerns about litter on Christies Road to Matt Walsh from VicRoads.

- S.Gove stated that it was EPA who asked Cleanaway to conduct continuous gas monitoring at GM12 because the methane was above BEPM guideline levels. EPA is now receiving gas reports for all the perimeter bores and will continue to monitor this. In response to a question from S.Lee about the related PAN notice, D.Hunt said the PAN was revoked because the remedy works – the ongoing monitoring system - had been actioned. EPA may request further remedy based on its assessment of the results of the ongoing monitoring. D.Hunt and S.Gove reminded the community that compliant methane levels are a requirement of the licence, irrespective of whether a PAN was still in place. S.Lee was reminded that EPA's reason for lifting the PAN had been addressed by EPA landfill expert, Nick Simmonds, at the meeting on 28 Feb 2018 (minutes of the meeting can be found on [Cleanaway's website - https://www.cleanaway.com.au/community/major-project/melbourne-regional-landfill/](https://www.cleanaway.com.au/community/major-project/melbourne-regional-landfill/)).

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ACTION 180906_6: S.McNair to send S.Lee the record of Nick Simmonds' reason for why EPA lifted the methane PAN (Outlined in the meeting minutes from 28 Feb, available on [Cleanaway's website](#))

L.James stated that the groundwater was improving with the removal of Pinegrove the previous organics operation ceased in Sep 2015. S.Lee requested data on leachate levels and S.James agreed to provide leachate gauging data at the next meeting.

ACTION 180906_7: L.James to provide leachate gauging data at 5 Dec meeting.

4. Remediation and rehabilitation

M.Klehic provided an update on her monitoring of the phyto cap trial, which will continue for another two years. In the other closed areas of the site, part of the cap is currently thicker than the required 0.5m. If the cap trial is successful then it will be applied to the rest of the site.

5. Community engagement/Awareness

As the community fund has not yet been launched, O.Ghiri will provide an update on any applications at the next meeting.

ACTION 180530_8: O.Ghiri will provide an update on Cleanaway's MRL Community Fund at the next meeting on 5 December

6. Other business

Financial assurance

S.Lee referred to a previous session on the topic of the financial assurance sought by the EPA. She expressed concern over EPA's recent inability to bring prosecutions against bankrupt polluters such as the owners of the Stawell illegal tyre site and the SKM Coolaroo site, meaning that taxpayers ended up footing the cleanup costs. D.Hunt explained that the financial assurance only relates to EPA licensed sites, and those sites named were not licensed. The scheduled premises regulations stipulate what kinds of activities require licensing, and those sites are not deemed to require a licence according to those regulations.

Responsibility for rehabilitation

M.Martin asked who has responsibility for rehabilitation and who owns the site (Boral or Cleanaway). She stated that she had been told by other sources that Boral owned the land. L.James confirmed that Cleanaway owns the licence and the airspace, and is responsible for meeting licence requirements, rehabilitation and for paying the financial assurance to the EPA. S.Gove confirmed that the title for each cell transfers to Cleanaway as they are landfilled. And once all cells are filled, the ownership transfers from Boral to Cleanaway.

Development on Christies Road

M.Martin asked about the building development on Christies Road. M.Klehic confirmed it was a precast concrete facility for the Cross Yarra Partnership. It's owned and operated by Boral and L.James urged the community to contact Boral for more information, including about truck movements.

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ACTION 180530_9: L.James to provide community members with contact details for the Cross Yarra Partnership community relations team. Details provided since the meeting: Metro Tunnel Project 24hour Information Hotline – 1800 105 105

Next meeting

S.McNair confirmed with the community members that the next meeting would occur on 29 November as scheduled.

Meeting closed 7.35pm

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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

New actions arising from 6 September 2018

NEW ACTION ITEMS				
Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
ACTION 180906_1	O.Ghiri to provide S.Lee with a new members application form. Marleen Gorman to be invited to join.	O.Ghiri	5 Dec	Complete Complete
ACTION 180906_2	EPA to provide an update on the outcome of the investigation into the litter incident on 10 August.	S.Gove	5 Dec	
ACTION 180906_3	L.James to provide update on the leachate works at next meeting.	L.James	5 Dec	
ACTION 180906_4	L.James to prepare information on acid sulphate soils, to be suitable for sharing with the community.	L.James	5 Dec	
ACTION 180906_5	D.Hunt to pass on community members' concerns about litter on Christies Road to Matt Walsh from VicRoads.	D.Hunt	5 Dec	
ACTION 180906_6	S.McNair to send S.Lee the record of Nick Simmonds' reason for why EPA lifted the methane PAN.	S.McNair	17 Oct	Complete – included in minutes
ACTION 180906_7	L.James to provide leachate gauging data.	L.James	5 Dec	
ACTION 180530_8	O.Ghiri to provide a more detailed report on Cleanaway's MRL Community Fund.	O.Ghiri	5 Dec	
ACTION 180530_9	L.James to provide community members with contact details for the Cross Yarra Partnership community relations team.	L.James	5 Dec	Complete Details provided since the meeting: Metro Tunnel Project 24 hour Information Hotline – 1800 105 105

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Previous actions from 30 May

PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS				
Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
ACTION 180530_1	L.James to provide an update on the leachate extraction tender process.	L.James	6 Sept	Complete
ACTION 180530_2	The report from L.James is to be distributed with minutes. (See Appendix C).	L.James	6 Sept	Complete
ACTION 180530_3	L.James to provide more detail on the federal and international context for soil movement.	L.James	6 Sept	Complete
ACTION 180530_4	A.Nairn will provide a final report from the Metro region by end of month for the minutes.	A.Nairn	For the minutes	Complete

Meeting schedule:

MTG 3	AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	Complete
MTG 3	AGENDA and papers to be distributed	Complete
MTG 3	Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	Complete
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
MTG 4	AGENDA items to be proposed to Chair	20-Nov-18
MTG 4	AGENDA and papers to be distributed	22-Nov-18
MTG 4	Meeting 6:15pm for 6:30 PM start - 8:30 PM	29-Nov-18
MTG 4	Draft minutes to be provided for comment	13-Dec-18
MTG 4	Draft minute review	17-Jan-18
MTG 4	Finalised minutes to be distributed and posted on Cleanaway website	24-Jan-18