



Southern Waste Solutions

## COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

### MINUTES

06 August 2013

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#### 1. Opening

A meeting of the Community Reference Group was held on Tuesday 06 August 2013 at Sorell Council's offices, commencing at 16.00

#### 2. Present

- a) **Present:** Jamie Ward (interest in sustainability and zero waste), Tom Gray (Tasmanian Shellfish Executive Council), Angela Marsh (Southern Beaches Conservation Society Inc - SBCS), Max Cunningham (South East Shellfish Growers and king of tides), Leigh Arnold (local businessman), Sarah Taylor (concerned and engaged community member), Christine Bell (Southern Waste Solutions - SWS).
- b) **Apologies:** Blue Hills Sporting Shooters Club

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Members approved the agenda with the addition of rezoning.

#### General Business

- a) **Refresh group terms of reference**

Members had read and agreed to the terms of reference.

- b) **Overview of infrastructure**

Christine distributed a drawing showing the layers under the B cells and explained that each cell cost approx \$2m to build and cap, and lasted about 18 months to 2 years. The separate systems for collecting leachate and stormwater were explained.

The imminent leachate evaporation system (Orica WAIV) was discussed. It is expected to be installed in about 3 months. This is new technology not previously used in landfills. It will mean that the leachate and secondary stormwater ponds on site will remain virtually empty and provide excess capacity to cope with extreme weather events such as the one experienced on 9 April. It was explained that the duration of the rainfall (in this case 90 mins) was a factor in determining the severity of this event.

Landfill gas is currently extracted and flared. In the future energy will be transferred in to the grid.

**c) Site visits**

Members were encouraged to visit the site, particularly after installation of the new leachate evaporation system.

**d) Update on current activities**

The group were advised that SWS was endeavouring to partner with Natural Resource Management (NRM) and other interested parties to fund a position to work in the Carlton River catchment. The position will monitor and seek to improve catchment health.

The group was also advised that SWS has sought and received approval from the EPA to fund an air quality monitoring BLANKET station for the Copping area. Data will be available on line <http://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/base-line-air-network-of-epa-tasmania-blanket> SWS will fund the capital and ongoing operating costs of the unit. Its location is to be determined.

**e) Group chair**

The members present elected Jamie to chair future meetings and collate future agendas.

**f) Question & answer**

The group discussed the following topics:

- Transport of waste across borders (state [effects of levies and subsidies] and international [furnaces requiring large volumes over long distances]);
- Minimisation of packaging – return to vendor, chain of custody;
- Existing pollution in the area particularly from a local dam;
- Lack of local NATA accredited laboratories preventing quick turn around of analyses for both SWS and the oyster industry;

- SWS ongoing exploration of high technology solutions especially plasma arc currently being financially unviable due to insufficient quantities of waste combined with relatively low electricity prices for electricity sales back in to the grid. The issue of insufficient quantities of waste agrees with SBCS research. SWS continues to monitor changes in technology particularly low volume options;
- OECD, Greenpeace and Zero Waste South Australia preference for well designed and operated landfill over high tech including waste to energy. Social costs of landfill are lower. Material is recoverable if landfilled. The value of resources destroyed in furnaces, waste to energy etc is higher than the value of energy generated;
- SWS operations aren't subsidised by government grants;
- SWS can save money if waste deliveries reduce – increased waste at any cost is not a goal;
- SWS is disappointed that a waste levy is not in place. A levy should fund better waste management strategies and practices;
- SWS is not currently subject to carbon tax because of its landfill gas infrastructure.

**g) Rezoning**

Sorry we ran out of time/forgot to deal with this and it needs to be on the **next agenda**.

**h) Decisions**

1. Jamie to chair future meetings and receive suggested agenda items;
2. Jamie to set up a drop box facility for the committee;
3. Sarah to set up a facebook page to facilitate the community asking questions and receiving answers;
4. Tas Waste be requested to attend future meetings (Christine represents the Waste Management Association as well as SWS);
5. Members consider other potential participants to broaden community participation and representation;
6. Christine to act as note taker;
7. Meetings to be monthly for about 3 months and then quarterly – all agreed on Tuesdays at 4pm subject to tides;
8. Next meeting Sorell Council 4pm Tuesday 3 September.