

**West's Road RDF & Waste Management
Community Reference Group
36th Meeting
Accepted Notes
20th June 2019
Council Chamber**

Present:

Bruce Turner	- Independent Chair
Cr Peter Maynard	- Councillor (Iramoo Ward), Wyndham City Council
Cr Walter Villagonzalo	- Councillor (Chaffey Ward), Wyndham City Council
Karen Hucker	- Community representative
Caroline Lavoie	- Community representative
Lisa Field	- Resident group representative
Michelle Lee	- Metropolitan Waste and resource Recovery Group representative
Stephen Thorpe	- Director City Operations, Wyndham City Council (left after VPA Structure Plan update)
Tom Wetherill	- Acting Manager, Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council
Lorraine Wilborg	- Business Operations Officer, Wyndham City Council (Minutes)

Apologies/ absent:

Cr Tony Hooper	- Councillor (Harrison Ward), Wyndham City Council
Julian Menegazzo	- Adjacent Landowner representative
Mason Asadi	- Environmental group representative
Paul Von Harder	- Community representative
Karthik Viswanathan	- Community representative
Lindsay Swinden	- Community representative
Kimberly Pellosis	- Community representative
Simon Clay	- Manager Waste Management & Disposal, Wyndham City Council
Liza McColl	- Business Analyst Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council
Hayley Jarvis	- Team Leader Waste Strategy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted several apologies.

As Cr Peter Maynard and Cr Walter Villagonzalo were in attendance a declaration of conflicts was required and duly completed.

2. Notes and actions from the previous meeting

The notes from the 35th meeting, circulated prior to the meeting, were confirmed as a reasonable record of the previous meeting and will be published on the Council's website.

An 'action tracker' document with the status of outstanding actions from previous meetings was handed out. Bruce ran through outstanding actions (please refer to the Action Tracker at the end of these minutes) .

3. Members' Report

3.1 Clean Our Streets 3029 Group

Karen reported that the group is looking for sites in Tarneit for litter and rubbish collection focus. Tarneit Community Learning Centre is being redeveloped and Karen has spoken to the developer, Alchemy, who is willing to do a regular clean up of a carpark adjacent to the redevelopment. She suggested this could be a good case study of collaboration between community and developers. Stephen was keen on pursuing this idea and asked Karen to provide more information, to assist with Council's law enforcement on building sites.

Action M36-3.1: Karen to provide details of the case study of responsible building site management in Tarneit (Alchemy) to assist with Council's law enforcement on building sites.

3.2 Container Deposit Scheme

Lisa suggested it would be helpful to have a letter of support from Council for a container deposit scheme. Stephen advised Council is advocating for such a scheme and had put in a submission to a review by Sustainability Victoria which includes this. Stephen said he would ask Darren Ray to circulate Council's submission to the CRG. He also suggested the possibility of a submission coming from members of the public in support of Council's submission.

There was discussion of the need to separate paper and glass. Paper separation is better because there is more money in it.

Action M36-3.2: Darren Ray to be asked to circulate (or provide for circulation) a copy of Council's submission to SV's review relating to a container deposit scheme.

Action M36-3.3: Lisa to consider coordinating a community submission in support of Council's submission.

3.3 Waste from Council plantings

Caroline advised that plastic containers (tubes) from recent mass tree plantings have been left sitting on stakes and from there are getting into the creek along the Cottrell Ford at Heaths Road. These have been there for quite some time.

Cr Maynard advised that there are piles of wooden tree stakes along Federation Trail that also need collecting.

Stephen undertook to alert the Manager Open Space to these issues so that the tubes and stakes could be removed.

Action M36-3.4: Stephen to alert Manager Open Space to clean-ups required around Council plantings.

4. Strategic waste management and resource recovery

4.1 Market Research Project

Stephen Thorpe reported on the findings of the recent market research project undertaken by Council. These findings are yet to be presented to Council:

- 63 per cent of City of Wyndham residents rate investing in sustainable waste management a high priority (Victoria: 52 per cent).
- Fewer rate finding ways of 'extending the life of the landfill' as a priority.
- 61 percent of City of Wyndham residents believe the problem is too big for Council to solve alone; it needs a Statewide solution.
- 69 per cent of Victorians worry that their recycling will end up in landfill if not properly sorted.
- 58 per cent of Victorians would sort and recycle more if they knew there was increased sorting and recycling of household waste.
- 93 per cent of City of Wyndham residents believe that investing in recycling and re-use facilities will create jobs and support new industries.
- There is majority support for the initiatives that underpin all three goals in the short-term RDF Strategic Plan:
 - Goal 1: Rebuilding the RDF as a business – Wyndham 70 per cent, Victoria 62 per cent
 - Goal 2: Moving to materials recovery – Wyndham 64 per cent, Victoria 65 per cent
 - Goal 3: Moving to energy recovery – Wyndham 55 per cent, Victoria 57 per cent
- Compacting waste and wrapping in plastic is viewed **extremely unfavourably** (88 per cent negative).
- The Environment Protection Authority, Sustainability Victoria and the City of Wyndham are trusted voices, but there is a leadership vacuum.
- 72 per cent of Wyndham residents and 51 percent of Victorians are willing to pay a little bit more for waste management, **as long as Council can prove it has a direct benefit.**
- 75 per cent are willing to pay \$20 more a quarter.
- 33 percent are willing to pay an extra \$100 a quarter.

Residents are against 'baling' when the waste is wrapped in plastic (likely due to lack of understanding of the benefits) but there is support for better landfill practice.

Council needs to work with the community to improve the way we collect data. The 'asks' for other levels of government, based on the market research and subject to Council approval, are likely to include:

1. Investment in technology in waste collection to understand frequency of collection and weight of collections to inform service delivery and behaviour change programs in Wyndham.
2. Investment directly in resource recovery and improved landfilling at the Wyndham RDF.
3. Exempt councils joining Wyndham in resource recovery and better landfilling from the procurement requirements of the Local Government Act.

Stephen will ask Darren Ray to attend a future meeting of the CRG and present more details on the findings (once Council has been briefed).

Lisa noted that the monitoring of bins went beyond was the CRG discussed at the RDF strategic planning workshop (last meeting). She confirmed that this would require new bins and asked if the new bins would be made from recycled plastic. Stephen advised that bins already are made of recycled plastic and any new ones should be also.

Cr Maynard advised that when the new waste collection contracts start up, new bins with the new monitoring technology will be issued progressively to residents.

Stephen advised that, possibly in the future, residents may be able to dial in to ask for a bin collection, rather than have a regular day for collections if that works better for them.

Issues with bin monitoring were discussed, including the possibility of having transparent bins. It was noted this could raise a privacy issue if residents' rubbish was visible to everyone.

Stephen Thorpe left the meeting

4.2 MWRRG Update

MRL Landfill Works Approval update

Michelle reported that VCAT had handed down its decision on the review of the MRL Landfill Works Approval on Monday 17 June 2019. VCAT has decided the works approval should issue with amendments.

A summary of key points from VCAT's decision follows:

- This works approval for an extension to the MRL is very important strategically and is strongly supported under the SWRRIP and the MWRRIP (State and Metro Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plans), which are key elements of the Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Planning Framework. The MRL is identified in the SWRRIP and MWRRIP as a landfill of state and regional importance with capacity to operate to least 2046 and beyond. Its construction and the scale of its capacity are vital to the ability to manage waste for metropolitan Melbourne in the immediately foreseeable future.
- Overall, VCAT find that the proposal is consistent with all relevant aspects of the strategic policies governing landfills in Victoria. There is no strategic justification to reduce its scale or time frame.
- The works proposed are significant, and the issues raised by the parties are numerous and extremely complex. As we have considered each issue, we have set out our findings in the context of impact on the interests of the applicants and compliance with policy.

Having regard to our findings about the nature and scope of the Tribunal's jurisdiction, and the principle of integrated decision-making, we have concluded that a works approval should be issued, but on amended and additional conditions on tip face size and operating hours. [The decision summary is available at: [Melton CC v Landfill Operations Pty Ltd \(Red Dot\) \[2019\] VCAT 882 \(17 June 2019\)](#)]

Michelle explained that the conditions halved the exposed tip face overnight (10pm to 7am) to improve odour impacts.

Advanced Waste Processing

Michelle reported that the SE Councils have begun a shared procurement for advanced waste processing in their region. North and West councils will follow in due course. Wyndham will be part of

the strategic assessment but then may need to pull back given its interest in potentially providing a site/facility for advanced waste processing.

SUEZ Hub and Hallam Road Landfill VCAT Procedures

Michelle advised that MWRRG had been in VCAT over the last few months with two planning applications in an effort to stop encroachment of the SUEZ Hub and Landfill. The City of Casey sought MWRRG's support for its refusal of these applications which were appealed to VCAT.

One application was for a 42 lot residential development which would be 140 metres from the active cell at Hallam Road. This would add over 120 people potentially living within the landfill gas and amenity buffer.

The other planning application was for a Child Care centre for 99 Children just outside the 500 m landfill gas and amenity buffer. In this instance Council also refused the application and they were supported by MWRRG and SV.

Michelle commented that the problem of encroachment by sensitive uses underscore why Wyndham Council is looking to get the planning right in the Precinct Structure Planning process around the RDF.

4.3 Other relevant applications and industry news

Australian Paper Waste

Works approval was issued for a major waste-to-energy facility at their Maryvale site in Gippsland. The proposed plant will generate 225 megawatts of electricity and divert 650,000 tonnes of Gippsland and Melbourne rubbish from landfill.

Maddingly Brown Coal. The Calleja Group, which owns the Maddingly Brown Coal landfill site near Bacchus Marsh, is reportedly lodged an application with the Moorabool Shire Council for development of a 150,000 tonne per annum waste-to-energy facility at this site.

South Australia The South Australia Government has issued notice that they will be raising their landfill levy from \$100 per tonne in FY 18/19 to \$110 in FY 19/20 and then to \$140 for FY 20/21. This is without notice and the industry was not expecting such an increase and may result in their waste coming to Victoria instead. Discussion on the SA landfill situation ensued.

4.4 Wyndham Kerbside Collection Services

Tom reported that Council's current waste collection contract ends March 2020. A consultant with experience from many councils along the east coast is now looking at options and scoping out the Scope of Works. A workshop was held 2 weeks ago with the consultant.

Tom said that, next year, it is expected that up to 20 councils will be going out for tender for their collection services so Council wants to get on the front foot with its tender. A set of draft documents is out now for comments and then will go out for tender, to submit by end of year/ early next year. It takes about 6 months after tender submissions for the successful company to purchase trucks and equipment and be ready to start the contract. So Council will extend the existing contract until September 2020. The new contract for waste collection will be for seven (7) years plus three (3) year option.

Tom said Council was inviting tenders to consider the use of electric vehicles in its waste collection fleet – either as a trial program or for the future. There is also the potential for these vehicles to be charged from the existing landfill gas fuelled power station.

Michelle commented that electric vehicles will be on display at the waste expo which is in Melbourne in October (wasteexpoaustralia.com.au)

It was noted that Ewaste is to be banned from all landfills from 1st July 2019.

Lisa referred to the previous discussions by the CRG around the potential to incorporate businesses into Council's waste collection contract (Action M27-8.1). Tom said that there are too many service providers for businesses, so Council has decided not to get into this space. However, Council is looking at providing waste collection services to local schools.

5. RDF Planning

As Simon was not in attendance this item was held over.

6. RDF Operations

6.1 Best Practice Framework Plan

Tom presented on this item. A copy of the presentation will be attached to these minutes. He explained that he had structured his report on the RDF operations around the headings in the Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines which EPA has for landfills. He noted that a new Landfill Compliance Code of compliance was being prepared by EPA and that this is scheduled to take effect from 1 July 2020.

Lisa commented that Tom's report sounded positive and was good.

6.2 Cell 5

Cell 5 was commissioned on Tuesday 18 June. A small ceremony was performed with a cutting of the sash and the first Council truck entering to dump its waste collection. Suitable photos were taken, and a morning tea of pizza followed. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side, with heavy rain before and after the event.

6.3 Cell 6

Cell 6 has commenced internal planning and a consultant has been retained to prepare the design.

6.4 Complaints

A noise complaint was received regarding night-time operations on 5 June 2019 at the RDF. This was investigated and was believed to be due to a truck at 2.54 am in over the weighbridge, especially if driver was noisy cleaning out the back of the truck.

6.5 Revised litter fence proposal

Council is preparing an alternate approach for management of litter from the Cell 5 area. Details will be provided at the next CRG meeting.

7. Next meeting

Thursday 29 August 2019, at 4:30pm-7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Meeting closed 6.35 pm

Wyndham Refuse Disposal Community Reference Group
36th Meeting – 20th June 2019
ACTION TRACKER

ONGOING ACTIONS – FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO 20 th June 2019		
M24-5.2and M26-9.1	<i>Council to invite Lend Lease to a future meeting of the CRG to discuss how best to represent the interests of future residents of the Harpley Estate in the CRG process (and wider community engagement).</i>	Pending. Refer Agenda item 1.
M27-7.2	<i>Simon to circulate the auditor's report on the phytocap when this is available, before it is submitted to EPA for approval.</i>	Pending. The report is still with the Auditor. Council has submitted all the additional information requested by the auditor in relation to soil management. The Auditor has requested further technical information about the phytocap design from the design consultant, Tonkin Consulting.
M27-8.1	<i>Simon to discuss with Council's waste strategy team the potential to initiate a dialogue around the opportunity for waste management services for businesses in Wyndham.</i>	Completed. Harry indicated WREC would be able to assist. Simon advised that council officers would be ready to discuss this matter with the CRG at the February meeting, because Ritika and Simon are currently working on the development of a specification for the new kerbside collection contract which needs to be advertised in April 2019. Refer Agenda item 4.
M32-8.1	<i>Liza and Simon to propose amendments to the CRG's Terms of Reference to make its statutory roles explicit (at such time as the ToR has to be amended for other reasons).</i>	Pending. To be undertaken as part of the Committee Review.
M32-8.2	<i>Liza and Simon to reconfigure the complaints register back to 1 July 2017 and circulate to the CRG for comment (re format, information captured etc).</i>	Completed. Refer Agenda item 5.
M34-3.1.	Liza to circulate the CRG's Terms of Reference (or link) to all members	Completed 20 June 2019.
M34-3.2	Liza to email all CRG members to seek permission to distribute their personal contact details to other members of the group. Liza to then	Completed. Email requesting permission went out 8 March 2019. Updated contact list emailed on 20 June 2019.

	update and circulate an updated contact list to all CRG members.	
M34-3.3	Liza to invite all members of the CRG on a tour of the RDF.	Completed. All members invited. Most members have completed a tour. Any person that was unable to attend, can contact Liza to schedule a tour any time. Members who attended the tour may like to provide some feedback if not already done so.
Action M34-4.1	Liza to prepare a list of performance measures and draft survey questions and send them around to the CRG members for input.	Pending. Not completed due to other priorities – cell 5 construction.
Action M34-4.2	Findings of Market Research to be shared with the group at a future meeting.	Refer Agenda item 4. Stephen provided an overview, including notes which have been incorporated in these minutes. A more detailed presentation to be made by Darren Ray at a future meeting
Action M34-6.3	Liza to send CRG members a copy of the Single Use Plastics Policy, if and when, adopted by Council.	Completed.
Action M34-7.1	Liza to organise a session with the RDF CRG members to discuss the review of the RDF Strategic Plan.	Completed. Session held on 2 May 2019. Note the notes from this session cannot be distributed to the CRG and made public until the draft strategy is approved by Council for public release (expected to be 23 July 2019). Simon was not in attendance to provide an update at tonight's meeting. This item to be placed on the next meeting agenda – Action Liza McColl Refer Agenda item 5.
Action M34-8.1	Liza to distribute a copy of Tom's presentation on the Best Practice Framework Plan.	Completed – emailed 20 June 2019. Note - presentation to be given at tonight's meeting by Tom Wetherill. Refer Agenda item 6.
NEW ACTIONS FROM CURRENT MEETING – 20 JUNE 2019		
Action M36-3.1	Karen to provide details of the case study of responsible building site management in Tarneit (Alchemy) to assist with Council's law enforcement on building sites.	Pending
Action M36-3.2	Darren Ray to be asked to circulate (or provide for circulation) a copy of Council's submission to SV's review	

	relating to a container deposit scheme.	
Action M36-3.3	Lisa to consider coordinating a community submission in support of Council's submission	
Action M36-3.4	Stephen to alert Manager Open Space to clean-ups required around Council plantings	