

# Minutes

## Refuse Disposal Facility Community Reference Group Portfolio Committee – Meeting 43

<b>Date:</b>	24 June 2021	<b>Time:</b>	4:30pm - 7:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bruce Turner		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Independent Chair</b> Bruce Turner Phoenix Facilitation</p> <p><b>Wyndham City Councillors:</b> Cr Heather Marcus Councillor (Iramoo Ward) Cr Peter Maynard Councillor (Iramoo Ward)</p> <p><b>Wyndham City Council Staff:</b> Stephen Thorpe Director City Operations Simon Clay Manager Waste Management and Disposal Justin Rhodes Environmental Systems Officer</p> <p><b>Reference Group members:</b> Lisa Field Resident group representative Karen Hucker Community representative Hayley Scott Community representative Michelle Lee Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group Julian Menegazzo Adjacent landowner representative Karthik Viswanathan Community representative</p>		
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Peter Gordon Operations Coordinator, Wyndham City Council Mason Asadi Environmental group representative Paul Von Harder Community representative</p>		

### Program

	Topic	Actions
1.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b> Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</b> No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Adoption of Previous Minutes</b> The draft notes from the previous meeting held on the 29 April 2021 were accepted with no changes.</p> <p>The Action Tracker was circulated prior to the meeting agenda. All 'pending' items have been listed for discussion under the relevant agenda items at today's meeting.</p> <p>Action Tracker for the April 2021 meeting provided below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item <b>M42-6.2</b> Karen emailed Stephen directly with follow up information.</li> </ul>	

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- Item **M40-2.1** Noted that the pending item for Hayley Jarvis is unlikely to eventuate as this item has been outstanding for some time.

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4. **RDF Membership and 2021 meeting schedule**

Justin advised that Expression of Interest (EOI) for new members was currently advertised. Six applications had been received to date. Interviews to occur once the EOI closes on the 5 July 2021.

Karthik felt that there could be improvements to the wording of the advertised EOI and possibly an image added to help attract more applicants.

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5. **Members' Reports**

**Cr Maynard** informed the CRG that there was some discussion in the community regarding notices on domestic bins and he was being tagged in on social media. On these occasions, he passes the information onto council officers, to follow the normal business processes for complaints and service requests.

***Julian Menegazzo***

Julian requested an update on the rehabilitation of landfill cells and in particular the proposed phytocap. Simon advised that over the last few months, Council has had to review the overall site plan and site usage. With future capping works and cell construction to be undertaken, the amount of soil required for these projects is extremely large and requires a large stockpiling area. This construction material cannot be stored within the completed quarry areas due to the long approval and licencing process needed for this. If Council proceeds with a phytocap this will reduce our capacity to stockpile this soil onsite, so it is likely that we will need to install a conventional cap. Simon noted that there is a possibility that a 5-10 hectare area may be allocated and used as a trial for phytocap and the phytocap concept will then be revisited for future cell 6 and 7 rehabilitation. Simon noted that the vegetation that is used on a phytocap is shallow rooted shrubs rather than taller trees, as the tall tree root system would impact the integrity of the cap. Larger trees would be planted outside of the cell footprint.

***Karen Hucker***

Karen has had some discussion with various councils looking at European style waste hubs in areas with limited space for regular waste bins. Karen identified that the main interest was in disposal of excess cardboard. Karen didn't feel like there was a great understanding within the local community regarding drop off points and suggested

**Action M43-5.1** Stephen would refer textile waste issue to Council Environmental Portfolio Committee for consideration at their next meeting (October 2021).

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increased promotion of drop off points within Wyndham. Cr Maynard reflected that the annual waste calendar could promote drop-offs. Lisa commented that people needed to understand that drop off were free.

Cr Marcus commented that businesses have a problem with disposal of cardboard. She added that clothing is the second biggest polluter globally, with 60% of these products ending up in landfill. In other parts of the world, waterways are polluted with polyviscous. She wondered how people could be encouraged to buy better quality products. Bruce indicated that he thought that this would be hard for this group to achieve. Karen wondered if it might sit better with Council's Environment Portfolio Committee and Stephen indicated that the committee would be meeting again after a long break, and that this issue could be listed on its agenda.

***Lisa Field***

Lisa indicated that as part of a planting day in association with Werribee level crossing removal project they had up to approximately 10,000 trees that could be gifted to the RDF. Lisa suggested that some could be used at the site entrance to improve presentation. Simon indicated that this would be of interest to the RDF.

**Action M43-5.2** Lisa would send Simon some information stock.

***Hayley Scott***

Provided an update the CRG on her studies at University and that she is commencing with green impact projects (sustainability initiatives). She is prompting better use of organic waste utilising compost/worm farms, vegetable patches and improvements in waste separation in bins onsite.

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6. **Industry Update**

Michelle indicated the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group website had recently been updated and encouraged everyone to take a look.

<https://mwrrg.vic.gov.au/news/>

The latest news section provides information and links on:

- plastic free July
- the south east advanced waste processing procurement process
- updates to the engagement guide
- product stewardship (batteries, mattresses and textiles)

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7. **Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Service Update**

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- Stephen spoke about Wyndham City's work with the **Deakin Hub** and details have been provided below. The group was interested to know more about the Hub

**Action M43-7.1** Council to organise a presentation from Deakin Uni regarding works at the Hub

In response, Karen spoke about accessing products without excess packaging and the need for community awareness-raising (noted as a focus for Hayley Jarvis). Lisa suggested Karen connect with the Green Living Series of workshops and said she would be happy to help Karen run a workshop.

- Stephen presented on Parma Zero Waste. The Italian city of Parma has introduced a series of options for residents to dispose of household wastes through drop-off points and household collections. They have diverted 80% of the city's waste from landfill, incineration and the environment.

- Simon provided an update on the conference **abstract on the reclamation project**. Given COVID disruptions this has been difficult to achieve and therefore Simon believes that it will be more appropriate to document findings in a paper rather than present at a conference. Simon would try to do this in the future.

**Action M43-7.2** Council to distribute the Paper to the CRG.

- Update on the *RDF Strategic Plan 2019-2025*
  - Council is moving forward with implementation of the plan and continuing efforts to source the required volume of waste to justify the capital investment.
  - A paper on the Baling project will be presented to Council on Tuesday 29 June 2021.

Lisa asked what happened with the MWRRG landfill services tender. Stephen indicated that needed five or so councils to work together to provide enough tonnes to make the baling facility economical. We are still in discussions with Councils and need multiple Councils to aggregate their waste volumes. Council needs approximately 120k tonnes, but more waste would be better. Council is still in communication with other councils and believes this volume can be achieved. Stephen noted that there is a similar facility that will open in Adelaide in the next couple of months.

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### **RDF Operations**

- Performance Dashboard - tonnage, landfill gas  
Justin discussed kerbside waste and transfer station tonnes to landfill over the last two months, showing the drop off in transfer station tonnes, likely due to the impacts of COVID lockdowns.
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Kerbside remains reasonably consistent with a general upwards trend.

- **Pollution Abatement Notices**

Council has received five pollution abatement notices (PAN) from EPA. These PAN notices are the result of legacy issues of the site. Council is working closely with EPA and has agreed on plans and works required to address issues raised in PANs. All PANs are available on EPA website.

Justin indicated that works are currently progressing to remove the overburden on Cell 4. These works will continue for at least the next six months. The following photo shows work in progress.



Justin also indicated that Council has commenced work on the rehabilitation of Cells 1b-3 at the back of the RDF site. The first stage of works involving the reprofiling of the current intermediate capping is scheduled for completion by the end of September 2021.

- **Complaints register**

The complaints register was distributed prior to the meeting. No comments regarding this.

- **Cell 6 and Cell 7 Construction**

Justin indicated that construction of Cell 6 was progressing well and that it is likely to be complete towards the end of this year (October). Justin

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indicated that Cell 7 design was well underway.



- CRWM (Combustible Recyclable and Waste Management) Area

Justin indicated that the EPA conducted a site inspection of this area on the 18 May 2021 reviewing the site Emergency Management Plan, Fire Safety Management Plan, Councils Audit and Inspection Program. EPA also review onsite stockpiling including pile heights and separation distance. No further action was required.

Lisa asked about the status of compost from the RDF. Simon responded indicating that the green waste shredded onsite is not suitable as compost as it is not pasturised and not fine enough so not available to the public. Simon indicated the new EP Act that comes in on the 1<sup>st</sup> July puts more onus on the waste generator to appropriately classify and track waste to avoid rogue operators mixing contaminated materials and onselling to the public.

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9. **Meeting Close/Details of Next Meeting**  
26 August 2021 – online or at Civic Centre (tbc)
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ACTIONS FROM APRIL 2021 MEETING		
Action Reference	Action Details	Status
M42-6.1	Stephen to provide some information with regard to Wyndham City Councils work with Deakin University and City of Greater Geelong e-waste recycling hub	<b>Closed.</b> Information circulated about the Deakin hub. Hub announcement: <a href="https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/new-research-hubs-lead-innovation-australia">https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/new-research-hubs-lead-innovation-australia</a> Partners and further info: <a href="https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2020/jul/research-hub-tackle-global-waste-crisis">https://www.rmit.edu.au/news/all-news/2020/jul/research-hub-tackle-global-waste-crisis</a> Link to Prof Sahajwalla's work: <a href="https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/">https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/</a>
M42-6.2:	Karen indicated that she will send Stephen an email once she has confirmed which Council completed the survey and Stephen could follow up with them.	<b>Pending.</b> Karen to provide update
ACTIONS FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO LAST MEETING		
M41-4.1	Report back from Illegal Dumping Working Group on approach to stopping illegal dumping on Palmers Road opposite Wallace Ave, Point Cook.	<b>Closed.</b> Discussed at April 2021 meeting.
Action M41-9.1	Liza to circulate new calendar invites for the remainder of this year.	<b>Closed.</b> Justin to send new calendar invites for the remainder of the year. Proposed meeting dates for remainder of 2021 are: 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2021, 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2021, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021, 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Action M40-2.1	Simon to investigate the opportunity to report on RDF emissions and energy generation in Council's State of the Environment report.	<b>Pending.</b> Hayley Jarvis to give an overview of the information about the RDF and waste in the Wyndham State of the Environment Report at the next CRG meeting and discuss inclusion of information on RDF emissions and energy generation in the next State of Environment Report. Link to current Wyndham State of the Environment Report <a href="https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/state-environment-report">https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/state-environment-report</a>
Action M40-2.2	Liza to circulate a summary document on changes to the Environment Protection Act.	<b>Closed.</b> <b>More information about the changes to the act are available at:</b> <a href="https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws">https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws</a>
Action M40-5.1	The topic of waste recovery research to be listed for further updates and discussion on a future agenda.	<b>Pending.</b> Stephen to present on Parma Zero Waste (an initiative visited on Council's study tour) at a future RDF CRG meeting.
M38-6.2	Simon to provide the CRG with details of other reclamation projects and possibility of sharing our results with industry	<b>Pending.</b> Simon reported that he had submitted an abstract to speak at a conference. Simon to present this information at the next RDF CRG meeting.

## Deaken Hub Notes – Stephen Thorpe

The Hub's research projects are to be in the area of solutions for a circular economy. As a member of the hub, Wyndham will get access to researchers, technology partners and other industry partners of the Hub who are national level experts and key authorities/companies in this area. It is a resourceful place for networking, partnership and a more focused advancement for solutions collaboratively. (e.g. Wyndham provides a trial site, a recycling company may provide the material, a technology partner would provide processing, researchers oversee experiments). Projects can be proposed to address specific needs of Wyndham, with the advantage of economies of scope and scale that will come when several councils from across the nation have expressed the same need, and the research is carried out jointly.

The Hub's theme areas are:

1. Smart design and utilisation to minimise waste: For each of the waste streams, an analysis will be undertaken to explore novel options for reducing the waste through smart design and changing behaviour. This will cover input, processes and output and changing behaviour at each stage (particular interest to Wyndham).

2. Unlocking waste resources through Lean Processing: Processing, Product and Technology innovation of post-consumer waste: Understanding the minimum treatment requirement considering the specific needs of solutions and development of environmentally friendly processes including waste to energy, high pressure and other mechanical processes, chemical treatment and autoclaving

3. Smart materials development: Laboratory-based research into materials development utilising each recovered waste stream, including nano-technologies, additive manufacturing and investigation of combinations of waste streams (second area of interest for Wyndham).

4. Translation field trials, demonstration projects and plants: An evidence base to support implementation of the solutions will be created through accelerated testing, durability of new materials, predictive modelling of long-term performance of materials, field testing of smart materials, technologies and behaviour change solutions will be developed to achieve this objective.

5. Enablers and drivers: Research into cost benefit models, circular life cycle tools, smart data platforms, tools for mapping of waste streams and commercializing and drivers required to facilitate procurement decisions to enable adopting of new solutions by the relevant industries will be the focus of this objective.