

Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility
Community Reference Group
37th Meeting
Accepted Notes
29 August 2019
Wyndham Civic Centre, 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
Hayley Scott	- Community representative
Karen Hucker	- Community representative
Lisa Field	- Resident group representative
Julian Menegazzo	- Adjacent Landowner representative
Paul Von Harder	- Community representative
Karthik Viswanathan	- Community representative
Lindsay Swinden	- Community representative
Simon Clay	- Manager Waste Management & Disposal, Wyndham City Council
Stephen Thorpe	- Director City Operations, Wyndham City Council
Peter Gordon	- RDF Operations Manager
Tom Wetherill	- Acting Manager, Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council

Apologies/ absent:

Cr Tony Hooper	- Councillor (Harrison Ward), Wyndham City Council
Caroline Lavoie	- Community representative
Mason Asadi	- Environmental group representative
Michelle Lee	- Metropolitan Waste and resource Recovery Group representative
Liza McColl	- Business Analyst, Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council
Hayley Jarvis	- Team Leader Waste Strategy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bruce welcomed new member Hayley Scott and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Hayley spoke about her interest in the RDF and waste management generally which had been stimulated by her Year 10 work experience at the RDF in 2018. This led her to apply for one of the vacant positions on the CRG.

Bruce noted the 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 36th 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 the status of each action with some further discussion noted below:

ONGOING ACTIONS – FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO 20 th June 2019		
Action M24-5.2 and Action 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. Julian commented that this action had been pending for two years. Simon and Stephen responded that there had been personnel changes at Lend Lease during that time which meant Council invitations had not been taken up.
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 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. This advice is still pending
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>	Action closed. CRG was advised at meeting 36 that Council felt there was already a diverse range of waste services offered to businesses. Instead, Council's waste service was planned to be extended to local schools
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.
Action 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>	Pending. The register has been reconfigured but has yet to be shared with the CRG.
Action 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 update and circulate an updated contact list to all CRG members.	Completed. Email requesting permission went out 8 March 2019. Updated contact list emailed on 20 June 2019.
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.	Part completed. Stephen provided an overview at meeting 36. 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. Copy of policy emailed to all CRG members on 20 June 2019 and again on 14 September 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. Council's Richard Margovean will be put in touch with Karen to make contact with Alchemy
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.	Pending
Action M36-3.3	Lisa to consider coordinating a community submission in support of Council's submission.	The timing has passed. Action closed
Action M36-3.4	Stephen to alert Manager Open Space to clean-ups required around Council plantings	Completed – manager is following up with the contractor – clean-up is an obligation in the planting contract.

3. Members' Report

Affecting community behaviours

Karen asked how anyone could highlight a litter 'hotspot' where a bin might be required. Stephen said it was best to log these through the 'Report an Issue' link on Council's website.

There was discussion of poor behaviours around waste and litter disposal in the community generally. Bruce asked Hayley what happened at her school. Hayley reflected that putting your waste (eg during recess and lunch) into a bin, or separating out recyclables, was not seen as a 'cool' thing to do, so the school had to put in resources daily to clean up the school grounds.

Lisa spoke about community attitudes at sports grounds and local festivals (for some of which she has sorted waste between bins) where the response to has been "oh well, it's all going to landfill anyway" when people are encouraged to put waste in the appropriate bin. She said this was the fallout from the latest recycling crisis involving SKM and the consequent media coverage of councils sending waste to landfill as a stop gap.

Lindsay provided an encouraging example of the recent Celtic Festival where only reusable items (cups etc) were available for people to either 'rent' for \$1 and return after use for cleaning and reuse, or to pay \$10 to keep.

Paul asked if Council's procurement policy could support the use of recycled products. Peter Maynard advised that such a procurement policy is in place.

Paul also said he was keen, with the support of Sanctuary Lakes management, to start a Local Community Recycling program which could possibly generate income for a local community organisation. He asked if Council would have any objections to the concept. There were no issues raised.

Walter spoke about an app called Aspire (developed with CSIRO) which connect reusable/ recyclable materials with people or organisations which could use them.

Khartik shared his experiences with encouraging friends to bring reusable containers to parties where there is always excess food. He said this practice was slowly gaining traction in his community. He also shared his experience of two cafes at the University of Melbourne which use reusable plates etc. He wondered if these would be good examples to share with other educational institutions. It was suggested that this might be of interest, and worth mentioning, to Hayley Jarvis.

Khartik asked when the next bin survey is to be conducted. He said he had friends who were keen to be assessed and given endorsement for their waste sorting. Responses from Council and Bruce were based on the understanding that the bin surveys were not routinely conducted, but had been done for a targeted period, but this needs to be confirmed with Hayley Jarvis.

Action M37-3.1: Bruce to pass on Khartik's case study suggestion and question about the bin surveys to Hayley Jarvis.

4. Strategic waste management and resource recovery (industry)

MWRRG Update

There was no update as Michelle was unable to attend.

Recycling crisis

Simon provided a brief report on the recycling situation and its effect on Council. He said that SKM was starting its Laverton operations in about 5 weeks with a \$10 million loan from the State Government. Other sites were to follow. Meanwhile Council was in the process of firming up a contract for recycling services with VISY.

Lisa asked if recyclables were being deposited in the landfill cell at the RDF. Stephen said only existing customers were allowed to do this as a stop gap while the recycling system was reinstated. He said they were paying the highest price in Melbourne to do this, as a disincentive to landfilling more than was necessary.

5. RDF Planning

RDF Strategic Plan

Simon provided an overview of the Strategic Plan which had been circulated to members before the meeting. He said that the first three of the six goals articulated in the Plan were aimed at transitioning away from landfilling to resource recovery. He said in relation to Goal 4 that a separate enterprise, along the lines of Western Leisure Services and the City of Melbourne's Citywide Waste Management, was to be established to strengthen governance arrangements at the RDF.

In relation to the energy from waste (Goal 3), Simon outlined two options to be investigated: a) producing a fuel for a 3rd party facility, which could even be a cement kiln, and b) the feasibility of establishing a facility at, or in conjunction with the RDF (independent of what type of technology might be used).

Lindsay asked if this was a five-year plan with all actions to be implemented in that timeframe. Simon said it was; which in the case of the energy from waste goal would mean Council had reached a clear, informed decision on the options in that timeframe.

Julian queried whether one year to establish a baling plant was achievable. Simon confirmed that it was as it shouldn't require an EPA works approval.

Peter Maynard reflected on his personal journey from wanting to implement leading edge technology, including energy from waste, as soon as possible. He said he had come to appreciate the many steps that must be gone through to firm up proposals involving new technology. For example, Australian Paper have spent \$5 million and taken several years to develop their proposal for a \$600 million waste to energy plant at Maryvale in the La Trobe Valley, and is still working to secure the waste stream for it.

Lisa asked if a separate enterprise to manage the RDF would be able to get around some of Council's policies (eg greenhouse). Stephen and Peter said the enterprise would still be Council-owned, so bound by Council policies, but also would have access to greater expertise if required.

Lindsay asked whether baled waste was to be wrapped or not. Simon said it was intended for it to be wrapped, although experience from SA indicates that wrapping was not necessary in order manage birds. It may be possible to reduce the amount of methane and leachate produced at the RDF, depending on how well-wrapped the waste is.

Khartik asked if the wrapping material would be biodegradable or not. Simon indicated it would be preferable for it to not be degradable, or at least for degradation to be very slow. He said there was a very significant benefit in not allowing rain to penetrate into the waste. He said during the recent landfill reclamation works, there had been found 28-year old newspapers that were still fresh as they had stayed dry. He also pointed out that wrapped waste could be stored for later use as a fuel for a waste to energy plant.

Khartik asked what would be the key behaviours for the community to support the six goals in the RDF Strategic Plan. Answers included: reducing and sorting waste at the source (ie at home) and investing in building community pride and education about best practice behaviours.

Kerbside collection tender

Simon reported that the tender was very close to being ready to be advertised (two weeks approx.). He said the services would be broadened to include schools and other rateable properties. However, as flagged at the previous meeting, regarding offering services to businesses, the view had been reached that there were already enough providers for that sector. Nevertheless, the new contract will have provisions to be able to make changes along the way.

Regarding bins, it was reported that 660 and 1100 litre bins are to be costed in to the tenders. The tender will also provide for the potential for bins to be fittings with RFID tracking devices to ensure the bins 'stays' with the property and allow tracking if it's stolen or not a valid bin, such as when two bins are put out for collection. The RFID could also be used to obtain data on how often the bins are put out for collection and their weight. This type of information could allow a more accurate data on customer needs and improved service planning.

6. RDF Operations

Tip tokens

Peter Gordon reported that there is a much improved technology system behind the tip tokens this year that will ensure that tip tokens can only be used once. For the first time, Council will also be able to advise customers whether they have used their tip token previously in the year, before they get to the weighbridge. Another first will be the recordings of tip token usage against the property that the tip token is issued to provide better data as to who is using the tip tokens, when they are using them and what they are using them for. The only noticeable difference to customers in the change of technology is the use of QR barcode instead of a liner bar code.

New Dashboard

Council now has a dashboard on the weighbridge software that allows real time monitoring of the RDF weighbridge activities and allows easier access to data to monitor performance. Peter Gordon gave a brief demo of the dashboard online and outlined its features.

Cell development

Simon advised that Cell 5 Stage 1 is currently accepting waste. The construction of Cell 5 Stage 2 is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The design of Cell 6 has commenced. The construction of cell 6 needs to start in March-April 2020, to make sure it built before cell 5 runs out of airspace.

Complaints

(Deferred due to Liza's absence)

Rehabilitation

No significant progress to report.

Use of recycled product/ Circular Economy

Simon reported that the RDF is purchasing recycled glass sand for use in the sidewall protection layer of new cells. Simon made reference to a State Government discussion paper on the Circular Economy and undertook to circulate this and Council's submission to the group.

Action M37-6.1: Links to discussion paper and Council's submission on the Circular Economy to be circulated to the CRG.

Waste dumping

Simon reported on a successful investigation into the source of a truckload of waste dumped on the road near the RDF. This had led to prosecution by Council and EPA involving an \$8,500 fine. There have also been other prosecutions involving dumped green waste which have provided useful publicity.

Walter referred to vacant land in Tarneit which was being dumped on. It had been reported to Council, but was private land so the owner's responsibility.

7. Next meeting

Thursday 31 October 2019, at 4:30pm-7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Meeting closed 6.55 pm