

Taylors Road Landfill, Dandenong South (formerly Lyndhurst)

Community Engagement Steering Committee (CESC)

Media information – 27 June 2008

LANDFILL GROUP'S ROLE FINALISED

The committee set up to support broad community involvement in the operation and monitoring of the Taylors Road Landfill at Dandenong South, last week signed off on its Terms of Reference.

The independent facilitator of the group, Bruce Turner, said this significant milestone was the culmination of robust discussions, since the Community Engagement Steering Committee (CESC) first met in April, over the scope of its role and how it would operate.

"It's good to have reached the point where everyone supports the process and we can now focus on the business of building our understanding of how the facility operates and deciding how best to share what we are learning with the wider community and get them involved", he said.

President of Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East and representative of community interests in the SE on the CESC, Geraldine Gonsalvez, said she believed that local communities could be hopeful and positive about the establishment of the CESC.

"It opens up an ideal avenue to be educated on how the tip operates, to discuss health and safety issues as well as to request representation on matters of local concern, given that currently all planning control for the tip rests with the State Government and not the Dandenong Council", she said.

Dandenong Residents and Ratepayers Association representative, Jim Houlahan, said he and many other CESC members were interested in the condition of the liners around the older waste 'cells' at the landfill. "We have asked SITA to report on the groundwater monitoring at the site so we can see if the existing monitoring bores are appropriately located and how much they can tell us about the integrity of the clay liners in the cells that have been complete for many years", he said.

Another issue of community interest that the CESC has on its agenda for discussion is the height of the landfill. SITA's Post-collection Manager, Michael O'Keeffe, said the company welcomed the opportunity to explore ways to clear up confusion and concern around the issue. "We are looking forward to working with EPA and the other CESC members to resolve what appears to be an ambiguous condition in our licence", he said.

The Community Engagement Steering Committee (CESC) has 20 members encompassing a wide range of interests affected by the landfill, including local residents and broader community groups, Casey and Greater Dandenong Councils, landfill operator SITA Environmental Solutions, EPA and other State Government agencies, waste carriers and treaters, adjacent industry and developers.

Details of the committee, its meetings and its members are available at http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/lyndhurst_landfill.asp. Contact details for each member are included so that interested members of the community can feed in questions or issues and find out what the group is up to. All are welcome to join the committee's mailing list to receive information as it becomes available.

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