

Minutes

Refuse Disposal Facility Community Reference Group Portfolio Committee – Meeting 53

Date:	16 March 2023	Time:	4:30pm - 7:00pm
Location:	Wyndham Civic Centre, Werribee		
Chairperson:	Bruce Turner		
Attendees:	<p>Independent Chair Bruce Turner Phoenix Facilitation</p> <p>Wyndham City Councillors: Cr Peter Maynard Councilor (Iramoo Ward) Cr Heather Marcus Councilor (Iramoo Ward)</p> <p>Wyndham City Council Staff: Stephen Thorpe Director City Operations Ben Morrissey Manager Waste Collection Services Chris Rachor RDF Operations Manager Ben Hart RDF Environmental Systems Officer</p> <p>Reference Group members: Connie Menegazzo Adjacent landowner representative (prospective) David Tsardakis Environment Group representative (prospective) Karen Hucker Community representative (prospective) Joe Ferlazzo Community representative Ian Domoney Community representative (prospective) Hayley Scott Community representative (prospective)</p>		
Apologies:	Simon Clay Manager Waste Management and Disposal Bianca Bragalenti Community representative Paul Von Harder Community representative (prospective) Milana Mansoor Community representative (prospective)		

Program

Topic	Actions
1. Welcome & Apologies Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting and given the presence of several new members, a round table of introductions followed. Stephen gave a brief overview of waste services and the importance of waste management in Wyndham.	
2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest were declared.	
3. Adoption of previous minutes The draft notes from the previous meeting of 15 December 2022 were accepted with no changes.	

The Action Tracker was circulated prior to the meeting, but actions were unchanged from the previous meeting.

4. RDF Membership renewal process update

Ben H gave an overview of the RDF Membership renewal process to date and confirmed that Council will meet to endorse recommended new members on 28 March 2023.

5. Wyndham Waste Strategy and Waste Services

Bruce spoke to the scope of the CRG, which historically incorporates both the RDF and broader waste management issues within Wyndham.

Ben M provided an overview of waste management in Wyndham more generally, including:

- Kerbside collections
- Hard and Green waste:
 - Connie asked how the organics collection and processing made any money. Chris responded that it was built into the gate fee and that small amount were also made from selling compost.
 - Stephen discussed how illegally dumped wastes across Wyndham is managed and some of the issues that are associated with trying to reduce this.
 - Heather discussed the need for Council and Councillors to create new ways to connect to the community to help resolve some of these issues.
 - Bruce reinforced the message that one of the key roles of the CRG is to be an avenue of communication between the community and Council, with further conversation around this topic.
- Waste vouchers:
 - Stephen and Ben M. also discussed changes in the voucher system in 2023 and some of the associated challenges and possible solutions being considered. The new system is/ will be more flexible in that households will have access to four 'collections' per annum; a combination of tip vouchers, and hard/ green rubbish collections.
 - In accordance with the '20 minute city' concept (whereby most people's day-to-day activities occur within a 20 minute trip from home), Joe wondered whether in the future there might be 'little recycling centres' scattered across the municipality, for drop-off of specific waste types.
- Waste education:
 - Efforts are focused around the avoidance, reuse and recycling elements of the waste management triangle (as the most preferable segments to minimize the generation of waste).
- Circular Economy:
 - A summary of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2021 was provided, focused on the goals and measures.
 - A summary of the changes to happen in Victoria resulting from the WRRRA 2021 was provided, along with what these mean to Wyndham. This prompted further conversation around (in particular) the Container Deposit Scheme and recycling more broadly, including issues and opportunities.

Chris provided an overview of operations at the RDF, including diversion of wastes from landfill at the transfer station and the resource recovery centre. This included a conversation about how hook bins and other customers of the transfer station are using the facility.

Joe asked a question around how the transfer station separates waste streams, noting some challenges to the layout. Chris provided an overview of how the transfer station separate wastes from the residual that goes to landfill, with some detail around challenges and future opportunities. Ben H. provided some

additional detail on current sorting arrangements at the transfer station pit. It was noted that that has been a 50% cut in waste going to landfill from the transfer station through education of visiting customers.

6. Member's Report

Landscaping/ rehabilitation

Connie expressed concerns about the risk to Council's image if there was poor post-rehabilitation landscaping of Cell 4 and future cells, due to the height of the landfill and its visibility, enquiring about plans to use native grasses in the rehabilitation works.

Ben H. responded that he understood that there were native grasses to be used in the rehab works, but that the initial revegetation could be primarily fast-growing hydro-seeded grasses to stabilise the cap and reduce the risk of erosion damage. Ben H said he would find out more information for the next meeting and/or site visit.

Action M53-6.1: Council to provide more info on current landscaping plans and potential for collaboration with NatureWest

David noted that Council is involved in collaborative work to protect the Western Grasslands Reserve, and also that there are significant grasslands near the RDF (in the adjacent rail corridor). These are known as "natural temperate grasslands" although David suggested a term like "wildflower meadows" might be more apt and appealing to the wider community. He cited Limeburners Bay behind Geelong Grammar as a great example of what it is possible to achieve in landscaping and rehabilitating old landfills. He wondered about the opportunity to bring this local experience to the plans for landscaping at the RDF.

Waste map

Karen reported that, when looking for it a month ago, she found it very difficult to locate documentation on the zero-waste strategy on Council's website – expressing that everyone in Wyndham should have easy access to this kind of information.

Karen also reported using the remote link to the in-person meeting was not ideal – in particular the sound quality was poor at her end.

Waste management initiatives

Hayley discussed how Melbourne University has some great waste management initiatives, such as vendors not being allowed to supply disposable cups/plates etc. The messaging at Melbourne University is about proactively encouraging students to reduce waste and stimulate circular economy practices.

This prompted further general discussion around:

- Green waste and composting
- Importance of a sense of community in keeping those communities clean, with examples provided of places with no or minimal littering.
- Importance of ensuring access to information around waste management despite communication barriers, such as language and/or computer illiteracy.

David spoke to how his experience with Nature West showed that communication and support to other volunteer groups (even if minimally related) can help to support the aims of both groups, expanding the reach of communications and helping to change habits.

This was tabled as a topic for ongoing discussion.

There was further discussion around plans to prepare a video showing the community the full extent of the RDF and what it does. It was discussed that Council plans to use in-house staff to use a drone to prepare a virtual tour that will

(As per Action M49-4.1)

be available online. It was suggested that the virtual tour should be prepared in multiple languages to allow it to be accessible to the wider Wyndham community.

7. Industry Update

No report.

8. RDF Operations and Works update

No report due to time. Dashboard update to be circulate with these minutes.

9. Meeting Close/ Details of Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Next meeting: 4.30 to 7.00 pm, Monday 22 May 2023 at the Civic Centre. (Tbc with those not present)

NB the possibility of a meeting combined with a site visit at the RDF was canvassed, but later reconsidered due to the foreseeable daylight limitations at that time of the year. Ben H will be in touch to set up site visits for those interested prior to the next meeting.
