

## WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

### MINUTES

14 February 2011

(REF: COMMITTEES-11679)

A meeting of the Waste Management Community Reference Group was held at the EMRC Administration Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 226 Great Eastern Highway, BELMONT WA 6104 on **Monday, 14 February 2011**. The meeting commenced at **6.03pm**.

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## **1 DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.03pm.

## **2 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED**

### **Committee Members**

|            |             |          |
|------------|-------------|----------|
| Mr Peter   | Pearson     | Chairman |
| Ms Ruth    | Balding     | Member   |
| Mr Malcolm | Barker      | Member   |
| Mr Trevor  | Brown       | Member   |
| Mr Edwin   | Dell        | Member   |
| Mr Anthony | Fowler      | Member   |
| Ms Dianne  | Katscherian | Member   |
| Ms Dot     | Kingston    | Member   |
| Mr Ray     | Lewis       | Member   |
| Mr Mark    | Simpson     | Member   |
| Mr David   | Strain      | Member   |

### **Apologies**

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mr Berry Ambrose | Member          |
| Mrs Sally Paulin | Deputy Chairman |

### **EMRC Officers**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr Peter Schneider     | Chief Executive Officer  |
| Mr Stephen Fitzpatrick | Manager Project Development                                    |
| Ms Lisa Griffin        | Waste Education Officer  |
| Ms Mary-Ann Winnett    | Personal Assistant to the Director Corporate Service (Minutes) |

### **Consultant(s)**

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ms Gae Synnott (from 6.05pm) | Consultant, Synnott Mulholland |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|

## **3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Nil

## **4 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OR PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

Nil



## **5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **5.1 MINUTES OF WMCRG MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2010**

That the Minutes of the Waste Management Community Reference Group meeting held on 22 November 2010, which have been distributed, be confirmed.

#### **WMCRG RESOLUTION(S)**

MOVED MR DELL

SECONDED MR FOWLER

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2010, WHICH HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED, BE CONFIRMED.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **6 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

## **7 BUSINESS NOT DEALT WITH FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nil

## **8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Nil

## **9 REPORTS OF RELEVANT RESOURCE RECOVERY COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS**

The Manager Project Development advised that a report item was submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held on 3 February 2011 to recommend a preferred contractor for the Air Quality Monitoring and Modelling for the proposed Resource Recovery Facility at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. Council will make a decision on this at the Ordinary Meeting of Council being held on 17 February 2011.

## **10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

### **10.1 REPORT ON ALLIANCE FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR FROM MR EDWIN DELL**

Mr Dell recently attended public meetings to listen to Dr Paul Connett's views on waste incineration and summarised the points raised and gave overall impressions and conclusion. A copy of Mr Dell's report was tabled for inclusion in the minutes (Ref: Committees-11883).

### **Alliance for a Clean Environment Seminar**

I attended the public meeting at the Midland Town Hall on Saturday 5 February to hear what Dr Paul Connett had to say on the issue of waste incineration.

The main concern raised by the Alliance appeared to be the claimed detrimental effect on human health of nano-particulates that could be discharged into the atmosphere by thermal incineration technologies. Prior to the introduction of Dr Connett the alliance cited a number of cases where it was claimed that there were adverse health impacts from the discharge of nano-particulates into the atmosphere. However, none of the cases mentioned, including the Wagerup Alumina Refinery impacting on the health of Yarloop residents, mentioned incineration of domestic waste.

#### **Awful truth allegations made by the Alliance included:**

- One in three occupational diseases in Europe each year are due to hazardous chemicals;
- A wide range of hazardous are found in human breast milk;
- Government regulation is ineffective as there is very little ability to close industry down;
- Licence conditions are rarely enforceable in WA;
- There is no health impact assessment in WA;

#### **Dr Paul Connett's impassioned address included:**

- Incineration of waste is a huge waste of taxpayers money;
- Very few jobs are created;
- Incineration does not ameliorate global warming;
- Incineration produces toxic ash and does not eliminate landfill;
- Nano-particles discharges are not measured as there is no reliable technology for capture;
- No new incinerators have been installed in the USA since 1995;
- Domestic waste is a resource that should not be incinerated. Where it is not capable of reuse it should be processed into a valuable resource such as compost or another form of soil conditioner.

### **Overall Impressions**

There were no more than 60 persons at this somewhat emotive meeting. Therefore the number of concerned citizens would have been less than fifty which, I suspect, is representative of the vocal minority that is opposed to an incinerator being constructed on the Red Hill site. It is pertinent that the Alliance is not interested in reducing waste as was evidenced by the use of disposable plastic cups for refreshments.

### **Debate**

On Thursday 10 February I attended at the Conservation Council in West Perth a so-called debate between Professor Ray Wills and Dr Paul Connett on the same topic. There was no real cogent argument between the opposing views on thermal incineration. Professor Wills gave the pro case and then Dr Connett gave the negative case that was virtually a repeat of the talk at Midland Town Hall. The two talks were then followed by audience participation in comments and questions. The time for this session was far too brief for any meaningful dialogue.

### **Conclusion**

Although the numbers here were more than at Midland, they came from across the metropolitan region and therefore essentially there was very little showing from in our region.

My conclusion is that neither of these two events should be a factor in the final decision of the technology to be installed at Red Hill.



## **10.2 REPORT ON WASTE AND RECYCLE CONFERENCE REPORT 2010 FROM MR PETER PEARSON**

The Chairman summarised his attendance at the Waste and Recycle Conference 2010 and tabled a copy of his report for inclusion in the minutes (Ref: Committees-11878).

## **Waste and Recycle Conference Report 2010**

### **Pre-conference Inspections/Presentations**

#### 1. Colmax Glass Plant

Nearly operational but delayed by ability to obtain 600amps supply from Western Power. Good to see glass recycling back in WA but still needs some degree of subsidy from State Govt. Essentially just a crush and sort process, with 20 – 50,000 tpa capacity. Sorting increases value, but both coloured and clear product sent interstate/overseas for processing. Trying for some local sales into filters, sand pits, termite barriers, filler in artificial grass, etc.

#### 2. Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling

WA record is very poor – only 21% recycled. ACT at ~90% and other states in 60 – 70% range. New program developed by Encycle being rolled out. Based on separate skips on site for wood, metals, concrete/brick etc., it is achieving some acceptance, but early days. See full details at [www.encycle.com.au/kit.php](http://www.encycle.com.au/kit.php). Also ref. paper in proceedings by Jenny Campbell from Encycle.

Improving levels of demolition waste into road base and hardstand applications but some certification issues for Main Roads use.

Told that previous claims that cheap blue metal here in WA were limiting market for recycled prods are wrong. (?)

#### 3. SITA Transfer Station Welshpool

Handles Commercial waste together with Cities of South Perth and Canning. Modest recovery of cardboard and metals by hand picking, then transfer to large trailers and transport 55km to Cardup South for landfill.

### **Conference Sessions**

Following are overviews of more notable presentations. In some instances material from several papers is drawn together into a common thread.

#### 1. Chris Darwin (great-great grandson of Charles)

Very interesting talk, details in full in proceedings.

Most interesting fact – the Charles Darwin Reserve set up by the foundation to preserve best possible biological hotspot of threatened species is in WA at White Wells north of Dalwallinu. South west of Australia is home to 12% of rare species in world.

Chris Darwin's second presentation on changing paradigms was also very interesting and is definitely worth reading in the light of requirements for waste management. In the verbal presentation one of his themes was that you must be persuasive as well as being correct, (he gave examples) and you must be patient – change may take time.

His outline for paradigm shift came from Ghandi: "first they will ignore you, then they will laugh at you, then they will fight you, and finally you will win!"

#### 2. Phillip Russell and Julie Wilkinson

International speakers from the UK.

Their papers are available in the proceedings and are well worth reading.

The main driver in the UK (as is the case elsewhere in Europe) is the EU's landfill targets and levy. For the UK this means a current cost of £48/ton rising by £8/ton up to £80/ton over 5 years and in addition for every ton over the target set for each year there will be additional penalty of £150/ton. Their experiences in bringing the community on side and facilitating behaviour change were valuable.

The use of Waste Prevention Advisors (community volunteers) managed by a not-for-profit Community Interest Company is succeeding in West Sussex and may be worth copying. Some evidence that this face-to face approach is only reliable method to achieve behaviour change. My notes taken during talk giving some detail not in proceedings are available for those who want more info.

### 3. Juliana Mansvelt

University lecturer from New Zealand

Again this paper is available in more detail in proceedings. It links well to thoughts from Wilkinson above and comes from an academic social geographer's point of view. Wilkinson advocated the use of social marketing techniques.

### 4. Catherine Doran

Currently from SMRC but previously UK

This presentation provided useful ideas for community engagement from a practical perspective in the UK. The paper in the proceedings gives considerable detail and is worth reading.

### 5. John Jackson

A consultant from Cardno

A private company consultant's perspective of the EU Landfill Directive. No significant difference from the conclusions by the earlier UK presenters but definitely worth reading. Gave details of several projects in the UK, some W to E and others producing compost. Interesting to note the different outcomes from the same EU driver, more strategic overview than practical community actions by Doran.

### 6. Dan Young

C & D Working Group (State govt advisory group)

Presented annual waste generation totals for WA as follows:

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Municipal waste           | 650,000 tonnes   |
| Commerce & Industry       | 800,000 tonnes   |
| Construction & Demolition | 1,500,000 tonnes |

This only equates to approx 1.5 tonnes per person per annum which differs from 2.1 tonnes presented elsewhere.

### 7. Jason Pugh

From W to E technology supplier company

Presentation naturally slanted towards his company's process but good description of gasification/ pyrolysis for those who are interested.



## **11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **11.1 RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT UPDATE**

The Manager Project Development advised that the EMRC was preparing the Public Environmental Review (PER). The next stage of the process was to finalise the environmental scoping report and submit it to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in March 2011.

The Manager Project Development advised that odour monitoring had been undertaken recently at Red Hill and the EMRC was currently waiting on odour emissions data from the technology providers to finalise the report. The Manager Project Development advised that air quality monitoring and modelling for the proposed RRF at Red Hill would probably commence in March 2011 and would cover a two month period of continuous monitoring. The anticipated timeline was for a draft PER report to be available or completed by July 2011 and submitted to the EPA for review in August 2011 followed by a public review in September/October 2011. Depending on the results of the air quality monitoring the EMRC would decide whether or not to undertake additional air quality monitoring. If additional monitoring is required this will be done between June and October as the impact of household wood fires and burning off by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) adding to the particulate and dioxin levels will be captured. The results of the air quality monitoring will be included in the PER.

The Manager Project Development also advised that the EMRC had been working on the Community Partnership Agreement (CPA) and the CPA document is currently being reviewed by the Community Task Force (CTF). The CTF will be meeting again in March 2011 when approval is sought for the document to be distributed to the community for comments. The community will be advised that the CPA is open for comment through advertisements, notices on EMRC's website and the contacts database. The final CPA document will be submitted to Council for approval.

The Manager Project Development gave a presentation summarising some of the issues covered by Dr Connett at his presentations at the Midland Town Hall on 5 February 2011 and at the EMRC offices on 7 February 2011.

The Committee discussed the issues raised at the presentations given by Dr Connett.

### **11.2 WASTE EDUCATION UPDATE**

The Waste Education Officer provided a summary of the following waste education activities:

- Advertising – produced a “Watch Your Waste” column article in January highlighting back to school waste watch tips, battery and compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) recycling;
- Waste and Recycling Guide 2011/2012 – these are currently being prepared. The Waste Education Officer distributed copies of the 2010/2011 guides to WMCRG members from each member Council area and asked for any comments to be emailed to her or the Waste Education Coordinator;
- Kalamunda Markets Stall - An EMRC Earth Carer graduate (Nina Radamanthos) has started her own stall at the Kalamunda Markets called “Everything Green”. The stall is not for profit and has a range of information about living sustainably. Nina promotes waste reduction and offers information to the public about EMRC's services;
- Arup – The Waste Education Coordinator gave a talk to a local business that has formed a “Green team” interested in finding out about waste management;
- Battery Recycling Programme – 12 tonnes of batteries were collected in 2010 and 1 tonne of batteries has been collected so far in 2011;
- Tours of Red Hill – three tours have been conducted at Red Hill so far in 2011;
- In collaboration with Ken Allen from the Junk Factory the EMRC is working to create a recycled art sign for the Re-Use Permaculture Garden and a Pledge Tree from recycled materials;





*Item 11.2 continued*

- Education strategy for Mundaring transfer stations implementation - currently looking into signage options for Coppin and Mathieson Road Transfer Stations;
- Working with consultants Eco Change to conduct surveys on residents using the public place CFL recycling stations. A report summarising the findings of the surveys and recommending future actions will be available by March 2011.

### **11.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Manager Project Development provided an update on community engagement activities, progress on the development of the Community Partnership Agreement and a debriefing of the Dr Connett's presentations on waste incineration at **Item 11 Resource Recovery Project Update**.

The Manager Project Development advised that a member of the Community Task Force (CTF) has resigned due to ill health. As a result of the CTF resolving to replace that member, the EMRC would identify another member from residents located within a 2-10km radius of Red Hill by using previous applications as well as contacting some of the community liaison groups.

The Manager Project Development advised that the next WMCRG meeting was scheduled for the 9 May 2011 when it is expected that the future role of the group is discussed. It was suggested that the WMCRG could review how the CPA would be managed and report on that on a regular basis.

### **12 FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE WMCRG**

The next meeting of the Waste Management Community Reference Group will be held on **Monday, 9 May 2011** at the EMRC Administration Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Ascot Place, 226 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont WA 6104 commencing at 6.00pm.

#### **Future Meetings 2011**

|        |             |    |                            |
|--------|-------------|----|----------------------------|
| Monday | 9 May       | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Monday | 8 August    | at | EMRC Administration Office |
| Monday | 21 November | at | EMRC Administration Office |

### **13 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.07pm.