

Minutes

Refuse Disposal Facility Community Reference Group Portfolio Committee – Meeting 55

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|---------------------|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Date: | 11 September 2023 | Time: | 5:30pm - 7:30pm |
| Location: | Wyndham Civic Centre, Werribee | | |
| Chairperson: | Bruce Turner | | |
| Attendees: | <p>Independent Chair Bruce Turner Phoenix Facilitation</p> <p>Wyndham City Councillors: Cr Peter Maynard Councillor (Iramoo Ward) Cr Heather Marcus Councillor (Iramoo Ward)</p> <p>Wyndham City Council Staff: Eilis Hughes Acting Director City Operations Darren Martin Acting Manager Waste Management and Disposal Chris Rachor RDF Operations Manager Ben Hart RDF Environmental Systems Officer</p> <p>Reference Group members: Connie Menegazzo Adjacent landowner representative David Tsardakis Local Environment Group representative Paul Von Harder Ratepayer/Business/Advocacy Group representative Hayley Scott (remote) Community representative Joe Ferlazzo (remote) Community representative Karen Hucker Community representative Bianca Bragalenti Community representative Ian Domoney Community representative</p> <p>Invited persons Poly Kiyaga Prospective community representative</p> | | |
| Apologies: | (Simon Clay and Stephen Thorpe had both left Council by the time of this meeting) | | |

Program

| Topic | Actions |
|---|---------|
| 1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies | |
| Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated a round table of introductions for the present members. | |
| Mr. Poly Kiyaga was introduced as a prospective community group representative and provided a brief overview and introduction of himself for those present. | |
| 2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest | |
| No conflicts of interest were declared. | |

3. Adoption of previous minutes

The draft minutes from Meeting #54 (on 10 July) were taken as read.

The Action Tracker was provided at the meeting and brief updates (where possible) were provided.

4. RDF Membership renewal process update

Ben H advised Cr. Maynard, Bruce, Darren and himself had met with Mr. Kiyaga for the vacant CRG Community Member position, and on that basis was invited to the CRG meeting while awaiting Council endorsement of his proposed appointment.

5. Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Services

Darren provided a broad summary of the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility Strategic Plan (2019-2025), including:

- Review of, and required changes to, the Strategic Plan – noting that since the release of the Strategic Plan, changes in the recycling sector have resulted in there being fewer players in the market available to accept recyclable materials.
- The 6 main Goals including progress and future of the proposed bailing facility.
- The reporting cycle for the Strategic Plan is quarterly, with the next report in October 2023. A summary of this can be provided.
- Organics reprocessing with LMS, noting that organic reprocessing will be from FOGO waste (Food Organics/Garden Organics) from kerb side collections. These wastes will be placed in a dedicated facility where they will be treated via digestion to produce a compost material.
 - LMS will be asked to provide a more detailed overview of the proposed facility to the CRG, prior to proceeding.
 - Gas produced by this process will be recovered for energy production.
- Waste to energy, noting that current government policy was lacking in this space and that further work was needed to catch up.
- Integration of kerb side collections, noting this is being reviewed to make sure that it is consistent with current State policy.

Darren also noted that there were other waste management projects to be rolled out within Wyndham, including the standardization of kerb side bins so that the bin lids meet current standards:

- I.e. red bin lid = general waste, yellow = recycling, green = green waste, purple (if/when) = glass

During the discussion about organics reprocessing, several questions were raised by members:

- Connie asked whether the anaerobic digestion would be “in-vessel”. Darren advised that it would be and elaborated that wastes will be received in a ‘negative pressure’ building in which odorous elements of the process will be contained. The only element of the process that occurs outdoors will be maturation of the compost.
- Karen clarified that this proposal would expand co-generation of electricity onsite. Darren confirmed that this would add to the electricity already being produced from the landfill gas collected from completed cells.
- Connie asked whether energy production from the composting would be 24 hours, or only during daylight hours. Darren responded that this would only be done during the day shift. He wasn’t sure there was the intention was to run 24 hours, nor did he think that there would be sufficient volumes to allow this to occur.

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- Bianca asked if Council was seeking carbon credit certification. Darren advised that this was not happening (yet), as the proposal was still in development.
 - Paul asked how the costs would be recovered (i.e., sale of the compost product etc.). Darren responded that Council would use gate fees to recover the costs, with the main benefit being Council having access to the compost for Council projects.

Darren also spoke briefly to the Circular Economy Act, specifically to the need for “Responsible Entities” (i.e., Council) to maintain contingency plans if waste treatment companies go out of business. The intent of these plans is to ensure business continuity but was flagged as a potential factor which might scare some businesses away (as being “too hard”).

Darren summarized by saying that there is a lot happening in the strategic waste management space however not much is in a position where things can be reported on.

Due to time constraints, the scheduled update on recycling was postponed to the next meeting (in November 2023).

6. Member’s Report

Paul opened the Members Report with a joke about why his blue bin had not been emptied! This was followed by commenting that while he felt the landfill and transfer station ran well he did have a concern around the Transfer Station pit – specifically that private vehicles simply throw waste into the pit without sorting out recyclable materials.

Darren responded that customers are encouraged to separate wastes and that within the pit some sorting of mixed loads does occur (i.e., separating metals using the excavator) and that a mechanical sorting line would commence operation in the near future. He also:

- emphasised the importance of sorting, noting recycling operations overseas are very organized and optimized. With a greater emphasis on people sorting their waste, overseas facilities could be designed without a pit.
- The transfer station on site is an older design and isn’t optimized for current practices. Council is reviewing to reorganize with a greater emphasis on customers sorting their wastes with the sorting line to capture residual mixed loads.

This was followed by some high-level discussion on how recycling could work better in Wyndham, including possible satellite facilities for commonly recycled materials.

Cr. Marcus raised the topic of clothing/fashion waste, specifically how the amount of clothes going into the RDF was in the order of \$1M/yr primarily associated with issues arising from “fast fashion”. Cr. Marcus raised the question to the group about how Wyndham might get on top of this waste stream.

Conversation around this topic occurred including the feasibility of sorting out these wastes at the RDF, however it was noted that while the RDF could sort out the clothing, there needs to be an end market. The conversation on this topic included how clothing wastes are managed and contributing factors. Karen mentioned that key retailers are working on an initiative. The conversation concluded with the acknowledgement that the RDF can only do so much once received on site. There is a need for further policy change and education at a level beyond just Wyndham.

Darren concluded that this waste stream (like other recyclables including glass, organics etc) has an issue where the supply of recyclable materials exceeds the demand for them and that stimulation of relevant markets is needed to help find a balance (i.e., between supply & demand).

Darren also provided an update on the container deposit scheme, noting locations had not yet been determined but would be published later.

Connie discussed landscaping of Cell 4, with Darren advising that works are approximately halfway done, with the aim of getting vegetation of exposed areas completed shortly and fully completed by this time next year. The conversation covered several items, including timing of planting and connecting in with Nature West to establish what species of vegetation would work with local areas.

Ian discussed roadside rubbish, noting instances where Ballan Road has had significant roadside rubbish and wondering about options to make litterers pay and the feasibility of a community thinktank to review options.

Darren responded by summarising the range of work Council already carries out to try and reduce roadside litter (i.e., enforcement actions, CCTV, offender clean-up program etc). It is a big problem (costing approx. \$6M/yr and as much again in clean-ups) and Council is unclear why it continues to happen since there are many legal avenues for people to get rid of their waste. Council will continue to try and resolve it.

This prompted several follow up concerns, including:

- Karen expressed a concern around illegal dumping in developing residential communities. Darren answered that this is a known issue and Council has Officers working with developers and builders within these communities to try and resolve this issue.
- Regarding illegal dumping, Poly asked if there had there been any improvements to tip vouchers. Darren responded that there isn't a perfect solution, but we are seeing some improvements. The system doesn't appear to be well known in some areas, which indicates further education is required.
- Ian flagged landlords not passing tip vouchers onto renters. Darren noted that there have been changes to the system to make these available to renters, and there are more hard rubbish collections.

There was some further discussion around this topic, including how the system works and some exploits being used by some in the community, plus some upcoming improvement and education efforts and programs that are available in Wyndham. Poly suggested that information about waste services should be included in languages other than English in new resident packs.

As part of this further conversation, discussion turned to broader findings, including the different groups observed to be involved in illegal dumping. Connie asked whether the proportions of these different groups had been investigated.

The response was yes. Wyndham residents are the largest group (by number of people illegally dumping waste) at approx. 40% of offenders. However illegal dumping by commercial businesses were the largest offenders by volume of waste.

This reiterates the need to continue to educate Wyndham residents on existing services (and waste management more broadly). In terms of commercial dumpers and other out-of-Wyndham dumpers, EPA works with Council to deal with these offenders – its generally a commercial decision (time and cost) and so a financial impact is required to address these offenders.

7. RDF Operations and Works update

Ben provided members with an update on Simon Clay, advising that he had resigned his position with Council.

Chris provided a summary of operations and related works, please find the presentation notes attached.

Ben provided a summary of environmental and related works, please find the presentation notes attached.

Following the updates, Paul raised a question about the outstanding action to contact Professor Sahajwalla's group at the University of New South Wales. He said he was keen to make a presentation on the problem of managing wastes associated with electric vehicles, solar panels (etc.) when these products come to the end of their useful lifespans. Darren spoke to similar work being done with Deakin and Latrobe universities to manage hard to treat wastes.

Action M55-7.1 Darren to provide information on Council's current work with Deakin and Latrobe universities on hard to treat wastes, and to work with Paul on a discussion starter on the impending challenge of disposal of EV batteries and solar panels, as one example.

8. Meeting Close/ Details of Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Next meeting: 5.30 to 7.30 pm, 27 November 2023 at the Civic Centre.

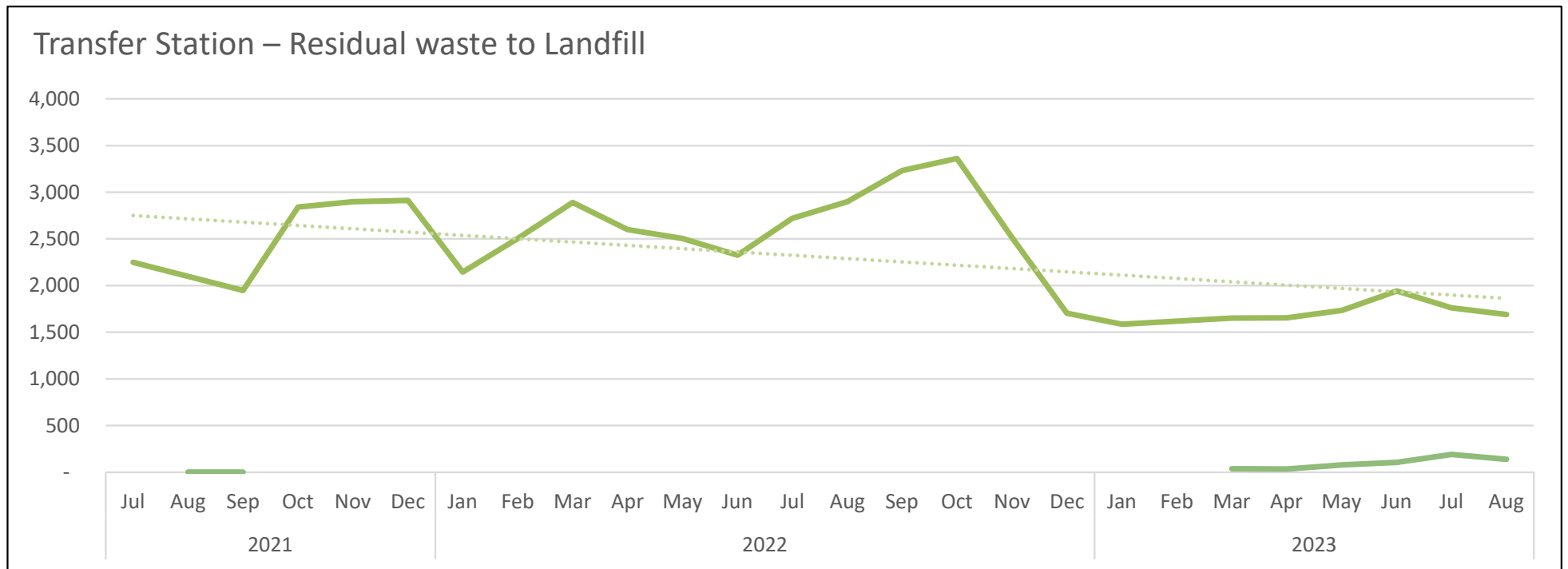
Wyndham RDF and Waste Management CRG

| OUTSTANDING ACTIONS (September 2023) | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Action Reference | Action Details | Status |
| M54-5.1 | Council to provide update on Strategic Plan reporting cycle. | Update to be provided in Meeting 55 |
| M54-6.1 | Council to circulate a list of what it is doing/ communicating regarding waste/ recycling to encourage best practice. | Update to be provided in Meeting 55 |
| M54-7.1 | Council to provide a response about how carbon neutral LMS is. | Update to be provided in Meeting 55 |
| M53-6.1 | Council to provide more info on current landscaping plans and potential for collaboration with NatureWest | Update to be provided in Meeting 55. |
| Older Items | | |
| M45-8.1 | Report to the CRG recycling initiatives at the RDF at the next meeting. | Update to be provided in Meeting 55 |
| M49-4.1 | (Justin to) discuss internally with Council how a virtual tour of RDF might look. | <p>Pending. Two RDF Project Team members are undergoing drone pilot training.</p> <p>Theory has been completed and practical training/ practice underway prior to licensing tests later in the year.</p> <p>Afterwards a virtual tour(s) can be planned, flown and filmed.</p> |
| M50-5.1 | Simon to initiate contact with Professor Sahajwalla's group at UNSW. | Update of work with Deakin and Latrobe Universities re: difficult to recycle wastes. |
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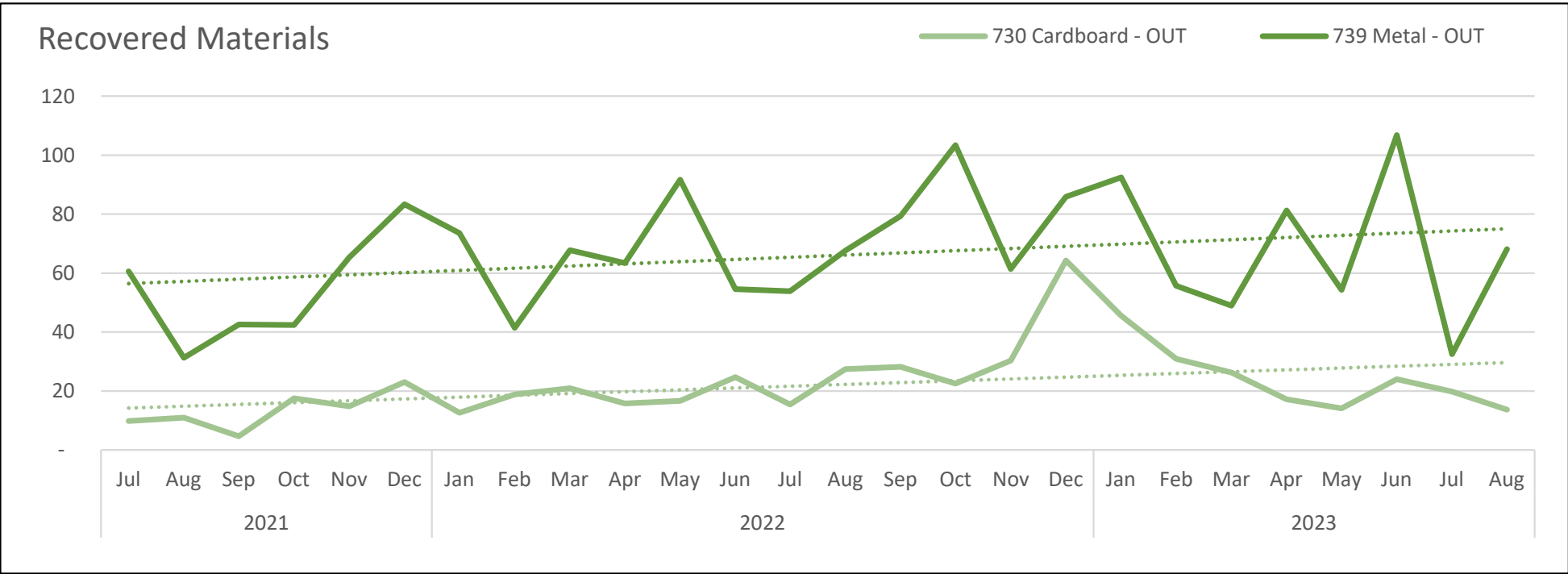
CRG - RDF Operations Report

Sep 2023

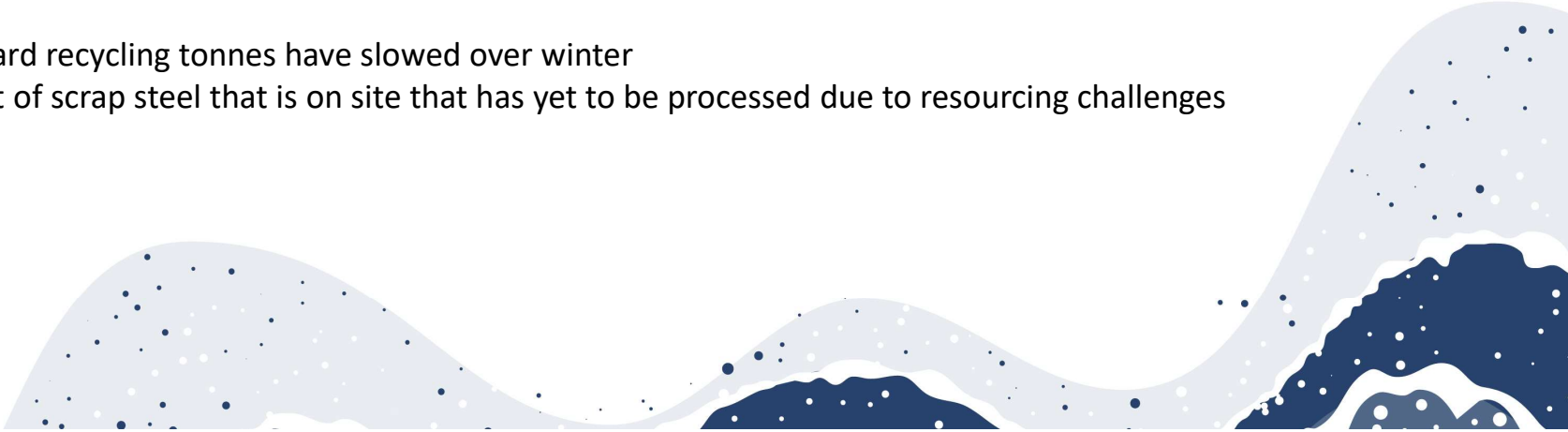


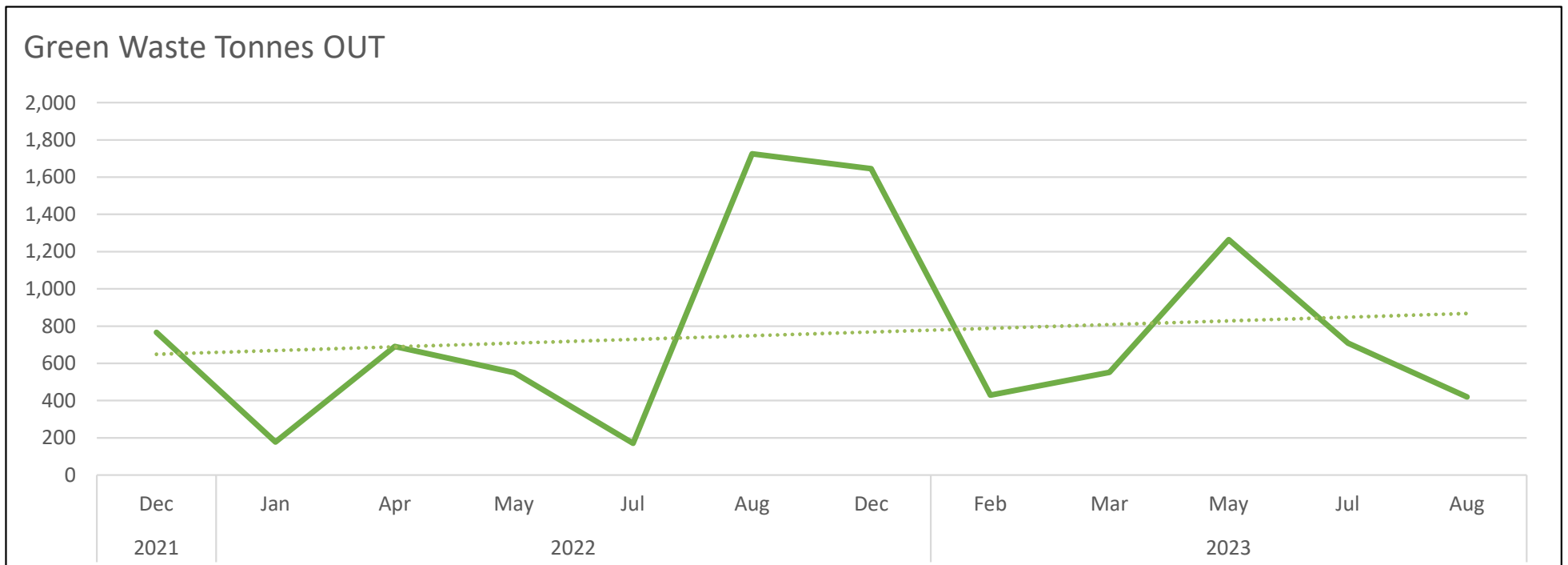


- Tonnes to landfill have remained stable for the past 2 months. Average remains < 2000 tonnes per months

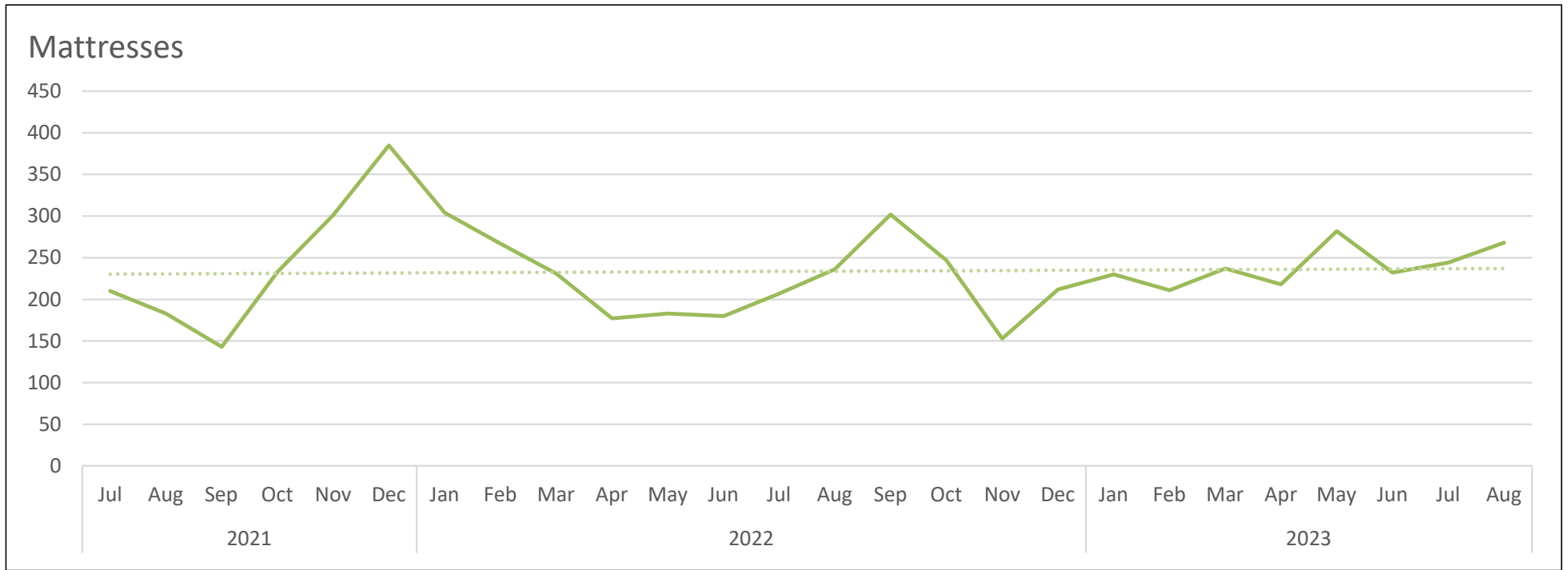


- Scrap steel and Cardboard recycling tonnes have slowed over winter
- There is a small amount of scrap steel that is on site that has yet to be processed due to resourcing challenges in July and August

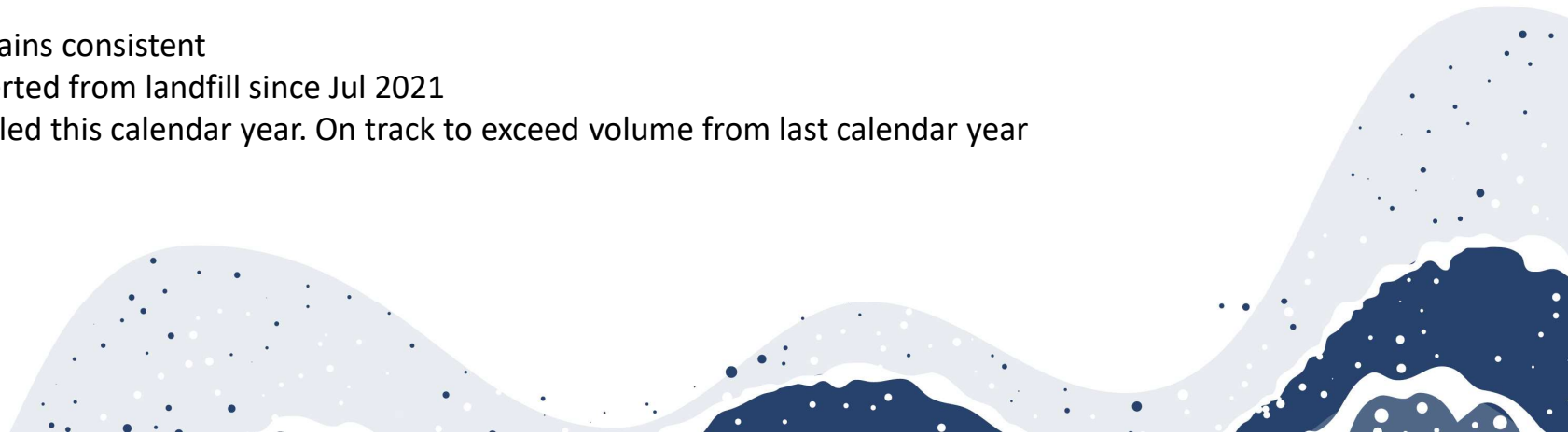


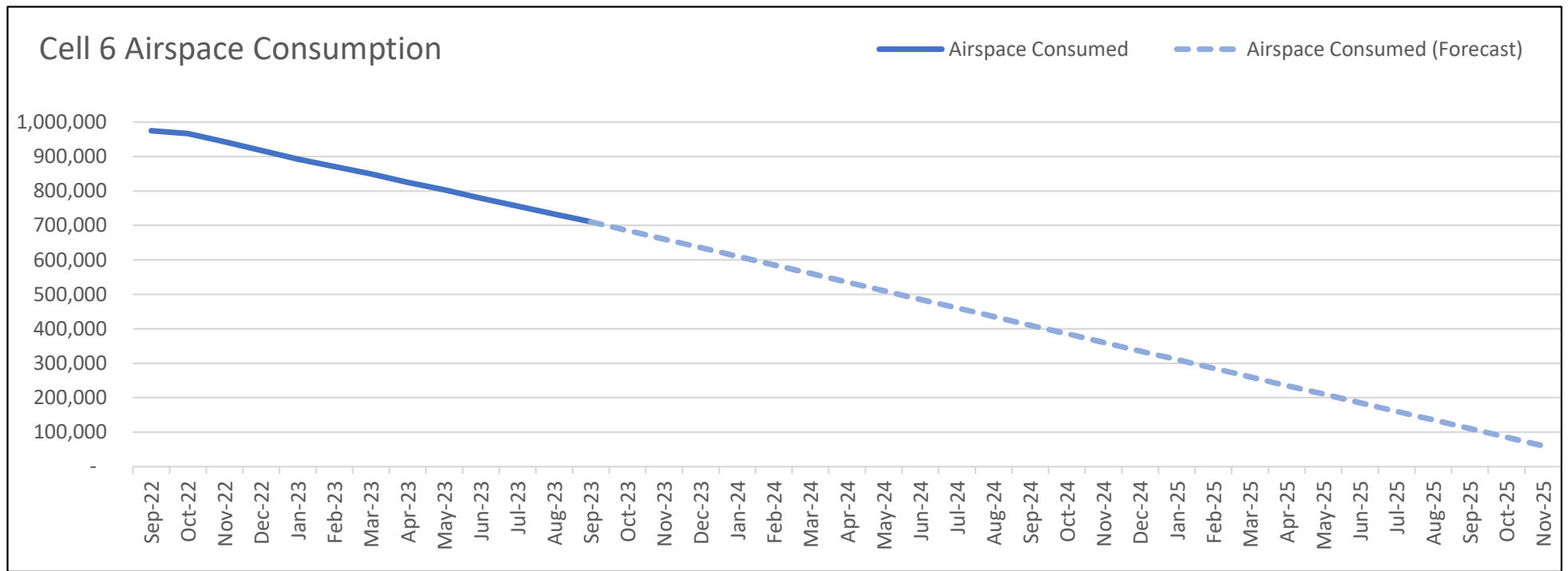


- Green waste recovered tonnes have reduced over the past 2 months due to normal seasonal drop off
- Expect to see increase over the coming months coming into Spring
- Overall tonnes continue to trend upwards

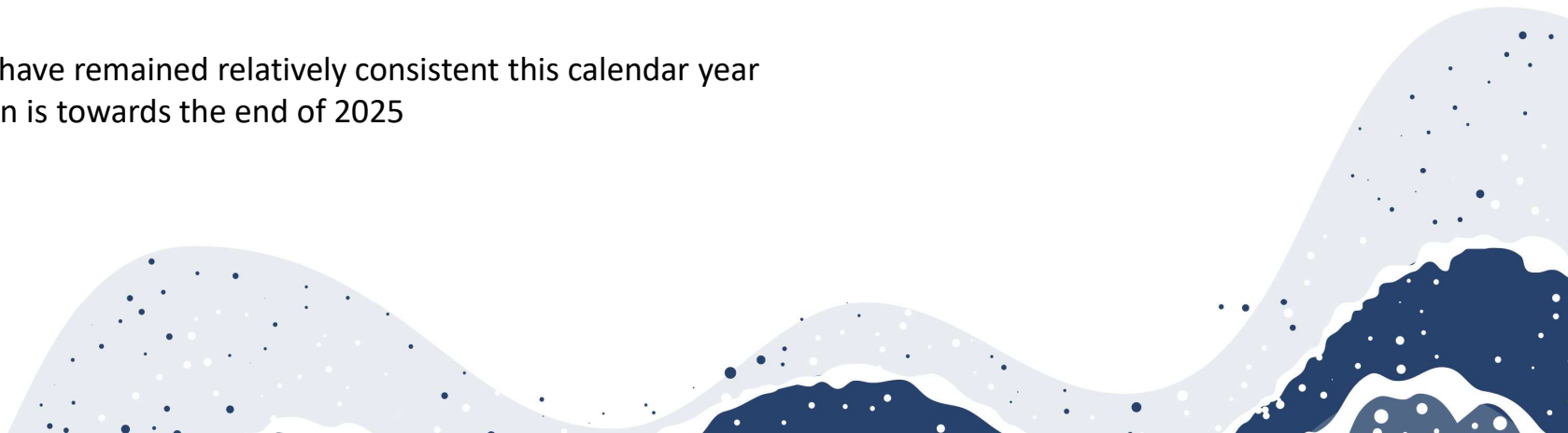


- Mattress recycling remains consistent
- >6,000 mattresses diverted from landfill since Jul 2021
- 1,900 mattresses recycled this calendar year. On track to exceed volume from last calendar year





- Total Tonnes to landfill have remained relatively consistent this calendar year
- Cell 6 airspace depletion is towards the end of 2025



Site projects underway

Western Haul Road upgrade

- This will divert landfill vehicles away from the eastern boundary and through the middle the site.
- Improved amenity and will mitigate dust issues from on site traffic

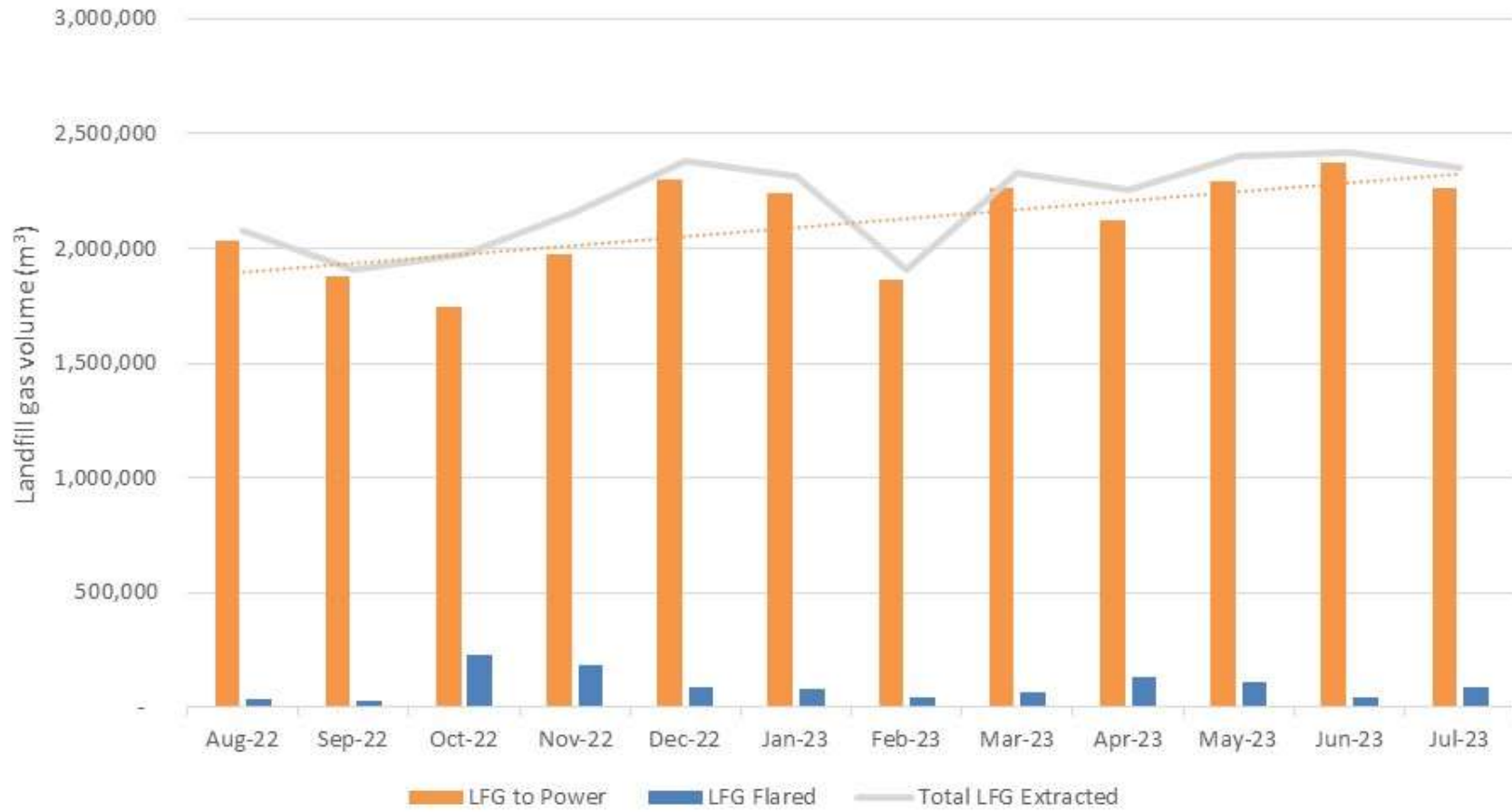


CRG - RDF Environment

September 2023



Landfill gas extraction - Wyndham landfill



Source: LMS

Landfill Gas Extraction

- July 2023:
 - Approx. 2,350,000 m³ of LFG extracted
 - Approx 3,660 MWh of power produced (~340 homes for 1 year)
 - Equivalent to approx. 21,300 tonnes CO₂ removed from atmosphere (~4,700 vehicles removed from roads for 1 year)
- FY 22/23
 - Approx 26,000,000 m³ of LFG extracted
 - Approx 37,400 MWh of power produced (~3,500 homes for 1 year)
 - Equivalent to approx. 236,800 tonnes CO₂ removed from atmosphere
 - ~52,700 vehicles removed from roads for 1 year
 - ~66 Wind turbines operating for 1 year

Landfill Gas Extraction cont...

- Update on Action 54.7.1

Question: Was LMS carbon neutral, or working towards it?

Response: LMS is not seeking formal carbon neutral status:

- Requires compliance across 3 levels
 - Scope 1: Direct emissions
 - Scope 2: Indirect emissions
 - Scope 3: Subcontractor/supplier emissions
- Has good control on Scope 1 & 2 emissions, but has not audited subcontractor/supplier emissions.
- Conversion of methane to CO₂ (i.e. power generation or flaring) is a net loss in terms of greenhouse gas emissions/global warming.

Complaints & Incidents

- **Complaints**
 - Odour: A complaint associated with works in Cell 5 (July 2023)
 - Actions: Tighter control and tracking of weather conditions during works (wind direction etc), reduction of working area and hire of a mobile deodoriser unit.
- **Incidents**
 - Windblown litter: 2 incidents reported to EPA (July 2023 & September 2023)
 - 1 x incident associated with works in Cell 5
 - 1 x incident associated with landfilling during high winds
 - Actions:
 - Immediate: Stopped accepting waste (Friday), mobilised litter crew to pick-up off-site litter.
 - Controls already underway: Seeking permission for alternative cover trial, procuring an additional litter net line (along Cell 5) and looking into additional litter cages for use within the active cell.

Cell 6 Update

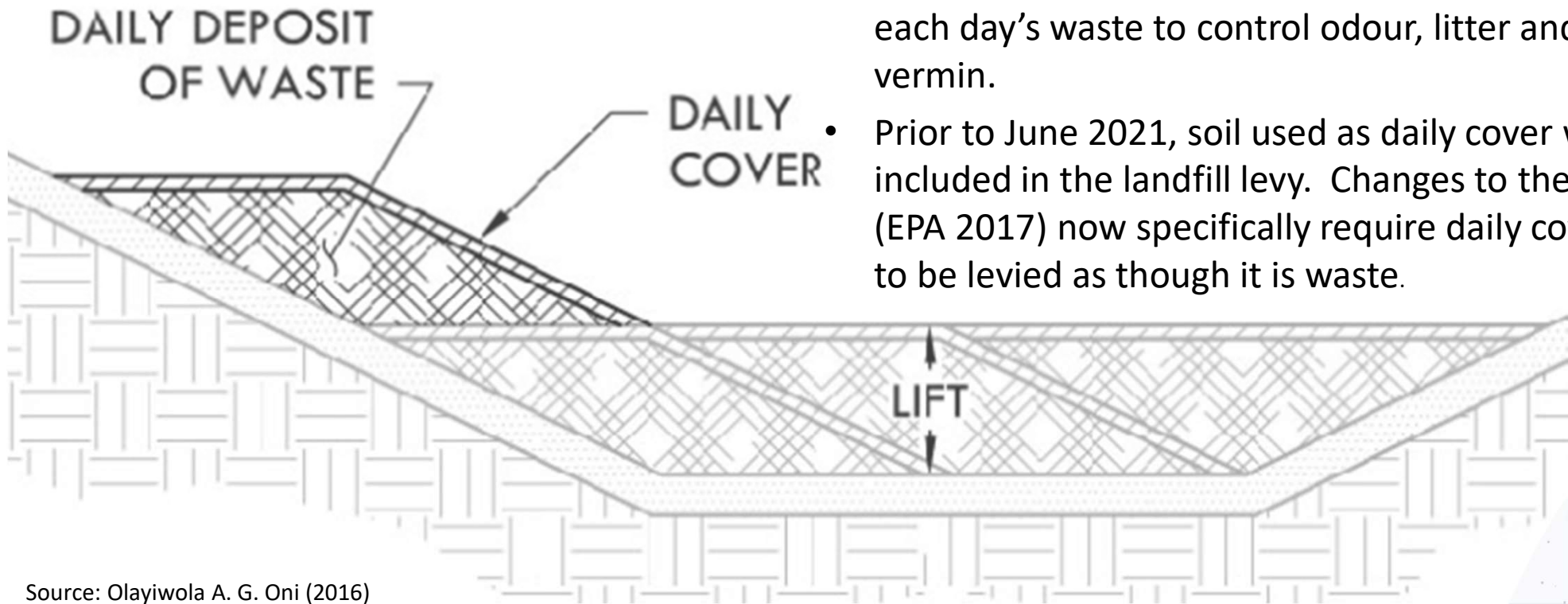
Source: Nearmap (2023)



- Works to rehabilitate Cell 6 South filter geotextile are complete.
- The associated Environmental Audit has been prepared and will shortly be submitted to EPA.



Alternative Daily Cover



- Daily cover is a soil veneer placed on the top of each day's waste to control odour, litter and vermin.
- Prior to June 2021, soil used as daily cover was not included in the landfill levy. Changes to the levy (EPA 2017) now specifically require daily cover soil to be levied as though it is waste.

Source: Olayiwola A. G. Oni (2016)

Alternative Daily Cover

- Council has applied for permission to undertake a trial of an alternative cover system (Tarpomatic).
 - Council previously trialled this system in 2017/18.
 - Heavy duty, weighted tarps are deployed and overlapped to form a barrier between the day's waste and the surrounding environment.
 - This is primarily a contingency to avoid having to import soil for daily cover, where the quantity or quality of onsite soils are insufficient.
 - There are other additional operational/environmental benefits associated with the products use.



Virtual Tour

- 2 people from the RDF projects team are undergoing drone pilot training.
 - Theoretical elements have been completed, undergoing practical training & practice prior to licencing test.

