

Wyndham Refuse Disposal Facility
Community Reference Group
39th Meeting
Accepted Notes
5th December 2019
Conference Room 2

Present:

Bruce Turner	- Independent Chair
Cr Peter Maynard	- Councillor (Iramoo Ward), Wyndham City Council
Julian Menegazzo	- Adjacent Landowner representative
Lisa Field	- Resident group representative
Caroline Lavoie	- Community representative
Lindsay Swinden	- Community representative
Karthik Viswanathan	- Community representative
Simon Clay	- Manager Waste Management and Disposal, Wyndham City Council

Apologies/ absent:

Cr Walter Villagonzalo	- Councillor (Chaffey Ward), Wyndham City Council
Cr Tony Hooper	- Councillor (Harrison Ward), Wyndham City Council
Paul Von Harder	- Community representative
Hayley Scott	- Community representative
Mason Asadi	- Environmental group representative
Karen Hucker	- Community representative
Stephen Thorpe	- Director City Operations, Wyndham City Council
Jenny McMahon	- Acting Director City Operations, Wyndham City Council.
Peter Gordon	- RDF Operations Manager, Wyndham City Council
Liza McColl	- Business Analyst Refuse Disposal Facility, Wyndham City Council

Guests: (nil)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting constitutes an Assembly of Councillors. Bruce asked if there were any conflicts of interest to be declared. No conflicts of Interests were declared.

2. Notes and actions from the previous meeting

The notes from the 38th 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:

ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING – OCTOBER 2019		
Action Reference	Action Details	Status
Action M38-2.1	<i>Liza to follow up with Simon and ask him to contact Paul to discuss the local recycling initiative.</i>	Simon is yet to make contact.
Action M38-2.2	<i>Liza to get details from Paul about the missing bin lid and raise issue with council's waste collection team.</i>	Completed. This matter is being addressed. Council to keep Paul informed.
Action M38-5.2	<i>Michelle Lee to provide Liza with contact at EPA, who may be able to help with information for the community about changes to the Environment Protection Act.</i>	Completed. Thanks for the contact Michelle. Matt at EPA was very helpful and keen to meet with the RDF CRG.
Action M38-5.1	<i>Liza to organise a presentation/interactive session on the changes to the Environment Protection Act for the CRG meeting on 5 December 2019</i>	Pending. EPA were scheduled to attend tonight's meeting. They were however a late apology and asked to reschedule to the next available meeting. This will be in February 2020.
Action M38-6.1	<i>Liza to send CRG members a link to the Strategic Plan on Council's website and provide Lindsay with hard copies of the RDF Strategic Plan.</i>	Link send out to RDF CRG members on 5 December 2019. Hard copies still to be provided to Lindsay.
Action M38-6.2.	<i>Simon to provide the CRG with details of other reclamation projects and possibility of sharing our results with industry</i>	Pending – see Item 5
Action M38-7.1	<i>Liza to present the LMS Joule portal program to the CRG at a future meeting.</i>	Pending. Agenda item for February 2020 meeting.
Action M38-7.2	<i>The Complaints Register is to be distributed with the agenda for each meeting from now on. The complaints register is to remain as a regular item of the agenda. The Chair will ask the members whether they would like to talk about any complaints or issues rather than going through each complaint in detail at the meeting.</i>	Completed. There were no new complaints since the last meeting.
Action M38-7.1	<i>Liza to speak to Karen Hucker directly about the new format complaints register and process.</i>	Pending.
ACTIONS FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO LAST MEETING		
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. Update provided at last meeting. Further material testing and design work to be undertaken. Any revisions to the design will need to be resubmitted to the Auditor.
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.
M34-4.1	<i>Liza to prepare a list of performance measures and draft survey questions and send them around to the CRG members for input.</i>	Pending. Not completed due to other priorities – cell 5 construction.
M34-4.2	<i>Findings of Market Research to be shared with the group at a future meeting.</i>	Held over to February 2020 meeting.

3. Members' Report

Caroline Lavoie

Caroline advised that she and her family were moving to Quebec next year, so the February meeting will be her last. She said that she was offering an 'Introduction to Permaculture' workshop on Saturday 15 February 2020 if anyone was interested.

Caroline was also happy to report that the plant containers left after open space planting, that she had raised at a previous meeting, had been cleared up. On the other hand, she asked if Council could do something about the litter left all around the river.

Caroline also advised she had booked a hard waste collection as part of moving house. She asked if Council could inform residents of alternative places to have good/ useful items taken for reuse by other residents, rather than going to hard rubbish. Peter and Simon responded that hard rubbish is collected using two trucks, one of which is for materials recovered for reuse or recycling. The proportion of the latter materials in the total collection is around 60% due to incentives for the contractor to separate them.

Khartik, Caroline and Lisa all agreed that it would be good to let residents know of online market options to find people interested in taking unwanted, but still useful, furniture and other household goods. Lisa mentioned that she had had a positive response to putting a request on Facebook for someone willing to add an old suitcase of hers to their hard waste collection.

Lisa Field

Lisa expressed disappointment that Council had not followed the lead of several other Councils in declaring a 'climate emergency'. She wondered what more could be done. Michelle suggested she could look at what other councils were doing (eg Darebin, Port Phillip, Melbourne).

Lisa also asked why the RDF is excluded in Council reporting of emissions. Simon indicated he was not aware this was the case and undertook to follow up.

Lisa and Caroline highlighted the 'huge opportunity' presented by schools which don't have recycling bins, except for paper. They spoke about the importance of developing positive behaviours around resource separation as part of kids' education.

Julian Menegazzo

Julian reported that there had been no noise issues of late.

Action M39-3.1 Simon to follow up as to whether the RDF is excluded from Council's reporting of emissions.

Action M39-3.2 Hayley Jervis to be put in touch with Caroline Lavoie who would like to share her experience of moving house and related waste/ resource issues and lessons.

4. Kerbside Tender

Simon reported that preparation of the tender had taken longer than expected. He said it was to be advertised the following weekend. The new contract would not commence until approximately this time next year to allow the successful tenderer to acquire the necessary equipment.

Simon indicated the new contract specifications included:

- The option to introduce alternative fuel vehicles during the life of the contract – Simon commented that electricity was not a great option in Victoria due to the main source of electricity being from brown coal, and electric vehicles are more costly than diesel (due to carrying capacity differences). However, there the RDF is a source of gas which could be cleaned and compressed to provide natural gas for vehicles, and also there could be the potential for a charging station at the RDF linked to the gas to electricity plant already there.
- Food waste being included in the green waste collection ('FOGO') – Simon noted compostable liners are provided with caddies in other collection services to make it easier for residents to collect food waste; however, there are issues with processing food waste that contains compostable liners for the current composter used by Council.
- Expansion of waste collection services to include schools in Wyndham (of which there are around 25) – Simon reinforced the CRG members' view that it would make sense for students to be recycling at the place they learn skills for the future

Simon also reported that the Parliamentary Inquiry into waste and recycling recently released its report. Infrastructure Victoria also released its interim report on waste in Victoria. He undertook to circulate links to both reports. He said they point to the need to keep glass separate in waste streams.

Michelle reported that the State Government's Circular Economy Policy was due before Christmas and may include a container deposit scheme.

Action M39-4.1 Simon/Liza to circulate links to recent waste and recycling reports.

5. RDF Strategy

In relation to the investigation of the potential to reclaim resources from Cell 1A (Action M38-6.2), Simon indicated he was looking into whether there's a way to separate asbestos from the waste (e.g. using an optical sorter or handheld device). He said there are reports of a similar reclamation projects in the USA and Europe, but none of the published reports provided any detail on how any hazardous materials had been dealt with. Michelle offered that Kingston Council had done some testing of an old landfill as part of putting a lookout on the site.

Simon said he was looking at ways to share what is learnt from this investigation at the RDF, including a presentation to a councillor forum as well as conference proceedings and/ or an article.

Simon provided an update on progress with acquiring baling technology – he said Council was close to calling for a design. He also reported having met with a European company to discuss organics recycling and with representatives of a waste to energy company with land at Lara, as well as with a company which makes small energy from waste technology (~30 tonnes/day capacity) currently in use in Ireland.

6. RDF Operations

a. EPA Inspection

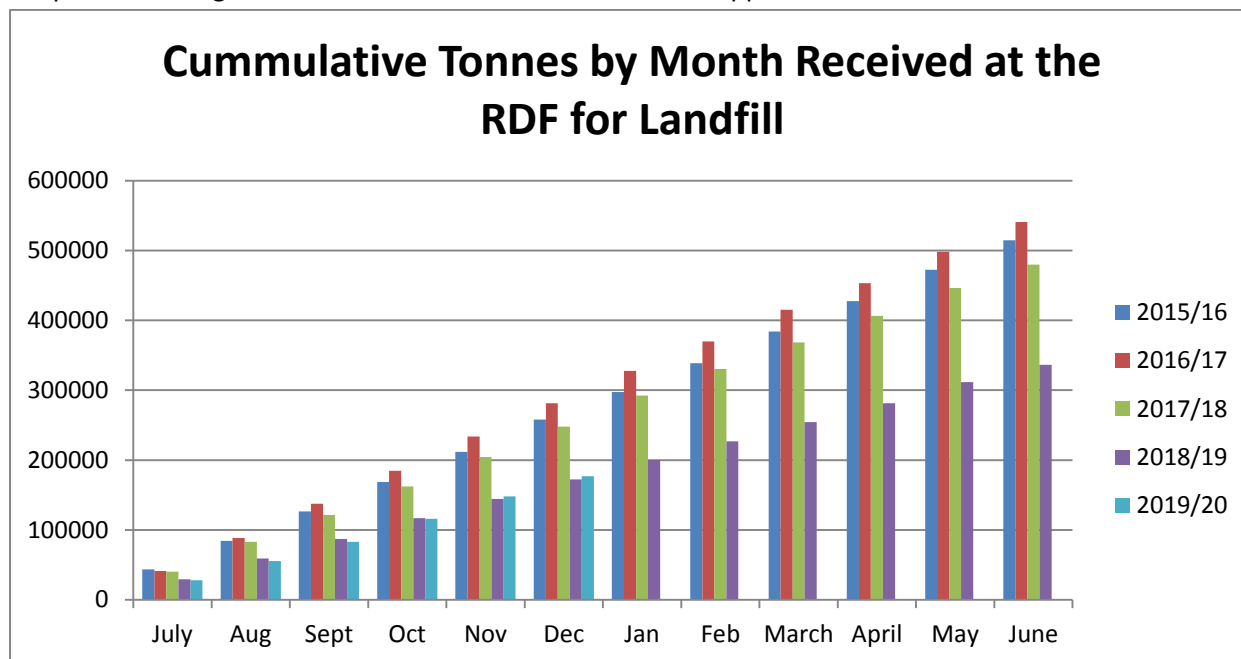
Simon reported that there had been an unannounced EPA inspection about two weeks ago which lasted around five hours.

b. Pollution Abatement Notices

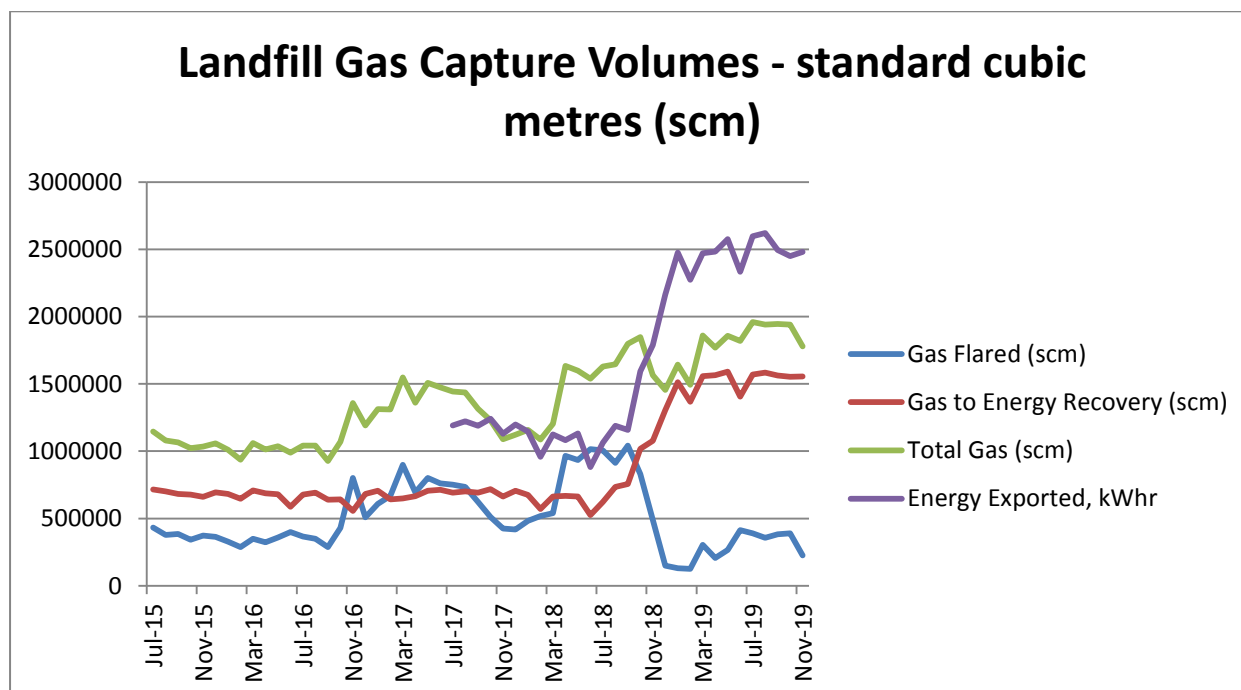
Simon reported that EPA had issued one PAN for gas migration with more to come.

c. Performance Dashboard – tonnage, landfill gas

The tonnes received for the 2019/20 financial year to end of December are slightly above the previous financial year but still well below the previous years. This is still an impact from the limitation in airspace following the time taken to resolve the EPA works approval matter.



The total volume of landfill gas captured and used for electricity generation continues to increase. Further increase is expected in early 2020 following the scheduled installation of additional gas extraction wells in Cell 4C.



d. Complaints register

There have not been any complaints since the previous meeting.

e. Cells 5 & 6 update

Simon indicated that Cell 5 would be full around March-April 2021. He said the design of Cell 6 would be formally reviewed by an auditor in the New Year, followed by EPA, with the aim of construction beginning in May-June.

f. E-waste shed

Simon reported that tender for construction of concrete slab for the E-waste shed had been awarded and work on the slab would start in early January 2020. Construction of the shed is currently expected by end of February.

g. Plant and equipment

Simon reported that a new, second hand front end loader had been acquired for moving soil. He also said that material had been drafted for his review to go to the EPA regarding the proposal for a litter net rather than a more expensive litter fence as discussed at the previous meeting.

h. Phytocap update

Simon reported that the soil testing foreshadowed at the previous meeting would take four weeks to complete (due just before Christmas). The results would then be provided to Tonkin (specialist consultants) to update the design and submit to the auditor for review.

Simon indicated that construction of the capping for Cells 4A, B and C would commence around August-September next year (subject to auditor signoff and EPA approval).

7. General Business

Lisa asked if it would be possible to get more information or even to view the installation of a gas well. Simon said one was to be installed from 13 January over a period of five weeks. Lisa, Lindsay and Peter all expressed interest in visiting the site to view it during this period.

Lisa also expressed interest in visiting the Calleja transfer station associated with the hard waste collection in the New Year.

Action M39-7.1 Simon to arrange inspection of gas well installation with interested CRG members.

Next meeting

Thursday 6th February 2020, at 4:30pm-7:00pm, Venue to be confirmed.