

**West's Road RDF & Waste Management
Community Reference Group
AOC
31st Meeting
Accepted Notes
30 August 2018
Conference Rooms A & B**

Present:

Bruce Turner - Independent Chair
 Cr Peter Maynard - Councillor (Iramoo Ward), Wyndham City Council
 Karen Hucker - Community representative
 Jacqui Scott - Community representative
 Lisa Field - Community representative
 Stephen Thorpe - Director City Operations, Wyndham City Council
 Simon Clay - Manager Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council
 Liza McColl - Business Analyst Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council

Apologies/ absent:

Cr Walter Villagonzalo - Councillor (Chaffey Ward), Wyndham City Council
 Cr Tony Hooper - Councillor (Harrison Ward), Wyndham City Council
 Caroline Lavoie - Community representative
 Harry Van Moorst - Environment group representative (WREC)
 Julian Menegazzo - Adjoining landowner representative
 Kimi Pellosis - Community representative
 Michelle Lee - Planner, Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG)
 Lindsay Swinden - Community representative

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bruce welcomed members to the meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Notes and actions from the previous meeting

The notes from the 30th meeting, circulated prior to the meeting, were accepted 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:

ONGOING ACTIONS – FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO 28 JUNE 2018		
Action M24-5.2 And 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>	Lend Lease to attend future meeting. Pending. Liza to invite Lend Lease to October meeting.
Action M24-5.3	<i>Council to pursue opportunities for screen planting along the Princes Freeway (in the road reserve in collaboration with VicRoads and/or on</i>	Pending. Site investigations commenced. Underground services (high pressure oil pipeline) present may influence/constrain

	<i>private land) to improve the view from the freeway.</i>	type of trees that can be used. Project on hold due to resources. Focus in on landscaping around perimeter, Bulban Road, and transfer station.
Action 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 auditor has been selected (Patrick Clarke from Senversa) and is currently reviewing the phytocap design. Auditor has asked council to submit a soil acceptance protocol. Auditor report should be available by October meeting.
Action 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>	Pending. Harry indicated WREC would be able to assist. It was agreed the best time to initiate would be towards the end of the current contract for kerbside collection
Action M28-3.1-1	<i>Liza to circulate a copy of the Wyndham Vale Buffer Study and odour modelling information to all CRG members.</i>	Pending. Odour information to be updated.
Action M29-3.1	<i>Information on the recycling situation to be circulated to CRG members.</i>	No new information available. Matter discussed at meetings. Action to be closed.
Action M29-3.2	<i>Topic of the future of the tip shop to remain open for further discussion.</i>	Keep on the agenda.
Action M29-3.3	<i>Simon to circulate report on waste baling technology after it has been fully reviewed.</i>	Pending. Staff are currently focused on the construction of cell 5.
Action M29-8.1	<i>Council to document CRG's role and process for odour complaints including EPA's expectations regarding reporting.</i>	Pending.
NEW ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING 30 – 28 JUNE 2018		
Nil		

Action M24-5.2 and M26.9.1 – Bruce noted that he was keen to get Lend Lease to a meeting. Liza to follow up with Lend Lease. Karen noted that she would like to have a conversation about energy co-generation projects generally and the potential opportunity for the Lend Lease development to use waste heat from the RDF. Simon noted that we don't have a strong demand for heat compared to Scandinavian countries but noted that moving to waste to energy projects, there might be opportunities to collocate industries that require heat. Bruce suggested that Lend Lease be advised of CRG interest in the co-generation concept so that they could send a knowledgeable person as their representative to a CRG meeting.

Action M31-2.1 *Liza to advise Lend Lease of the CRG's interest in discussing the potential use of waste heat from the RDF in the Harpley Estate.*

Peter asked about screen planting between the RDF and Harpley Estate. Liza responded that officers will be seeking funding as part of council's budgeting process to complete these works.

Action M29-8.1 – Bruce sought clarification on this topic. Karen explained that she thought that the CRG had more of a role than just being the receiver of information about complaints and that these roles had been previously been discussed and documented. Liza advised that Condition 40 of the Planning Permit for the operation of the site states that one of the purposes for the operation of the committee (CRG) is to review complaints. Karen wondered how the CRG would know it was fulfilling its statutory role if it is unclear precisely what the role is.

Simon noted that the current works approval has a requirement to update the Odour Management Plan. This review/update will reconsider the current process of using staff, who may be desensitised to odour, to do the survey or whether to use an independent body.

Action M31-2.2 Karen to follow up her old notes to find the original reference in relation to the CRG's role and responsibility for the review of complaints.

Action M31-2.3 Liza to review all statutory documentation and previous meeting notes.

Action M31-2.4 Liza to send CRG copy of the planning permit for the RDF.

3. Members' report

Report from Jacqui Scott

Jacqui shared her frustration with a neighbour who does not put their bin away after collection day. Jacqui has spoken to the neighbour directly and sent photos to Council. Behaviours are modified in short term only. Based on this experience, Jacqui thought there needs to be education for migrants about how to use the waste collection system. She also thought that information about collection services needed to be provided in other languages. Bruce asked if this is a widespread problem. Lisa didn't think this issue would be solved through education and felt that it would be preferable if Council collected unsorted waste and then separated it. Simon reflected that all his experience indicated that source separation (ie by residents) results in a better quality product, and the landfill stream can then be further sorted (see fuller discussion of this issue below under Lisa's report). Stephen noted that fines are not always an effective behaviour change tool either.

Action M31-3.1 Council officers to pass the feedback about the need for targeted education for migrants onto Council's Waste Education Team.

Report from Karen Hucker

Karen shared her excitement upon receiving her new, smaller red bin (to replace her old yellow bin which had a broken lid). Karen noted that no information was provided with the new bin about what materials need to go in which bin. There weren't any stickers or printing on the bin itself. Karen asked if there was a list of what can go in which bin.

Simon advised that a booklet is usually provided each time a new service and bin is delivered. A copy of the booklet that is handed out is currently on the Council's website. Simon explained that the idea of the booklets vs stickers or printing on the bins is that the booklet would be kept in the house/kitchen closer to where people sort waste and recyclable items. It is felt that once people are at the bin that it was too late. Stickers also wear off over time.

The group agreed that there needed to be more information and clarity about how to use the bin system.

Action M31-3.2 Hayley Jarvis, Team Leader Waste Policy and Education to be invited to the next CRG meeting (and ongoing) to discuss education activities/information on household bin usage to promote correct recycling behaviours.

Report from Lisa Field

Lisa noted that in a recent visit to the RDF, the tip shop was unattended and nobody came to see her. Lisa was looking for the e-waste drop off point and this was not obvious. She felt that there needed to be better directional signage or systems, including lines on the road.

Lisa noted that there was of lots of litter around the transfer station and entry road and although she understands that this is the nature of the business, and it had been windy, she felt that the standards of litter collection and appearance of the site could and should be improved. Lisa noted a comparison to the images of facilities in Europe that were immaculate. Simon acknowledged that the appearance of the facility could be improved and that he would make this an operational objective.

Lisa noted that 'World Clean-Up Day' was on Saturday 15 September 2018. Anybody interested in participating in local events could contact Lisa.

Lisa noted that she had set up a 'Love our Streets' group. To date, the group had collected 5,000-6000 cigarette butts, 90kg of waste at city centres and train stations. Lisa noted her view that the number of butts was a reflection of inadequate butt bin infrastructure around stations. The group has raised this issue with VicTrack without success. Peter encouraged Lisa to share the information/data that they collect with Council's Waste Policy team (Hayley Jarvis). Lisa thought that they would be providing this data to Council on an annual basis. Cr Maynard and the group congratulated Lisa for her efforts for starting the Love our Streets Group.

Simon noted that after a couple of years of pressure, VicTrack have installed very solid gates with rock bollards to stop dumping at the back of the RDF. This appears to be effectively reducing the illegal dumping in this area.

Lisa asked whether it was possible to sort waste at recycling centre not at source. One bin. Lisa noted attended the western metropolitan partnerships and met the CEO of Citywide and he mentioned that the City of Melbourne Transfer Station has a sorting facility to separate co-mingled rubbish from one facility. Lisa questioned why Wyndham didn't use the one bin system and the Citywide facility.

Simon noted his view that the Citywide Transfer Station did not have any current sorting facilities and was simply a transfer station, which aggregates the waste for disposal. It has an area where customers can drop off recyclable items, similar to the Wyndham Transfer Station. Simon noted that if you separate at source there is a better quality of material for recycling. This is why Council puts a lot of effort into encouraging source separation. Simon thought the CEO of Citywide may have been talking about what they could do in the future. Council will similarly be looking at different services when the contract for kerbside collections comes up for renewal in 2019. Simon and Stephen shared the view that it was much better and worth the effort to try and get people to separate at source, based on their experience from inspection of European recovery plants where they saw that recovery rates were quite low for the cost and the quality of the recovered materials limited their re-use.

4. Strategic waste management and resource recovery

a. E-Waste Ban - Implementation

Liza noted that Sustainability Victoria just announced the commencement of their \$1.5 million e-waste education and awareness campaign. The campaign aims to foster new behaviours in managing e-waste in Victoria. It has an emphasis on building knowledge about what e-waste is, as well as providing clear information about where unwanted electronic and electrical goods can be taken. The link to the Sustainability website is <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Campaigns/eWaste>

Lisa reported that she had offered to Hayley Jarvis to arrange for volunteers to be involved in e-waste collection. She also noted the idea of repair facilities for items that would otherwise be e-waste and wondered whether there would be any vacant/free shops or facilities (such as a Men's Shed) that could be used for this purpose. Stephen suggested that Lisa could discuss this idea with Stephen Bentley, the Manager of Vibrant City Centres.

Lisa also noted the free-cycle websites should be promoted as a way to minimise e-waste production.

Action M31-4.2 Lisa to send CRG members with links to free-cycle website.

b. Council study tour of European waste facilities

Stephen noted that Council had endorsed the paper on the European Waste Tour that was previously provided to the CRG members at the June meeting. The Council endorsed the following recommendations about progressing with alternative waste technologies:

- Be a better landfill operator by compressing, baling and wrapping waste before placement into the landfill.
- Prepare to invest in materials recovery from residual waste if a market develops for recovered materials or landfill taxes make it cost-effective for customers.
- Separate food waste at source and collect it in a combined garden and food waste service
- Find a suitable partner to work on developing the RDF as a location for waste to energy.

This will involve setting up the Wyndham RDF as a suitably zoned, permitted, licensed, and approved site for a range of waste management activities.

There is a question about how this fits in with the MWRRG Residual Procurement Project. At this stage, this is unclear as Council thinks the State Government may be focusing on the south east of Melbourne because of the shortage of landfill airspace. It was noted that Australian Paper in Traralgon has lodged a Works Approval Application for a waste to energy facility. They would have to secure most of the municipal waste of the south east side of Melbourne – 14/15 councils – to have enough feedstock. It was also noted that MWRRG is not able to contract directly; they can only facilitate. They are looking to set up a special purpose vehicle. This could take a couple of years.

Stephen noted that Wyndham is in a different position to other Councils because it owns and operates an existing landfill facility. Council has an opportunity to provide people the necessary security in disposal while developing other waste treatment options for the site. Stephen noted that in terms of finding partners there had been promising discussions with the Mayor of Geelong, who also recently went overseas to look at alternative waste treatment facilities. Geelong has a limited landfill supply. Between Wyndham and Geelong there are 500,000 people; the scale needed to make alternative waste technologies viable.

5. EPA Works Approval Application

The VCAT decision on the works approved was received about 4-5 weeks ago. VCAT upheld EPA's decision to issue the works approval.

VCAT included additional conditions that reduced the size of the tip face to 900m², which is greater than the size of the tip face that the RDF currently operates with.

VCAT did not award costs. The cost of the appeal was about \$500,000 with an estimated cost (in lost income) of \$1 million per month until the new cell is built. Customers have gone elsewhere because Council was not able to provide them with a guaranteed disposal point which would potentially put their business at risk. The estimated loss in revenue is between \$3-8 million. The loss of customers and decrease in business means that the life of Cell 4c has been extended and it is highly unlikely that the facility will have to close.

The EPA issued an approval of the cell design about two weeks ago. Construction of cell 5 commenced soon after. The cell construction has been broken into two stages. The aim is to have the first stage of works completed by the end of the year. Once the construction is finished, there is a final auditor review report which goes to the EPA for approval before the cell can be commissioned for use.

It was also noted that there are a lot of pre-conditions for the commissioning of the cell, with over 30 plans and projects to be completed by this time. One of these conditions includes the construction of a 10m high litter fence around the boundary of the site, at an estimated minimum cost of \$1 million per km. It is unlikely that this will be completed by the end of the year.

6. RDF rehabilitation

Update provided in Agenda Item 2. Nothing further to report.

7. RDF Update

Simon provided a hand-out with an operational update at the meeting, including the cumulative tonnage of waste received by month and the landfill gas capture volumes. A copy of the handout is attached.

Simon noted that the total amount of waste received in 2016/17 was 550,000 tonnes. The total volume for the 17/18 year was 70,000 tonnes less at 480,000 tonnes.

In terms of landfill gas, the graphs show a marked increase on the amount of total gas produced in March 2018. This reflects the installation of new gas collection infrastructure in the active landfill cell. One new engine in the power station is now operational. Another new engine is expected to be commissioned towards the end of the year. The new engines are expected to increase the output of the power station from 1.8mw to 2.4mw.

The group asked whether we could quantify the amount of landfill gas collected and converted into energy into the number of homes powered. Simon noted a crude assessment can be done but that it will depend upon the assumptions that are used.

It was clarified that the Council does not pay for the landfill gas infrastructure. Council has a contract with a company called LMS for the Landfill Gas Collection Infrastructure. LMS supply and install all landfill gas infrastructure and operate the power station. Council received royalty payments on the revenue that LMS make from electricity sales and carbon credits.

Karen asked whether we have information on how much heat is being generated by the generators, ie the efficiency of gas combustion and conversion to electricity. Council does not have this information but may be able to get it from LMS.

Action M31-7.1 Council to request information from LMS on the efficiency of electricity generation through gas combustion at the RDF.

Complaints - One noise complaint from a neighbouring property.

The person heard excessive noise at 5am on one occasion. Upon investigation from Simon, the cause was not obvious. No management action was taken and the noise was not repeated. Simon noted that it could have been one of the trucks ejecting their blades. Simon noted that this was prior to the completion of the current sound wall which runs along the entire eastern side of the cell.

Non-compliances. The following non-compliances have been reported to the EPA and managed:

- Exceedance of leachate levels. Leachate levels are monitored regularly. Leachate is currently being pumped out of the cells into the new leachate pond. However the rate of pumping is less than expected. Larger capacity pumps are needed to remove the leachate at a faster rate. The leachate in the early cells without a clay liner also does not drain very quickly and the sump takes a few days to fill up. Council is also looking to dispose of leachate to the sewer and is currently negotiating a trade waste agreement with Melbourne Water before investing in new sewer infrastructure.
- Off-site landfill gas. Landfill Gas is monitored regularly. New extraction wells will be installed.
- Off-site litter on two occasions in July. The RDF operations manager monitors the weather and puts on additional litter crew on windy days. July was an extremely windy month and on some days there were up to six litter crew. The landfill was also closed on three occasions when it was not possible to control the litter.

8. RDF Planning Permit - Secondary Consent Amendments

Liza presented plans for a proposed new shed for storage and collection of e-waste at the RDF Transfer Station and a proposed new shed to be used for the on-site maintenance of plant. A copy of the plans that were presented to the group are provided as an attached.

The CRG endorsed the proposed plans for both the e-waste shed and the plant maintenance shed. These plans will now be submitted to Council's planning department as part of an application for a Secondary Consent amendment to the plan approved as part of Planning Permit WYP1221.07.

Lisa commented that Council was not best placed to run a 'junk shop' at the RDF transfer station and suggested this function could be given over to a community group or social enterprise. There was

further discussion. Stephen noted Council's intention to redesign or relocate the transfer station and that this idea could be considered in that context.

9. Other business

a. Membership renewal

Membership appointments will be made by council in September.

Next meeting

Thursday 25 October 2018 at 4:30pm-7:00pm