



Southern Waste Solutions

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

MINUTES

03 September 2013

1. Opening

A meeting of the Community Reference Group was held on Tuesday 03 September 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), Sarah Taylor (concerned and engaged community member), Christine Bell (Southern Waste Solutions - SWS).
- b) **Apologies:** Leigh Arnold (local businessman), Blue Hills Sporting Shooters Club.
- c) **In Attendance:** Damian Mackey (Regional Project Manager, Southern Tasmanian Regional Planning Project).

3. Approval of Agenda

Members approved the agenda as circulated.

4. Previous Minutes

Members adopted the previous minutes as circulated.

General Business

a) **Zoning, re-zoning and planning**

The Chair welcomed Damian Mackey and invited him to speak to the planning scheme changes.

There are currently 29 local governments in Tasmania, and 33 planning schemes.

In 2008 the State Government signed a MOU with the 3 regional groupings of councils aimed at achieving some standardisation of existing planning schemes.

In October 2011 3 regional land use strategies were completed. These form the foundations of the new planning schemes.

There is a statewide template that includes standardised definitions, standardised mechanics and a suite of standard zones.

Each council's planning scheme will have content from 3 sources - the State Government, the region and the individual council.

Councils have expressed some concern about natural justice issues that may arise from the reform's use of interim planning schemes.

The Solicitor General advised that significant changes should only be made in an interim scheme in order to achieve commonality with the State template or to line up with the regional strategy.

Property zones extend to the property boundaries, not just selected areas within the boundaries.

The new scheme's Utilities zoning places greater restriction on activities than does the landfill's current Rural zoning. The new Utilities zone was specifically designed for major facilities such as the Copping landfill. The Copping landfill does not fall under the new Rural Resource zone.

The changes have no effect on developments that already have approval.

If another C cell proposal was put forward, it would still be classified as a level 2 activity and be required to go through the process legislated by the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act*, in the same way as the currently approved cell did. The planning authority (Sorell) approval process would also be the same regardless of whether the Copping landfill is zoned Rural Resource or Utility

b) Site visit and infrastructure

The new leachate evaporation system has been ordered but is not expected to be in place for at least 2 months. A site visit will be planned for December.

c) Update on issues discussed at the last meeting:

- (i) Real time water quality monitoring is not possible as discussed at the last meeting. It requires scientific sample collection, packaging in eskies and transfer to an interstate laboratory for testing.
- (ii) Instant water testing for marine farmers is similar to the above. The government has provided some dollar assistance to try to improve the process but no progress has been made so far. The recent algal bloom has meant more frequent sampling of meat quality but even with priority at mainland laboratories the turnaround is still about 5 days. Jamie will enquire with UTas about the issues regarding a lack of local laboratories.
- (iii) Sarah has started work on a facebook page (to allow the wider community to contact us, and to allow us to share information with the wider community); Jamie is looking at dropbox to allow the members of the group to share information; Jamie is also looking at a blog.

d) Worlds' best practice

Jamie tabled information from Hug It Forward on the use of discarded bottles and inorganic waste to construct schools.

Angela tabled documents from Greenpeace and the OECD regarding zero waste aims and a document dealing with generation of electricity from landfill gas.

e) Actions for next meeting

- Site visit December 5 b)
- Jamie to approach UTas re lack of laboratories 5 c) (ii)
- Sarah to work on a facebook page 5 c) (iii)
- Jamie to work on dropbox for the group 5 c) (iii)
- Jamie to work on a blog 5 c) (iii)
- Tas Waste to attend future meetings (from August)
- Members consider other group participants (from August)

f) Next meeting

Tuesday **1 October 3.30** pm at Sorell Council Chambers.

g) Meeting close

5.30 pm.