

TAYLORS ROAD 'LYNDHURST' LANDFILL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING 5

5.00 – 8.00pm, Thursday 17 July 2008

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

MEETING MINUTES

(As confirmed at 6th CESC meeting)

1. Attendees and apologies

CESC members present

Tony O'Hara – Hampton Park Progress Association
Jim Houlahan – Dandenong Residents and Ratepayers Association
Jason Wood – Lynbrook Residents Association
Thelma Wakelam – Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East (RATWISE)
Geraldine Gonsalvez – Community interests in the SE (including RATWISE)
Malcolm Baker – Director, Development Services City of Greater Dandenong
Ian Jenz – President, Colemans Road Ratepayers Association
Mark D'Agostino – Environmental Health Officer, Department of Human Services
Laurence Halvy – General Manager, Fresh Start Bakeries, Dandenong South
Michael O'Keeffe – Post Collection Manager, SITA Environmental Solutions
Evan Kyriakopoulos – Operations Manager, SITA Environmental Solutions
George Tsvoulidis – Regional Manager, EPA SE Metro Region
Alexa Powell – Community Relations Officer, EPA SE Metro Region
Bruce Turner – Phoenix Facilitation (CESC facilitator)

Visitors (non-members)

Colin McIntosh – Manager Landfill Centre, EPA

Apologies/absent

Jim Memeti – Councillor, City of Greater Dandenong
Rob Wilson – Councillor, City of Casey
David Richardson – Manager Engineering and Environmental Services, City of Casey
Andrew Tytherleigh – Executive Officer, Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA)
Grant Tishler – Manager, Property and Development, Pellicano Pty Ltd.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

George requested that the record of information he had given on the EPA position on the height of the landfill be clarified. With this change the CESC approved the minutes.

The group reviewed the actions from the last meeting; the outstanding actions were:

- Action 1: The TOR document on the EPA website to include the words 'this document has been signed by all members of the CESC'.
- Action 3: Thelma to liaise with George regarding information on the sludge immobilisation process.
- Action 9: SITA will arrange for the environmental auditor to attend a future meeting of the CESC.

3. Towards a Community Engagement Strategy

Bruce reminded the CESC that one of the main tasks of the committee was to "contribute to the plan for engaging with the broader community in the south east Melbourne metropolitan area" about the Lyndhurst landfill (TOR section 4). He also referred to sections 2 and 3 of the Terms of Reference that outline the purpose of the community engagement process and the CESC's role.

Bruce asked the CESC members to think about groups and individuals that constitute the 'community'; all those who potentially have an interest in, and would benefit from having an increased awareness of, the landfill. The CESC members brainstormed a list of interest groups in the wider community:

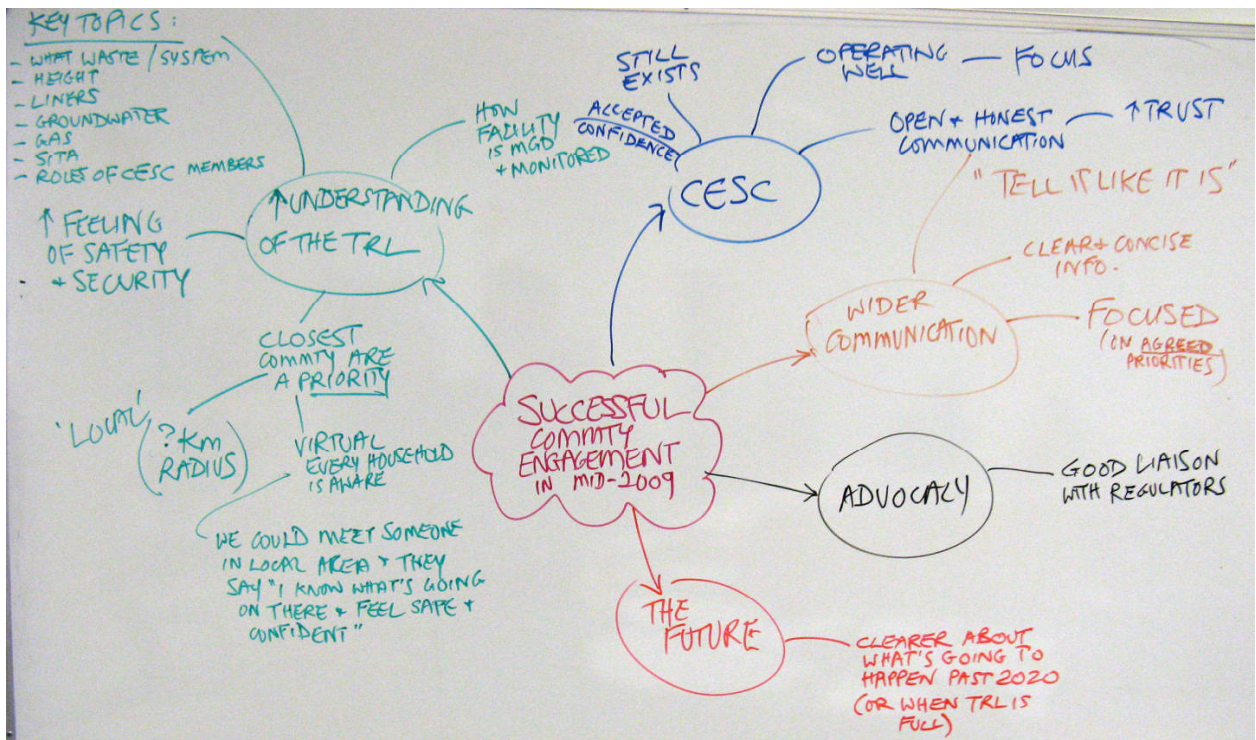
The Community

- CESC members (interest groups and organisations)
- WorkSafe (OH&S)
- CFA
- Emergency Services
- Utilities
- State and Federal MP's
- Environment groups
- Industry (waste producers)
- Schools and Education institutions
- The Victorian Community
- WWMA/Sustainability Victoria (waste exchange program)

Geraldine said she was concerned to understand more about WorkSafe's role, particularly in relation to the training of truck drivers who transport waste to the landfill.

Action 1: WorkSafe's role to be added to the list of topics for inclusion in information to be prepared about the landfill.

Bruce asked the group to think about what a successful engagement process would have achieved in 12 months time. Members discussed their ideas in small groups before reporting back. The following map represents a summary of members' comments:



Malcolm suggested it was very important that the group not get bogged down in issues that emerge in meetings that are not on or related to the agenda or the CESC's Terms of Reference. Ian indicated that informing the community about the safety and security issues and risks was paramount and the main responsibility of the group; that people living nearby needed to feel safe. Laurence commented that it was the role of the CESC to understand how the facility is monitored and managed and if there were things that were not acceptable or needed further clarification, the group should be able to raise them.

Malcolm noted that a number of issues had been raised at the CESC: groundwater, liners, gas management, waste systems and the height. He suggested that a successful engagement process would ensure that in 12 months time a number of engagement activities had been held around these issues.

The group discussed the idea of gathering information from the wider community about what their concerns might be and organising a range of activities in order to communicate as widely as possible. Suggested activities included:

- A survey of local residents concerns and level of knowledge about the landfill
- Fact sheets, brochures and information pack for residents
- A public meeting
- A paid column in local papers
- Advertisements in local papers
- Information in both Councils' community newsletters

Alexa distributed copies of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) public participation spectrum. The spectrum is a tool designed to assist in the development of community engagement plans. Alexa explained that the spectrum could be used to clearly identify a public participation goal and influence the choice of tools or activities that would be used to achieve the goal. Alexa indicated that it would be useful for the CESC to have a clear purpose in mind when helping to design community engagement activities in order to avoid a mismatch of expectations and give clarity to the community participants.

Alexa distributed information about a number of tools and activities which could be useful in engaging with the wider community.

Action 2: Alexa to develop a draft Community Engagement plan for discussion at the next meeting.

Bruce raised the matter of the potential involvement of Mark Dreyfus and other politicians in CESC meetings as raised previously by Thelma. Thelma said she felt that it was important for MPs to be involved in Lyndhurst and particularly around issues such as the height of the landfill. Evan commented that Tim Holding had visited the site with some of his staff since the last meeting. Bruce suggested that inviting politicians could change the dynamics of meeting and not help the group fulfil its purpose. He also reminded the group that there were two local elected representatives on the CESC; Cr. Rob Wilson and Cr Jim Memeti. The group discussed the merits of inviting politicians to the meetings and resolved not to invite other elected representatives at this stage of the process.

4. Communications (part 1)

Bruce circulated copies of a letter he had drafted on behalf of the CESC to the Desalination Project, under Action 2 from the last meeting. He said responsibility for the project rested with DSE. There were no comments on the letter.

Action 3: Members to send any comments on the letter ASAP to Bruce who is to finalise and send the letter.

5 & 6. The Licensing System and the Taylors Road licence

Colin McIntosh had been invited by the group to attend the CESC to discuss licences; Colin is the manager of the Centre for Landfills at EPA and has worked with the organisation for 27 years.

Before beginning his presentation, Colin informed the group of a situation with another landfill in the region that was 'just breaking' news. He said EPA and the City of Casey were working together to inform residents in the Brooklyns Green Estate in Cranbourne about high levels of methane gas which were migrating off site from the Stevensons Road landfill abutting the estate which was closed in 2005. The landfill is unlined and homes are within 5-6 metres of it. A doorknock of affected residential properties was being conducted that evening (17 July) and had been undertaken on the previous evening; residents were being offered the opportunity to have their houses tested for elevated methane levels. It was expected that information about the issue would appear in local and national news.

Colin gave an overview of the authority of the EPA to issue licences, what a licence included and the differences between a Works Approval and a licence: a works approval (WA) gives approval to build or undertake works (usually only for a two year period); a licence is then required in order to be able to operate the facility or site. The WA process allows for public comment.

Tony asked about cell construction on behalf of a community member who had submitted a list of questions to a number of the community members on the CESC. The question related to how the licence defines cell boundaries. Colin explained that the boundary is marked at the bottom of a cell but the licence allows for the fact that landfill cells are built with sloped sides and will overlap. Bruce reminded the group that a diagram of a cross section of cell 12 B had been circulated at CESC meeting #3 in May when the question had first been discussed.

Colin discussed the role of environmental auditors and regular site auditing and the EPA prosecutions process for breaches of licence requirements. He also outlined the financial assurance process, which holds landfill operators to account for the site after closure; this is separate to site rehabilitation. The CESC was informed that SITA has a \$12 million bank guarantee in place for the Taylors Road landfill.

Colin acknowledged that the current licence for the landfill is poorly worded in regards to the final height requirement. The current clause (2.41) says "waste must not be deposited to a height greater than one which allows a final landform height, including completed cap, of reduced level (R.L.) of 24 metres". Colin said that 'final landform height' was always intended to mean a post-settlement height. He showed examples of other landfill licence clauses, which set out the height requirements with more clarity. It was noted that in clarifying the height clause in the licence, EPA will need to liaise with the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) since height is also covered by a planning permit which is administered by DPCD (on behalf of the Minister for Planning).

Thelma suggested that it would be useful and more efficient to have other people (including decision-makers) involved in the CESC's discussions of the height and any other licence-related issues. Malcolm indicated his view that it was important for some items to be understood by the CESC before opening them up for wider comment. The group discussed the merits of inviting non-members to discuss the issue with the CESC and concluded that the CESC would wait to get a better understanding of the issues first.

The group was not able to complete the discussions due to a lack of time; Bruce suggested that Colin attend the next meeting to finish his presentation and to be part of the further discussion of the licence. A number of agenda items were deferred to the next meeting: Cell construction/liner integrity and Communications (part 2).

10. Next meeting

5.00pm – 8.00pm, Thursday 21st August 2008. (NB this is a different date to the one originally proposed for August)

Agenda items for the next meeting include:

- Conclusion of EPA briefing on the licensing system
- Taylors Road Licence – clauses 2.41, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9 and future plans (SITA)
- Cell construction/liner integrity
- Communications
- Community Engagement Plan (continued)