

# **TAYLORS ROAD 'LYNDHURST' LANDFILL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING 9**

5.30 – 8.30pm, Thursday 27 November 2008

Meeting room, SITA Environmental Solutions, Hallam road Landfill,  
Hallam Road, Hampton Park

### **MEETING MINUTES**

(As confirmed by members in December 2008)

## **1. Attendees and apologies**

### **CESC members present**

Tony O'Hara – Hampton Park Progress Association  
Jason Wood – Lynbrook Residents Association  
Malcolm Baker – Director, Development Services City of Greater Dandenong  
Eric van Toor – Team Leader Asset Management, City of Casey  
Michael O'Keeffe – Post Collection Manager, SITA Environmental Solutions  
Evan Kyriakopoulos – Operations Manager, SITA Environmental Solutions  
Ian Jenz – President, Colemans Road Ratepayers Association  
Grant Tishler – Manager, Property and Development, Pellicano Pty Ltd.  
Alexa Powell – Community Relations Officer, EPA SE Metro Region  
Bruce Turner – Phoenix Facilitation (CESC facilitator)

### **Visitors (non-members)**

Colin McIntosh – Manager Landfill Centre, EPA  
Rod Kean – City of Greater Dandenong (who will be attending the Open Day on behalf of Malcolm Baker)  
Renee Deverson – EH&S Compliance Officer, SITA Environmental Solutions

### **Apologies/absent**

Jim Houlahan – Dandenong Residents and Ratepayers Association  
Thelma Wakelam – Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East (RATWISE)  
Geraldine Gonsalvez – Community interests in the SE (including RATWISE)  
George Tsivoulidis – Regional Manager, EPA SE Metro Region  
Laurence Halvy – General Manager, Fresh Start Bakeries, Dandenong South  
Rob Wilson – Councillor, City of Casey  
Mark D'Agostino – Environmental Health Officer, Department of Human Services  
Jim Memeti – Councillor, City of Greater Dandenong  
Andrew Tytherleigh – Executive Officer, Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA)  
David Richardson – Manager Engineering and Environmental Services, City of Casey [

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Tony restated comments under section five that he had clarified via email prior to the meeting. With these changes, the minutes were endorsed as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

The group reviewed the actions from the previous meeting; there were no outstanding actions.

## **3. Community Open Day**

Evan gave an update on the progress of the coordination of SITA's Open Day. Advertisements were to be published in local papers being distributed to Cranbourne, Berwick, Springvale and Dandenong in the week beginning 1 December 2009. Distribution of flyers advertising the event had begun in nearby neighbourhoods.

Eric reported that the City of Casey would be including information about the Open Day on the Council page in local papers distributed in Casey.

Bruce reminded the group that comments on the draft information panels which had been circulated via email would need to be sent to SITA by Friday 28 November.

Bruce suggested that an additional panel on Health and Safety be developed as it had been on the list of topics the group had generated earlier in the year. He also noted that EPA and SITA had agreed that a list of CESC members and their contact details, and the web address for more information, would be provided as a handout to complement the information panel about the CESC.

Tony circulated some printed diagrams of related to the Stevensons Road landfill in Cranbourne that he had obtained from EPA's website. He said they were good examples of presenting information that SITA might like to follow in preparing the information panels for the Open Day.

Michael reported that tours of the landfill would be offered to secondary schools in the area.

**Action 1: Bruce to send electronic copy of the Open Day flyer to CESC members so they can distribute to their networks.**

**Action 2: Tony to place flyers around local businesses in Hampton Park.**

**Action 3: Alexa to prepare a list of CESC member's names and contact details (and web address) for handouts at the Open Day.**

**Action 4: Malcolm to include a copy of the flyer in information packs for Councillors at the City of Greater Dandenong.**

#### **4. Taylors Road Licence**

Colin reported on the progress of the licence discussions between EPA and SITA since commitments were made at the September CESC meeting 2008 that these organisations would meet to work out how to resolve some issues relating to the licence and the contour plan of the landfill.

Colin indicated that a pre-settlement contour plan was provided to EPA by SITA on the 26 November 2008. He said the plan was being assessed and EPA was seeking further information to address some concerns, particularly in relation to drainage from the capped surface.

Colin said EPA would like to amend the licence from 1 July 2008 to replace older, redundant clauses and to improve the environmental standards in the licence to reflect best practice. For example, the current design standard for Prescribed Industrial Waste cell 12B includes a double composite liner which is a higher standard than is required in the current licence. Another example Colin mentioned was the licence specifies 12 groundwater monitoring bores when there are now around 25 in place.

Colin said EPA would like to add stricter clauses relating to gas management and to provide more clarity around the footprint of cells, including three dimensional plans to avoid misunderstandings of required cell dimensions in the future.

Tony enquired whether the group would have an opportunity to review the package of proposed amendments to the licence before any decision was made. Bruce reminded the group that EPA have said in the past that even if there was no statutory requirement for consultation (such as there would be if a full Works Approval was required), it would be appropriate to have some form of public consultation prior to the licence being amended. He noted that Malcolm had previously emphasised that the City of Greater Dandenong would expect to be consulted to enable continuity and alignment with the planning permit for the landfill. He had also previously indicated that Council would want to see wider public consultation also.

Colin indicated that EPA Executive would be deciding what level of consultation there would be.

Ian reminded the group that a commitment had been made by EPA in the past to consult, through him, with residents of Colemans Road regarding any proposed changes to the licence, in particular the clause relating to the acceptable waste amounts (1.7 and 1.8). Colin stated that EPA was not proposing to amend either of these clauses.

Tony stated that he had understood the CESC would play a review role in relation to any proposed licence amendments. Bruce reminded the group that its principal role specifically related to providing advice on how best to involve the community of interests affected by the landfill. In this role, it would be appropriate for the group to review a draft package of amendments to help ensure that they were clearly framed and explained prior to release for wider information or consultation. But the group is not the 'overseer' of formal applications relating to landfill operations.

Malcolm said that if a generally agreed contour plan emerged from the SITA-EPA discussions, it would be sensible to amend the planning permit so that it referred to the same contour plan. Colin said he was not sure that EPA could ask for such an amendment (which would be subject to the approval of the Minister for Planning as the Responsible Authority for planning approvals at the landfill).

Michael said SITA would not be applying for an amendment to the planning permit since, in the future, SITA may wish to take advantage of the additional airspace provided in the planning permit.

There was further discussion about the licence, and permit, amendment processes without final conclusion. Ian stated that in order for the group to trust the EPA, EPA must also trust the group.

**Action 5: EPA to provide advice on the licence amendments and associated decision-making process.**

## **5. Management and Coordination of the CESC beyond 2008**

Bruce reminded the group that there had been discussions at the previous meetings about the future management and coordination of the CESC. EPA had originally committed to a 12 month lead role in the process and the goal had been for SITA to take over coordination after this time.

Those present at the meeting focused on what the potential impacts of SITA taking over the CESC management/coordination role from EPA would be. All agreed that it meant that SITA would coordinate the meetings, pay the independent facilitator and draft the meeting minutes (for review by the Facilitator, followed by the full CESC). All agreed with Mal that it was not about "SITA taking over the running" of the group, as no one is able to 'run' the group; the group will only keep running while there is trust in the facilitator and process, and value for members in attending meetings.

In terms of the benefits of SITA achieving 'accredited licensee' status for the Taylors Road Landfill, Colin said that from the EPA's point of view it meant a better level of management and community engagement and, ultimately, environmental outcomes for the facility.

Alexa stated that EPA wanted SITA to take responsibility for the coordination of the CESC because it was good community engagement practice and showed a commitment on SITA's behalf to their stakeholders and community. Alexa suggested that other sites in the region such as BlueScope steel and even non-accredited sites like Origin (BassGas) in Lang Lang were leading the way with their own community engagement programs. She suggested that due to the significance of Taylors Road landfill and the level of community interest in it, EPA believed it was imperative for SITA to lead the coordination around some community engagement activities. She reminded the group that in order to become accredited, an organisation had to demonstrate not only good community engagement processes and activities but also develop an Environmental Management program and demonstrate a high level of environmental performance.

Those present were comfortable with the draft additional clause in the TOR relating to the appointment of a new facilitator (circulated prior to the meeting) which read:

**6.1. Appointment of a new facilitator**

*If for any reason a new independent facilitator is required, the selection of the new facilitator will be made by a panel comprised of representatives of the organisations on the original CESC selection panel (i.e. EPA, Greater Dandenong and Casey Councils and SITA) in consultation with the CESC.*

In conclusion, all present at the meeting said they wanted to keep the CESC going with its current dynamics, and would be happy for SITA to take over the CESC management/coordination role, for at least the first 6 months of 2009. But before finally deciding this, they agreed that it was important to give members who were unable to attend the meeting the opportunity to indicate whether they supported this conclusion. It was suggested that members could be asked to email their responses to Alexa, and that the Open Day on 10 December provided an opportunity for members to discuss any issues arising.

**Action 6: Alexa to coordinate an email from the selection panel to the CESC outlining a proposal for future management of the CESC.**

## 6. Community Update

Tony enquired about an email that Thelma had sent to CESC members requesting a copy of the Annual Environment Performance Report for Taylors Road landfill be provided to the group. Alexa tabled hard copies of the report and told the group she had emailed a copy to Thelma and was organising a copy to be placed on the website. She advised the group she was also following up a copy of Jenny Slater's (previous EPA employee) report which had also been requested.

Tony informed the group that he had received copies of letters that Jani Brieder was sending to the EPA Chairman and the Victorian Ombudsman's office. Alexa indicated that some of the questions posed in the letters were the same ones submitted to SITA and EPA after Jani had attended the September meeting of the CESC.

Tony pointed out that the CESC had previously agreed that the best time to respond to Jani's questions would be once the package of proposed licence amendments was clear. Alexa noted that there were outstanding questions which were directed at SITA in response to information that had been made available to Jani at the CESC meeting. The group agreed that it would be useful for SITA to attempt to answer these questions.

**Action 7: Michael O'Keeffe to coordinate the preparation of answers to Jani's questions to SITA following her presentation to the CESC.**

## 7. Communications

Tony enquired about the issue of dead pelicans in the region which had appeared in local papers linking the deaths to the landfill. Colin informed the group that three injured pelicans had been taken to Healesville Sanctuary where some died. An autopsy found no toxins in the birds and the cause of death was unknown (except in the case of one bird with broken bones that had clearly been hit by a vehicle). None had been found at the Taylors Road landfill and Michael said the landfill had been visited by pelicans for years and had never been seen sick.

Bruce informed the group he had received a response from the Department of Sustainability and Environment to the letter the CESC had sent to indicate its interest in the destination for wastes from the proposed desalination project. The letter noted the CESC's interest in the project but as the project had not yet been finalised there was no further information on what waste would be generated and where it would be disposed of.

## 8. Other Business

Alexa apologised for the delay in sending out a link to the online survey about the Community Engagement process relating to the CESC establishment. And advised that the survey would be complete and a link sent to members in the next few weeks.

## 9. Next Meetings

Open Day: 3.30pm – 8.00pm, 10 December 2008 followed by a short debrief and end-of-year meeting of the CESC.

Next full CESC meeting: 5.30pm – 8.30pm, Thursday 22 January 2009