

# Minutes – Meeting 42

## RDF CRG Portfolio Committee

<b>Date:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	<b>Time:</b>	4:30pm – 7:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bruce Turner		
<b>Attendees:</b>	Bruce Turner	Independent Chair	
	<b>Councillors:</b>		
	Cr Peter Maynard	Councillor (Iramoo Ward), Wyndham City Council	
	Cr Heather Marcus	Councillor (Iramoo Ward), Wyndham City Council	
	<b>Council Staff:</b>		
	Stephen Thorpe	Director City Operations, Wyndham City Council	
	Justin Rhodes	Environmental Systems Officer, Wyndham City Council	
	Peter Gordon	Operations Coordinator, Wyndham City Council	
	<b>CRG members:</b>		
	Mason Asadi	Environmental group representative	
	Lisa Field	Resident group representative	
	Paul Von Harder	Community representative	
	Karen Hucker	Community representative	
	Michelle Lee	Planner, Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG)	
	Julian Menegazzo	Adjacent landowner representative	
	Karthik Viswanathan	Community representative	
	<b>Guests:</b>		
	James McLeay	Chief Commercial Officer, LMS Energy Pty Ltd	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Simon Clay	Manager Waste Management and Disposal,	
	Wyndham City Council		

## Program

	Topic	Actions
1.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that it has been sometime between meetings Bruce noted Simon Clay was a late apology and that Liza McColl was stepping away from involvement with the CRG. Justin Rhodes (WCC) is new to the CRG and will take over from Liza.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No Conflicts of Interest were declared.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Adoption of Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The draft notes from the previous meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - were accepted with no changes. The Action Tracker was circulated prior to the meeting agenda and any 'pending' items will be discussed further under the relevant agenda items.</p>	

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Action Tracker for the July 2020 meeting provided below.

Bruce indicated that Council had reached out to the EPA to have someone provide an update on the new legislation that comes into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. Some EPA links have been circulated and if the group wanted more information Council would try to reengage with the EPA for a presentation at the next meeting.

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4. **RDF Membership and 2021 meeting schedule**

Council was in the process of advertising for two new members given the resignations of Caroline Lavoie and Lindsay Swindon.

It was noted that the tenure of Lisa Field and Karen Hucker was ending. Stephen Thorpe suggested extending their tenure until the end of 2021. There were no objections. Bruce noted that another approach could be to have Lisa and Karen reapply for full terms as part of the planned recruitment drive.

Council is in the process of reopening the Civic Centre following on from COVID and expects that the next meeting can be face to face – but we will just have to wait and see.

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5. **LMS Data Centre presentation**

Stephen Thorpe introduced James McLeay, Chief Commercial Officer of LMS Energy Pty Ltd. James presented to the group the LMS proposal regarding the installation of the Australia's first modular data centre directly powered by bioenergy.

Following the presentation Mason asked how long the gas is captured for. James indicated that a typical landfill cell produces gas for 20 years with the peak concentrations observed in the 1<sup>st</sup> year post closure of the cell.

Mason asked if the organic content of the waste was assessed, as the lower the organics, the less gas produced. James acknowledged this and said LMS was pursuing the development of anaerobic digestion technologies for organics to keep these out of landfills. But it will be some time before landfills are free of organics.

It was noted that gas capture and energy generation at the RDF accounts for 10% of Victoria's emissions reductions and renders the facility close to net zero emissions (carbon neutral). Future opportunities being looked at include: colocation of energy-intensive facilities at the RDF (eg data centres), development of solar generation on completed cells and cleaning gas to 'natural gas' quality.

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The presentation was well received by the CRG and has been attached.

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6. **Members' Reports**

***Paul von Harder***

Paul's main interest was in the work Professor Veena Sahajwalla from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) who had launched the world's first e-waste micro factory which had the potential to reduce large volumes of e-waste heading to landfill. Paul was interested to know if Council had approached the UNSW. Stephen responded that he was familiar with this type of work but had not approached UNSW. Council has joined with Deakin University, in conjunction with the City of Greater Geelong which were investigating similar options. This 'hub' is looking at a project to assess materials and energy flows in the waste stream, to identify ways to readily reuse/ extract value from waste and provide feedstocks for other industries.

M42-6.1: Stephen to circulate information about the Deakin hub.

Link to Prof Sahajwalla's work:  
<https://www.smart.unsw.edu.au/>

***Lisa Field***

No members update, just happy to have the CRG meeting again!

***Julian Menegazzo***

Julian was interested in the status of the Baling Facility in the Strategic Plan. Stephen responded that Council was working towards this but there are lots of moving parts that need to be put in place before this happens such as financial aspects, EPA approvals, etc.

Julian also queried the status of the State Government's Werribee Junction Precinct Structure Plan for the area surrounding the RDF. Stephen and Justin responded that currently it was not a significantly active project and will be kept under review for possible reactivation in 2021/22.

***Karen Hucker***

Karen had a query around the surveys on domestic bin sizes and knew about another Council doing these (maybe Hume?). She was interested in getting an understanding of the results. Stephen discussed Wyndham's experience with customers around waste during the COVID period and that what we observed gives us some ideas around potential bin sizes in the future. Lisa also commented that bin sizes may also reduce as we see items such as single use plastics phased out and the introduction of container deposit schemes.

M42-6.2: Karen indicated that she will send Stephen an email once she has confirmed which Council completed the survey and Stephen could follow up with them.

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7. **Industry Update**

Michelle presented the attached update on the activities of the MWRRG to the CRG.

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Michelle discussed three main points:

- Landfill service tender

Stephen commented that Council tendered on the bailing and resource recovery as per the Strategic Plan. The tender was accepted however we need large volumes of waste for it to be feasible. Currently Council is identifying other Councils to get the volumes required

- AWP Process: North West

Alternative solutions to waste management which is helping drive the Councils Strategic Plan

- Recycling Industry Strategic Plan (RISP) and Recycling Collaborative Procurement (RDCP)  
Michelle can provide further links to the Container Deposit Scheme if wanted.

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## 8. **Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Service Update**

- Kerbside Collection Service – new contract.  
Stephen indicated that the Kerbside collection contractor had been changed prior to Christmas 2020. Initially Council received many complaints with respect to missed collections, damaged bins, etc. Council initiated contractual controls with the contractor, and this seemed to help get the service levels back up to the expected standards. Currently, the performance of the kerbside collection contract is what is expected from Council.

Council also has a program of renewing older bins.

- RDF Strategic Plan 2019-2025  
Stephen provided an update on the Baling facility. He indicated that for Council to secure the funds we need to secure an appropriate amount of waste coming into the facility. Council is currently developing a business case with the inner-city Melbourne suburbs to take waste.

Stephen indicated that Council missed out on securing waste through the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Landfill Services Contract which impacts the justification of the capital investment. Despite this, the RDF continues with the planning and will go to Council in June 2021 with a plan to build the facility, however it would not include the anerobic digestors at this stage.

Julian asked if we have got another Council interested in providing the RDF more waste. Stephen responded that we have got interest from the inner-city Councils as due to space constraints, they can't adopt the 4-bin system and won't meet the targets set by Government. The best way forward for them is to divert organics to landfill.

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Stephen also provided the action for Council to investigate the formation of the local government enterprise (RDF to operate as a subsidiary). Stephen indicated the we have done the preliminary work and will take a report to Council towards the end of the year. At this stage it is premature to indicate that we will go to a subsidiary as we think that we will be able to continue to operate through Council.

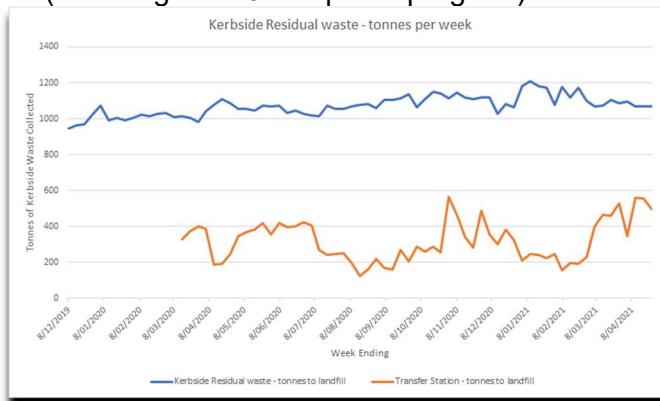
- Illegal dumping Working Group approach to Palmers Rd issue (M41-4.1)

Nothing further to report

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### RDF Operations

- Performance Dashboard - tonnage, landfill gas (including LMS Joule portal program)



Justin discussed kerbside waste and transfer station tonnes to landfill over the last 6 months. Discussed the drop off in transfer station tonnes due to the impacts of COVID lockdowns and the removal of transfer station roof. Kerbside remains reasonably consistent with a general upwards trend.

- Pollution Abatement Notices  
Council has received five pollution abatement notice (PAN) from the EPA. These PAN notices are the result of legacy issues of the site.

Justin indicated that works are currently progressing with the removal of overburden on Cell4 and that these works will continue for at least the next six months



Justin went through the staging plan of the works to ensure that the Cell was constructed to the

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appropriate levels. Justin indicated that there are areas where waste is removed and there are areas where waste would be 'placed' on Cell 4.

Julian asked if this would reduce the height of Cell 4. Stephen responded that it would not reduce the height, however it is more that the 'slopes' of the Cell would be reshaped to the appropriate angles. Once this works is completed, Council will progress the final capping of the eastern portion of Cell 4

Justin also indicated that Council are working on rehabilitating Cells 1b-3 at the back of the RDF site. The first step is for Council to undertake reprofiling of the current intermediate capping by the end of September 2021.

- Complaints register

The complaints register has been distributed prior to the meeting. No comments regarding this.

- Cell 6 and Cell 7 Construction

Justin indicated that construction of Cell 6 was progressing well and that it is likely to be complete towards the end of this year (October). Justin indicated that Cell 7 design was well underway.

- Rehabilitation / Capping

Justin indicated that this was a focus of Council over the next three years. Once the overburden removal works were completed, we would commence the final capping the eastern side of Cell 4

- Transfer Station / Canopy Roof Removal – February 2021

Justin discussed the canopy roof over the transfer station was removed in February 2021. This was a result of structural engineering assessment recommending its immediate removal. Stephen noted that at this stage there are no plans to replace the roof and this will be considered in the plans for the Baling facility.



- E-waste shed

The e-waste shed at the Transfer Station has been completed and is operational. Justin indicated that

we are processing considerable amounts of e-waste and that it is working well onsite.

9. **Meeting Close/Details of Next Meeting**  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – this will be online or at the Civic Centre (tbc)

<b>ACTIONS FROM JULY 2020 MEETING</b>		
<b>Action Reference</b>	<b>Action Details</b>	<b>Status</b>
M41-4.1	Report back from Illegal Dumping Working Group on approach to stopping illegal dumping on Palmers Road opposite Wallace Ave, Point Cook.	<b>Pending.</b> Listed on the agenda for tonight's meeting.
Action M41-8.1	Liza to circulate a map of the phytocap trial and longer-term capping areas	<b>Pending.</b>
Action M41-9.1	Liza to circulate new calendar invites for the remainder of this year.	<b>Pending.</b> Justin to send new calendar invites for the remainder of the year. Proposed meeting dates are: 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2021, 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2021, 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021, 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
<b>ACTIONS FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO LAST MEETING</b>		
Action M40-2.1	Simon to investigate the opportunity to report on RDF emissions and energy generation in Council's State of the Environment report.	<b>Pending.</b> Hayley Jarvis to give an overview of the information about the RDF and waste in the Wyndham State of the Environment Report at the next CRG meeting and discuss inclusion of information on RDF emissions and energy generation in the next State of Environment Report. Link to current Wyndham State of the Environment Report: <a href="https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/state-environment-report">https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/state-environment-report</a>
Action M40-2.2	Liza to circulate a summary document on changes to the Environment Protection Act.	More information about the changes to the act are available at: <a href="https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws">https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws</a> EPA webinar recording link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8jY4_zFI3s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8jY4_zFI3s</a>
Action M40-5.1	The topic of waste recovery research to be listed for further updates and discussion on a future agenda.	<b>Pending.</b> Stephen to present on Parma Zero Waste (an initiative visited on Council's study tour) at the next RDF CRG meeting.
M39-7.1	Simon to arrange inspection of gas well installation with interested CRG members	<b>Closed.</b> Inspections held on Monday 3 March 2021. Lisa and Karen attended.
M38-6.2	Simon to provide the CRG with details of other reclamation projects and possibility of sharing our results with industry	<b>Pending.</b> Simon reported that he had submitted an abstract to speak at a conference. Simon to present this information at the next RDF CRG meeting.