

# Minutes

## Refuse Disposal Facility Community Reference Group Portfolio Committee – Meeting 45

<b>Date:</b>	21 October 2021	<b>Time:</b>	4:30pm - 7:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bruce Turner		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Independent Chair</b>                  Bruce Turner Phoenix Facilitation</p> <p><b>Wyndham City Councillors:</b>                  Cr Peter Maynard Councillor (Iramoo Ward)                  Cr Heather Marcus Councillor (Iramoo Ward)</p> <p><b>Wyndham City Council Staff:</b>                  Stephen Thorpe Director City Operations                  Simon Clay Manager Waste Management and Disposal                  Matthew Whelan Acting Operations Coordinator                  Justin Rhodes Environmental Systems Officer</p> <p><b>Reference Group members:</b>                  Lisa Field Resident group representative                  Mason Asadi Environmental group representative                  Michelle Lee Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group                  Julian Menegazzo Adjacent landowner representative                  Karthik Viswanathan Community representative                  Joe Ferlazzo Community representative                  Bianca Bragalenti Community representative                  Paul Von Harder Community representative</p>		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Karen Hucker Community representative Hayley Scott Community representative		

### Program

Topic	Actions
<p>1. <b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>                      Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Introductions were made across the group to welcome new community members – Joe and Bianca – to the CRG.                      Council’s Acting Operations Advisor (Matthew Whelan) was also introduced to the CRG and will attend meetings in the future.</p>	
<p>2. <b>Declaration of Conflicts of Interest</b>                      No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>	
<p>3. <b>Adoption of Previous Minutes</b>                      The draft notes from the previous meeting held on the 26 August 2021 were accepted with no changes.</p>	

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The Action Tracker was circulated prior to the meeting agenda. All 'pending' items have been listed for discussion under the relevant agenda items at today's meeting.

Action Tracker for the August 2021 meeting provided below.

ACTIONS FROM AUGUST 2021 MEETING		
Action Reference	Action Details	Status
	No Actions	
ACTIONS FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO LAST MEETING		
M43-7.1	Council to discuss and organise a presentation from Deakin University regarding the works at the Hub	<b>Pending.</b> Stephen would follow up to see if he can find someone at Deakin who could present

Bruce indicated that Council had tried to contact Deakin regarding a presentation on the 'Hub'. Stephen would follow up with Deakin as they often have resource changes but is confident that he would be able to find someone who could discuss the collaboration between Council and Deakin. Paul asked if Council has spoken directly to Professor Sahajwalla at UNSW. Stephen indicated that Council is familiar with her work, however the Deakin Hub work is more relevant to the RD and the presentation would further explore the current works and relationship with Council.

**Action M43–7.1** Stephen will continue to follow up with Deakin for a presentation on the 'Hub'

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

Justin indicated that the date for next CRG meeting and the next years CRG meeting are:

- 16 December 2021
- 24 February 2022
- 28 April 2022
- 23 June 2022
- 25 August 2022
- 20 October 2022
- 15 December 2022

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#### 5. Members' Reports

##### **Julian Menegazzo**

Julian still experiencing a noise issue – with low frequency noise coming from the LMS Bioenergy generators at night-time.

##### **Lisa Field**

Nothing to report

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***Paul Von Harder***

Paul raised the issue of the straps on disposal masks being a hazard to wildlife and wondered if people could be encouraged to cut them prior to disposal. Cr Marcus indicate it was the cheap disposal ones that are being discarded unthoughtfully. Justin indicated that the RDF was the end point for this waste and that masks are largely mixed with other waste prior to coming to site. Stephen supported this and indicated that this would need to be done prior to throwing in the bin. Stephen indicated that Council could put out some communications through its Environmental Group and would request that they investigate this further

**Action M45 -5.1** Stephen would request that Council's Resilience and Waste Education Team looks at what can be done to encourage cutting of straps on masks prior to disposal.

***Bianca Bragalenti***

Bianca asked about food waste collection and how it would be handled. (This was deferred to the Waste Strategy update)

***Joe Ferlazzo***

Joe outlined his extensive past and present waste-related community activities. At times, he said he and collaborators were collecting 20-30 different items for recycling. Joe also has an interest to know more about Council's future plans around recycling and specific items such as xrays, toys, etc.

**Action M45-5.2** Stephen would request that Council's Resilience and Waste Education Team to speak on Council's recycling strategy.

Cr Marcus commented that only 1% of clothing is suitable to be resold; most are poor quality and almost disposable in terms of how long they are worn before thrown out.

***Karthik Viswanathan***

Karthik discussed observations that people in the community don't seem to be aware of the three (3) hard waste collections offered by Council. Karthik observed that when residents move out, they tend to leave hard waste on the nature strip but generally don't call Council for the hard waste service.

**Action M45-5.3** Justin to follow up with Council's Litter Management Team to give a presentation on litter management (hard waste collections).

Karthik also noted that hard waste is being put at waste collections points (noted at Manor Lakes) rather than organise the Council service.

Cr Maynard also noted the misuse of collection points he had also observed. Cr Maynard and Cr Marcus indicated that an improvement to education programs are needed on how to recycle/use hard waste. Joe supported this and thought maybe some types of competitions might help. Bianca suggested targeting newer residents to Wyndham as they may not know the hard waste collection service exists. Stephen suggested Council's litter management team may be able to give the group a presentation on dealing with dumping and waste in the environment.

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## 6. Industry Update

Michelle discussed food waste collections and how MWRRG have developed and new guide to help businesses reduce and recycle food waste.

<https://mwrrg.vic.gov.au/news/new-guide-to-help-businesses-reduce-and-recycle-food-waste/>

<https://mwrrg.vic.gov.au/assets/resource-files/Food-waste-recycling-for-business-snapshot.pdf>

Bianca spoke about her experience working in food waste processing involving pre-consumer food waste, which is being transformed into fertiliser.

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## 7. Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Service Update

Stephen discussed the Strategic Plan and how Council where looking into the functionality of the Transfer Station at the RDF. It is acknowledged that the geographical location of the transfer station at Wests Rd may not be convenient to some residents. Council is also investigating provision of different services to households – like four (4) bins and improvements to the transfer station/local collection points. Council are currently collecting and reviewing large amounts of data. There are specific timelines to meet with these investigations and must provide a Transition Plan to Council in early 2022. Joe suggested the focus should be on recycling before waste gets to the RDF. Cr Marcus acknowledged Joe's community work and discussed clothing/fabrics as a major waste issue.

Simon provided a further update on the Strategic Plan. Council was currently concentrating a significant amount of resources to addressing rehabilitation and the legacy site issues. An Expression of Interest (EOI) had recently closed on the design of the Baling and Presort Facility and Council has evaluated and indentified three (3) entities keen on the project. Council is now developing the specification over the next few weeks, the three (3) entities will then submit proposals for construction. Council's expectation is that construction of the facility may commence in mid-2022.

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## 8. RDF Operations

**Performance Dashboard - tonnage, landfill gas**      **Action M45-8.1** Matthew to report Matthew provided information on the amounts of waste to the CRG recycling initiatives at recorded coming into the site and the impacts of COVID the RDF at the next meeting. on the Transfer Station. He said he had found the discussions around recycling earlier in the meeting very interesting and undertook to focus on recycling at the RDF at the next meeting.

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Lisa said it would be interesting to visit the RDF again and suggested it would be good to keep a scorecard on what's kept out of the waste stream.

**Action M45-8.2** Simon to discuss reclamation projects at the next meeting.

Matthew welcomed people wanting to visit, and Lisa's offer of plants for beautification.

### ***Pollution Abatement Notices***

Justin provided an update on the current PANs. Reprofiling of Cell1b-3 was progressing well and basically complete. A survey is being completed at the end of October and this will determine if any final works are required.

Overburden removal on Cell 4 had recommenced after a safety incident onsite. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2021. Capping of the eastern side of Cell 4 should commence early 2022 and be completed by the middle of the year. Joe asked if Council had looked at recovering any of this waste for recycling. Matthew indicated that as the waste was deposited in that Cell under different regulations, Council hasn't gone down that path. Simon indicated that the degradable waste had gone – but not plastic and the papers are still readable if dry. Simon said there are photographs and information available about a previous attempt to recover waste from the landfill, which was thwarted due to the presence of asbestos.

Cr Marcus asked about landscaping. Matthew explained Council is investigating the final landscaping of Cell 4. It is likely to be grassed with native seeds as the Cell will need to settle for the next 10-15 years. Matthew discussed the possibility of phytocap on Cell1b-3 as it older, however Council will need to maintain significant areas onsite for soil stockpiling for future Cell construction and rehabilitation works. Council is currently reviewing the site Master Plan.

Council had developed a Landfill Gas Remediation Action Plan that needs to be verified by an EPA Auditor and submitted to the EPA by 01 November 2021. This plan provides the rehabilitation pathway for the site for the next 3-5 years

### ***Complaints register***

The complaints register was distributed prior to the meeting. No comments regarding this. A discussion regarding noise was undertaken earlier in the Members Report

Simon discussed the low frequency nighttime noise issue impacting Julian. He (Julian) went to the site and identified to the noise was likely to be coming from the LMS Biogas facility. Council contacted LMS and in response has been undertaking monitoring across the site for the last 6 or so weeks. LMS will do further monitoring on the Holcim property – line of sight from LMS to Julian's house. The monitoring hasn't identified

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the source of the noise to date with the previously monitoring impacted by noise from crickets/frogs and/or the highway. The new monitoring location should not be subject to so much background noise. LMS would continue to vary the noise frequency monitored. LMS have recently completed some noise attenuation works on their facility and looking to undertake more as soon as some of the equipment arrives. A meeting a few days ago between Council, LMS and Julian discussed further options such as shutting off generators (LMS explained why they are reluctant to do this).

Julian asked about reporting to the EPA. LMS has self-reported (under their operating licence) and have been discussing and approach to the issue with the EPA. Council also followed up with EPA and were advised that LMS should report under their operating licence, which is separate to Council's licence for the RDF. Both Council and LMS are committed to finding a solution.

#### ***Cell 6 and Cell 7 Construction***

Cell 6 construction on track for practical completion in November 2021 and Council won't commence filling until early to mid-2022.

Cell 7 design was well underway however the site focus is on the rehabilitation projects for the immediate future.

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#### **9. Meeting Close/Details of Next Meeting**

16 December 2021 – online or at Civic Centre (tbc)

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