

Minutes

Refuse Disposal Facility Community Reference Group Portfolio Committee – Meeting 49

Date:	23 June 2022	Time:	4:30pm - 7:00pm
Location:	Online (Microsoft Teams)		
Chairperson:	Bruce Turner		
Attendees:	<p>Independent Chair Bruce Turner Phoenix Facilitation</p> <p>Wyndham City Councillors: Cr Peter Maynard Councillor (Iramoo Ward) Cr Heather Marcus Councillor (Iramoo Ward)</p> <p>Wyndham City Council Staff: Simon Clay Manager Waste Management and Disposal Chris Rachor RDF Operations Manager Justin Rhodes Environmental Systems Officer</p> <p>Reference Group members: Michelle Lee Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group Lisa Field Resident group representative Julian Menegazzo Adjacent landowner representative Mason Asadi Environmental group representative Joe Ferlazzo Community representative Karen Hucker Community representative Karthik Viswanathan Community representative Bianca Bragalenti Community representative</p>		
Apologies:	<p>Paul Von Harder Community representative Hayley Scott Community representative Stephen Thorpe Director City Operations</p>		

Program

Topic	Actions
1. Welcome & Apologies Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared.	
3. Adoption of Previous Minutes The draft notes from the previous meeting held on the 28 April 2022 were accepted with no changes.	
<p>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.</p>	

ACTIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING		
Action Reference	Action Details	Status
M47-4.1	Justin to review memberships and initiate refreshment as required	Pending
M47-5.1	Stephen will ask Council John Nemet to provide an update to the group on dumped rubbish data – particularly on mattresses and shopping trolleys	Pending.
M47-7.1	Justin to facilitate group member(s) that are interested in attending the webinars.	Closed. Paul and Mason attended webinars
ACTIONS FROM MEETINGS PRIOR TO LAST MEETING		
M45-8.1	Matthew to report to the CRG recycling initiatives at the RDF at the next meeting.	Pending. Council is planning to construct a trial sorting facility and will report to the group progress (last qtr. 2022). Bill Corcoran may present data
M43-7.1	Council to discuss and organise a presentation from Deakin University regarding the works at the Hub	Pending. Council is still finding it difficult to find someone to present. Justin to send out previous information as a refresher and this can be closed

4. RDF Membership and 2022 meeting schedule

Justin indicated that the date for next CRG meeting:

- 25 August 2022 - may be held at the Council office (COVID pending)

Action M48-4.1 Justin to circulate placeholders for future meetings in 2022/23

Justin discussed that the group is due for a membership refresh and that up to six (6) members tenures had expired. Due to COVID, the group refresh had been difficult to manage. Ideally, the group would like to refresh three (3) members at a time – to allow for

Action M47-4.1 Member who would like to finish up on CRG to contact Justin and/or Bruce.

a consistent refresh. Of the six (6) members identified for refresh, if any member would like to extend for another year it was agreed that this would be acceptable.

Lisa indicated that she had been on the CRG for five (5) years and is happy to move on.

Michelle indicated that this would also be her last meeting as an MWRRG Representative. MWRRG are disbanding and moving into DWELP as part of Recycling Victoria. Peter asked if Michelle would continue with the CRG in her new role. Michelle was uncertain how the new Department will function and their involvement in groups like the Wyndham RDF CRG. Michelle indicated it may be a number of months until these issues are finalised. Michelle thanked the CRG for “nine great years of important community discussions and learning. You have made me feel welcome. My new email as of 1 July 22 will be michelle.t.lee@delwp.vic.gov.au”. She also expressed how important these types of groups are. The CRG thanked Michelle for her contribution over the last nearly 10 years.

5. Members’ Reports

Julian Menegazzo

Julian indicated that he was still being impacted by low frequency noise at night and that he had stopped reporting. Council met with Julian following previous CRG meeting and Julian agreed to noise monitor being placed on his property. Council have also been in touch with LMS who are open to shutting generators down overnight during this monitoring period to help identify if this is the source of the low frequency noise. Council is in the process of scoping works and engaging a suitably qualified expert to undertake the works.

Karen offered to share her experience of low frequency noise associated with a cogeneration plant at a recreation centre in the City of Yarra where she works. Justin indicated this would be very helpful.

Heather Marcus

Heather indicated that the ‘Stich don’t ditch’ program that she is spearheading is moving along nicely. The program has been picked up in the US by a designer, while locally Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong Councils are also getting involved.

Joe Ferlazzo

Joe asked about the potential for virtual tours of the site, or a YouTube video/link to let the broader community know what was happening at the RDF. Heather also supported this initiative and wondered if Wyndham TV might be a helpful collaborator. Peter and others thought drone footage would be useful.

Action M49-4.1. Justin to discuss internally with Council how a virtual tour of RDF might work.

Mason Asadi

Mason was interested to know whether Council had completed any audits of household waste. Simon indicated that this was done periodically and that the last audit was completed late last year. There is a report on the level of recyclables (level of contamination) and that it was consistent with past audits. The audit identified that there remains a large amount of food waste within general waste. There was also approximately 7% contamination identified within the green waste such as plastic bags, garden tools, etc. The audit didn't identify any major changes in contamination levels during the pandemic.

Action M49-4.2 Simon to present data on the recent audit of household wastes (ideally at next meeting)

Karthik Viswanathan

Karthik shared that recycling pop-up stores are coming up this weekend and commented that it would be great to create more of those in the future. Karthik asked if we could let more people know about waste management at the RDF and noted that school students are a great target for messages as they can influence their families. Justin responded that Council does facilitate school groups and we are keen to accommodate this more often if any community groups are interested.

6. Industry Update

Michelle spoke about forthcoming State legislation relating to the container deposit scheme and waste to energy cap. More information can be found at: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/bills/environment-legislation-amendment-circular-economy-and-other-matters-bill-2022>

7. Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Services Update***Resource recovery and baling facility***

Simon indicated that the design tender documents have now been finalised and these will be issued to the three (3) shortlisted companies by the end of the week. The tender period is open for five (5) weeks and Council will then take approximately three (3) weeks to assess. Once the assessment is completed, a contractor will be appointed to move the project into the detailed design phase.

Mason asked about a gasification plant in Laverton which Simon said Council had tendered for.

8. RDF Operations***Performance Dashboard - tonnage, landfill gas***

Simon provided information on the amounts of waste recorded coming into the site.

Simon also noted an increase in green waste coming into the site which Council believes to be reflective of the seasons. Mason asked how Council knows the

amount of green waste coming to the site and Simon indicated that all material coming into the RDF must come over Council's weighbridge and is recorded there.

Mason queried if there are any changes in methane concentration from the landfill depending on the time of the year. Simon indicated that the main variation in concentrations is related to the age of the waste in the landfill. The older waste within Cell 1b-3 has lower methane concentrations, fresh waste in Cell 4 is dominant.

Mason noted that any energy from waste proposal relied on having some organic material in the feedstock. He pointed out that this would work against having full waste separation. Simon undertook to look at the energy from waste proposal received by Council as to the assumptions re level of organics. Michelle commented that it will be a long time before there is no organic material in residential residual waste.

[Lisa provided a link to an ABC article about the RDF and energy from waste proposal - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-21/werribee-waste-to-energy-electricity-wyndham-council/100632106>]

Complaints Register

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

Pollution Abatement Notices

Overburden removal on Cell 4 was progressing well. It is estimated that approximately 190,000 m³ of waste has been removed to date (involving some short-term odour issues). Council is required to move approximately 216,000m³ in total to complete these works.

The commencement date for the final capping works on Cell 4 is still anticipated to be early August 2022. It is estimated that this will take 4-6 months to complete.

Council has applied to the EPA to amend the completion dates on the Notices as these works are taking longer to complete than anticipated due to project complexities.

Cell 6 and Cell 7 Construction

Cell 6 construction has been completed and Council is preparing documentation to provide to EPA for the approval to start placing waste in Cell 6. Council won't commence filling Cell 6 until August – September 2022.

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

Justin showed an aerial photo of the leachate evaporator currently being constructed. Mason asked

about treatment of the leachate, as it is normally very contaminated. Justin said Council was looking to get approval to release treated leachate to sewer

9. Meeting Close/Details of Next Meeting

25 August 2022 – online or at Civic Centre (tbc)

Directly after the meeting, Joe circulated a link to an interesting article about e-waste and other recycling in Australia – <https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/e3sixty-takes-e-waste-technology-full-circle/>