

FINAL meeting minutes



Meeting 1 - MRL CRG 2018		
Wed 28 February, 2018	Meeting 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, Currie Communications	
PLEASE READ	Previous meeting minutes and action table as distributed, and made publicly available: http://www.cleanaway.com.au/community/major-project/melbourne-regional-landfill/	
Attendees	Community Monika Thomas, Marion Martin, Mia Marevic	
Local Government	Cr Bruce Lancashire (Brimbank City Council)	
EPA	Alistair Nairn, Advisor – Community and Environmental Partners Steven Pugh, Acting Manager Metro Region Nick Simmonds, EPA Principal Expert Landfill	
Cleanaway	Nick Stuhlemer – Landfill Operations Manager, Lachlan James – Environmental Business Partner	
Apologies	Bob Baggio – Manager Planning Services (Melton City Council), Cr Bob Turner (Melton City Council), Cr Goran Kesic (Melton City Council) Melissa Westin – General Manager Metropolitan Remand Centre Sharon Lee, Community Member Frank Alexopolous, Community Member David Anderson, Community Member Olga Ghiri - Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, Cleanaway Maurice Gubiani – Environmental Protection Officer	
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	

Meeting opened: 6.30pm

Agenda item 1: CRG Governance

a) Special guests

The group welcomed special guest Nick Simmonds, EPA's Landfill Expert.

b) Outstanding actions to be addressed

Progress against all previous actions was reported against as detailed in the action table, and additional discussion recorded below.

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In response to action 171129_5, A.Nairn confirmed that EPA reporting includes both online and phone complaints.

A.Nairn also provided a verbal report on action 171129_7 relating to two 3AW radio interviews. The 31 August 2017 interview with EPA's Damien Wells related to EPA's drone capability. Mr Wells said the larger drones had the potential to carry 12-13kgs of air monitoring kit, but A.Nairn said he did not mention odour nor state that drones would be used to monitor odour, as S.Lee implied. EPA's research on this topic confirms that the human nose is far better than any device for monitoring odour, and therefore those devices would not be suitable for monitoring odour from a landfill.

On 17 October 2017, EPA's CEO said in an interview that the EPA had stationed officers at CFA locations the previous year. He was talking in past tense and it wasn't a statement of intent.

NEW ACTION 180228_1: A.Nairn to provide notes from 3AW interviews.

S.Pugh provided an update on Action 171129_11 about the years left on license, remaining cells and approval process for new cell:

Years left on licence: There is no end date on this licence. Landfill licences typically do not have a sunset clause/end date.

Approval process: The approval process for new cells is outlined in the licence and is freely available. In summary, the operator must notify EPA of intent to construct new cell and provide design details along with an auditor's assessment. The EPA appoints an auditor under the Act to verify cell construction. Following construction, the licence is amended to reflect the new cell, and only then can filling commence.

Remaining cell capacity: S.Pugh thought the 7-10 year figure mentioned at the last meeting was reasonable. He acknowledged there are variables that would affect this, such as types of waste received, operation of other landfills, and market actions, but thinks this is a reasonable estimate. He confirmed that areas of the site are marked out for potential filling, subject to assessment, but specific cells are not identified.

M.Marevic asked whether the China recycled waste ban would result in the landfill filling up more quickly. N.Stuhlemer confirmed that alternative options to landfilling of recyclables are being sought by the government and industry, and Cleanaway are not currently taking recyclables. It would be a last resort and capacity would be reduced if that eventuated. M.Marevic asked where the recyclables are being stockpiled. Cr.Lancashire responded by saying that the majority of councils are still collecting recyclables, and Metropolitan Waste Resource Recovery Group, councils and government are urgently working together on a solution. It is government's view that the option for recyclables to end up in landfill would be very damaging to the public recycling effort and something to be avoided.

M.Martin questioned how the 7-10 year timeframe could be a valid prediction given that Boral made the same estimate four years ago. N.Stuhlemer explained that better compaction methods, and Cleanaway's removal of Boral's quarry stockpiles within the footprint to use for capping has added to the life.

M.Martin enquired whether Cleanaway would consider waste to energy. N.Stuhlemer responded by saying Cleanaway is looking into it but there are no firm plans. This site would be suitable but would be at least 5+ years before it could be operational and this would depend on proving technology and securing commercial backing.

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The Chair sought the group's opinion on inviting a government representative to discuss the implications of the China waste ban, but N.Stuhleiner, A.Nairn and Cr.Lancashire confirmed that the government is still working through the problem and decision and is therefore not the right time.

Agenda item 2: Site Operations

Please note that this agenda item was provided after 'Agenda item 3: Environmental compliance update' but has been recorded in this section of the minutes, as per the agenda format.

a. Litter

N.Stuhleiner advised that Cleanaway has responded to S.Lee's email complaint about litter at the Deerpark Bypass exit. M.Martin referred to the recent garbage truck fire in a park in Caroline Springs. N.Stuhleiner confirmed that it was a JJ Richards truck that ejected its 'hot load', and this is standard practice in the event of a fire.

b. Truck movements

N.Stuhleiner advised that there has been no net gain in truck movements. Around 50 trucks are diverting to Cleanaway's reopened Victory Road landfill in Clayton, but Cleanaway has gained 50 trucks from the addition of three new councils. This is due to an issue with airspace in Wyndham Council's landfill. Geelong's Drysdale landfill is filling up and has indicated that it may need to do the same.

NEW ACTION 180228_2: Cleanaway to confirm the names of the three new councils that have been diverted to this site from Wyndham.

Agenda item 3: Environmental compliance

a) Cleanaway update

i. Groundwater testing results - Coolaroo Waste

L.James provided an update on previous action 171129_2 relating to the potential impact on groundwater of Coolaroo waste accepted in September. He stated it is too soon to know if there is any impact, but provided the group with pre- and post-Coolaroo testing data as requested. L.James said that the December hydrogeological assessment (HA) completed as per the licence condition revealed that the site is not affecting offsite groundwater, but that several recommendations from the HA would be implemented. Hard copy results were distributed.

NEW ACTION 180228_3: L.James to email copy of groundwater testing results to Chair for distribution.

NEW ACTION 180228_4: L.James to present findings and recommendations from groundwater testing at next meeting.

N.Simmonds added that EPA understands that landfills are dynamic and therefore long-term data trends and a holistic approach to hydro assessments are preferred over short-term snapshots. EPA conducts periodic reviews of groundwater every 5 years to determine the effectiveness of Cleanaway's leachate management processes.

M.Marevic queried apparent gaps in the leachate sump data provided by L.James, and asked why some lines didn't appear to have been tested. L.James explained that over time they stop testing for contaminants that are routinely absent or not deemed to be a risk. When asked about the chance of missing something important, N.Simmonds explained that this approach is in line with standard practice, and the process is

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independently audited by EPA-accredited auditors. He added that sometimes auditors will add or remove chemicals to be tested as the system is dynamic and the testing should reflect that.

ii. Landfill gas and leachate PANs

L.James informed the group that the landfill gas PAN had been revoked with conditions. The existing leachate PAN was also revoked and a new PAN was issued to cover recommendations of the HA. Cleanaway has provided comments on the draft.

i. Complaints

L.James confirmed four complaints had been received since the last meeting – three were investigated and the source of the odour could not be determined. He was not notified of the fourth complaint. He apologised to the group for Cleanaway call centre's failure to pass on the complaint. This was due to the wrong distribution list being used. M.Martin expressed her disappointment and anger and L.James assured her that steps had been taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

a) EPA update

i. Landfill gas and leachate PANs

N.Simmonds explained that his role as EPA's 'principal expert landfill' is to provide technical and scientific advice to EPA units. He examined the data from the perimeter monitoring bores and the extraction system to determine whether they were operating optimally. Cleanaway made some modifications at his request – installation of 4 new permanent gas wells and 7 leachate pumps – resulting in a dramatic reduction in methane from the main bore LFG12. He was satisfied that the notice could be removed even though the issue wasn't completely fixed, and will keep monitoring it. He reminded the group that landfills are dynamic and not airtight, so responding to gas escapes are a routine part of landfill management. He evaluates an operator's performance according to whether they are being responsive to issues and taking all practicable measures to solve them.

In response to M.Marevic's question about methane requirements in the permit, L.Simmonds said that levels below 1% are required in the licence. While the level doesn't yet meet that requirement, he removed the PAN because Cleanaway proved they had met the regulatory test of taking 'all practicable measures' to meet that 1% standard. Their interventions have reduced methane from 80% to 12%. This demonstrates that they are being responsive and he has no issues with how they are operating their gas extraction system.

N.Simmonds explained that EPA issued the most recent leachate notice because the levels were higher than the licence conditions and the leachate structure needed to be replaced. L.James added that waste movement and settlement had crushed several leachate sumps. When the original leachate PAN was issued over 12 months ago, only 2 out of 24 sumps were compliant. But Cleanaway completed repairs leading to 50% of sumps becoming compliant during that time. This work is ongoing and there are still some redrills to do, but currently only a handful of sumps remain non-compliant.

The Chair asked what had happened to the original notice. N.Simmonds explained that it was worded to require Cleanaway to achieve compliance. But the damage meant this was not possible and so a new notice was issued that specified the need to replace the infrastructure and redrill the sumps. It has been issued in draft and Cleanaway has commented on the draft.

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N.Simmonds assured the group that even though leachate levels are non-compliant, leachate is not polluting the groundwater and is not at the level required to compromise the gas extraction system.

Community concerns about links to illness was raised by M.Martin, and M.Marevic informed the group that groundwater contamination is a potential risk to local residents who use borewater for their stock. N.Simmonds reminded the group that the audit results are publicly available.

M.Martin had not been advised of the lifting of the PAN, despite EPA's CEO committing to doing so. The EPA agreed to provide more timely updates via the group.

NEW ACTION 180228_5: Chair to arrange with O.Ghiri and S.Pugh a process for the timely notification of when PANs are issued/lifted

N.Simmonds offered to answer any other specific questions about odour management. The community had no further questions.

NEW ACTION 180228_6: Community members to forward any specific odour management questions to EPA's landfill expert, via A.Nairn.

Agenda item 4: Remediation and rehabilitation

N.Stuhleiner informed the group of Cleanaway's plans to hydroseed cell 2L prior to capping. M.Martin stated that the tip appears to be growing in height, but N.Stuhleiner advised that a recent survey of 4-year old capped cells showed that some had dropped up to 1.8m. N.Simmonds explained that these changes are mainly caused by settlement and from the effects of gas extraction.

NEW ACTION 180228_7: Cleanaway to present plan and designs for extending the landfill gas collection system at the next CRG meeting.

Agenda item 5: Community engagement/awareness

There were no updates on community engagement in O.Ghiri's absence.

Agenda item 6: Other business:

N.Simmonds offered to attend other meetings on request, depending on availability. M.Martin will ask her committee if they have any questions for N.Simmonds.

Meeting officially closed – 7.50pm

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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

Meeting 1: 28 February 2018	
Agenda items confirmed (7 days prior)	21.2.18
Agenda and papers distributed (5 days prior)	23.2.18
DRAFT minutes distributed for review (within two weeks)	14.3.18
FEEDBACK provided within 21 days	3.4.18
MINUTES finalised and distributed to members and website	9.4.18

Meeting 2: 30 May 2018	
Agenda items confirmed (7 days prior)	23.5.18
Agenda and papers distributed (5 days prior)	25.5.18
DRAFT minutes distributed for review (within two weeks)	13.6.18
FEEDBACK provided within 21 days	20.6.18
MINUTES finalised and distributed to members and website	27.6.18

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ACTION ITEMS				
Reference	Action	Respondent/s	Due	Status/comment
180228_1	A.Nairn to provide notes from 3AW interviews.	A.Nairn	Next meeting	
180228_2	Cleanaway to confirm the names of the three new councils that have been diverted to this site from Wyndham.	Cleanaway	Next meeting	Maribyrnong Hobsons Bay Yarra
180228_3	L.James to email copy of groundwater testing results to Chair for distribution.	L.James	Next meeting	
180228_4	L.James to present findings and recommendations from groundwater testing at next meeting.	L.James	Next meeting	
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	Next meeting	
180228_6	Community members to forward any specific odour management questions to EPA's landfill expert, via A.Nairn	Community members	Next meeting	
180228_7	Cleanaway to present plan and designs for extending the landfill gas collection system at the next CRG meeting.	Cleanaway	Next meeting	