

Community Reference Group Workshop - Notes



RDF STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

2 May 2019

Potential Goals for the Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Rebuilding the RDF as a business

Key Questions

1. *Is there an upper limit to the tonnage that would be acceptable?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- Tonnages informed by a range of factors
- State government investment
- Profit not singular criteria

Goal 2: Become a Best Practice Landfill

Key Questions

1. *Are there any other actions/ideas that could be considered for best practice landfill operation?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- Strong support for baling of waste. Can see the link to amenity improvements
- Goal 2 “just get on with it”
- Audit of best practice goals for future landfill
- State regulation
- Sorting – Who, how?
- What is the economic balance?
- \$ plus policy drivers (for local government)

Goal 3: Establish Alternate Waste Technology at the RDF

Key questions:

1. *Is there a perceived benefit from, or preference for, either of the two technology categories for dealing with organic wastes?*
2. *Is the combination of some level of materials recovery and organics recovery considered an appropriate option for the RDF?*
3. *To what extent should materials recovery be pursued?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- Price sensitivity regarding increased charges and rates vs importance of acting
- Council has to take 'on-balance' decisions and show leadership despite not all options being popular. Has to make the case for decisions.
- Community opposition and education and leadership all linked benefits
- Escape of bio aerosols a problem with composting
- Council leads in recycling materials and procurement
- AWT @ RDF could partner with other companies (eg toner cartridges)
- Circular economy concept supported.

Goal 4: Develop the RDF as a location to recover energy from waste in a waste to energy plant (WTE) using proven technology in conjunction with a suitable partner(s)

Key Questions

1. *How should proposed waste to energy technologies be assessed (what criteria should be used)?*
2. *Is there an upper limit to the size of a WTE facility?*
3. *Is the RDF (or adjacent to) a logical location for any future WTE facility?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- Community concern regarding 'incinerator' and size. Needs to be evidence based.
- Future land capacity; make sure staged solutions don't restrict future uses
- Reputable technology and company
- Partnership
- Funding capacity
- Resource recovery – not just WTE
- RDF – location helps control outcomes
- RDF – location environmental performance and amenity
- RDF – using as a place to dispose of ash from WTE
- RDF – buffers – how close to residential?
- Should it be outside the Urban Growth Boundary? There are precedents in other countries in urbanised areas.

Goal 5: Integrated Waste Collection Services

Key Questions

1. *What might be some of the considerations in expansion of green waste to include food waste?*
2. *Which type of collection system might best reinforce messages about waste avoidance?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- Plastic packaging of food – look at what other councils are doing.
- Education is important, time, energy and resources permitting.
- Improve communications (eg videos)
- Group recycling services (schools, traders, street parties,
- Separate glass – resource recovery opportunity.
- Should only charge for non-recyclables – what is left in the trailers not upon entry. When can this happen? When we have new sorting facility at transfer station.
- Composting options and costs are complex. Eg NSW.
- Need markets for recovered materials, and other governments have roles here.

Goal 6: Redevelopment of the Transfer Station and working with Social Enterprises

Key questions:

1. *What are the key materials that you would like to see recovered through a revitalised transfer station?*
2. *What types of activities might it make sense for a social enterprise to be engaged in?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- Paint, batteries OK
- As much as possible – eg, e-waste
- Expand satellite sites
- One big site for multiple materials as part of one of the satellite sites, to stop need to drop at multiple locations
- Afterhours access
- RDF x shop
- Increase use of Apps to promote recycling at RDF and other sites
- Green jobs – vision needs to be able to support colocation and buffers (active and non-active)
- Green shed Canberra, Repair Café
- Co-location, convenience and amenity should be driving principles
- Separate residents and trucks
- Social enterprise. This is their space, not Council run. Need support and ensure safety.

Goal 7: Developing the long-term site use post landfill closure

Key Questions:

1. *What types of end of life use should be included for consideration?*

CRG Discussion and Feedback

- To achieve goals 1-5% - what % of land (site area) is needed? Land availability?
- Ideas – education centre, parks, open space, energy park (solar)
- Passive use important
- Wyndham doesn't have a Botanic Gardens (eg Cranbourne) - potential here?
- Community partnership
- Active sports could also be co-located
- Big thinking
- Agile, a long way in the future, don't design out future solution

Other comments and Feedback

- Extending life – pros and cons and size
- Clearly, briefly describe 'best' practice landfill'
- Goals no linear but could be combination – need to clearly communicate
- Gaps in costs, and choses taken and how much these will cost
- Fuel sources (PEF's) are possible, with emerging markets in Australia and overseas
- Illegal dumping – concern