HALLAM ROAD LANDFILL & TAYLORS ROAD RESOURCE RECOVERY PRECINCT

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUPS

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
EPA ENVIRONMENT LINE: **1300 372 842**

MINUTES

Date: 5.30pm, for 5.45pm start, Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Location: Hallam Road Landfill, 274 Hallam Road, Hampton Park.

ATTENDEES

- **Community:** Chris Lucey (CL), Shannon Lynch (SL), John Theodoris (JT)

GUESTS AND STAFF

- **EPA**: Bianca Sigismundi (BS)
- **Veolia**: Nick James (NJ), Ashley Kelly (AK), Mark Globan (MG), Jessica Keyt (JK)
- **Earthsure**: William Taggert (WT)

FACILITATOR

- Susan McNair (SMc)
- Eloise Lane (EL)

APOLOGIES

- **Community:** Thelma Wakelam, Vernadette Dickson, Jim Houlahan, Ian Jenz, Tony O'Hara (resigned)
- **Council:** Warren Wood (City of Greater Dandenong), Paul McGrath (City of Casey)
- **Earthsure:** Tai Truong

5:45 LANDFILL TOUR

A tour of both the Hallam Road Landfill (HRL) and Taylors Road Resource Recovery Precinct (TRRRP) was held before the official meeting, to provide members of the CRG with more context as to site operations and planned facilities.

Hallam Road tour

Sites visited:

- LMS Energy Bioenergy Facility
- Leachate ponds
- Capped cells 1-5
- Active cell 14
- Cell 15 construction works

Taylors Road tour

Sites visited:

- Soil thermal treatment plant
- Active cell 12
- Thermally treated material (TTM) stockpiles
- De-packaging facility area and leachate ponds
- Soil washing facility construction area
- Current wheel wash and area for new wheel wash

6:45 GOVERNANCE - Veolia

AK outlined the prospective dates for future CRG meetings for both sites (see Appendix 1, slide 3)

- The next HRL CRG meeting will be held on 26 February 2025
- The next TRRRP CRG meeting will be held on 5 March 2025
- Dates are three weeks earlier than usual, just before the change of seasons as seasonality key impact on potential landfill gas (LFG), as well as making sure that they are not held during school holidays.

Action updates from previous meetings

BS provided an update on outstanding actions for the EPA.

ACTION UPDATE: HRL September Action #1: EPA to provide more information about the status of planning and cell cap design approval for Cells 12 and 13.

- Approval is still sitting with the EPA. The process is taking longer than usual due to a different format of application and approvals.
- Anticipate that approval will be granted by the end of the year for the cap design.

ACTION UPDATE: HRL September Action #2: EPA to provide more information on the Anderson case outcomes and EPA's position on the outcomes.

- The case was brought to court as by an independent party, and the EPA does not want to comment on the case.
- Happy to discuss anything relating to EPA, but there's not anything within the case or its ruling that the EPA can comment on.

CL: Does the EPA take Supreme Court rulings into consideration when evaluating Veolia's licence applications, specifically in regard to the Hampton Park Transfer Station?

BS: No, as the evidence presented within the case has not been presented to the EPA. If it had been presented to us, it may have been something we would have looked into, but it was not.

SMc: There is also a response to this on the Engage Vic website.

CL: Is there any LFG sampling occurring on ResourceCo's land?

MG: Veolia divested from ResourceCo in December 2023. We don't have any oversight as to what monitoring is occurring over there, as that is privately owned land.

BS: We are not aware of sampling beyond the landfill, as that falls outside our jurisdiction. Veolia does monitor LFG at the landfill boundaries, and have to report them to us if there are exceedances, which they do. There are processes for managing LFG at those perimeters if it arises.

SL: The Supreme Court's issue was that Veolia did not take action to remedy something under the licence provided to them by the EPA. Why are you not doing anything in that regard?

BS: We are not linked to the court system, and our focus is on regulation. Many issues that were raised within the case we were and are already addressing with Veolia. The LFG Assessment and Remediation Action Plan that were outcomes in the case were already required by us for Veolia to develop for the whole of the landfill, not just the cells focused on in the Anderson case. Our scientific experts are confident in Veolia's current remediation actions and plans. The case outcomes will not impact the fit and proper persons assessment of Veolia.

MG: To say that the EPA is not doing anything is unfair. There are important details that are being missed in this court case, as the judge can only make decisions based upon the evidence that they are provided with. When the process has been finalised, it will be easier for Veolia and the EPA to provide comment.

AK noted that there will be a follow up meeting to discuss the proposed Hampton Park Transfer Station in early 2025.

ACTION 1: Currie to follow up on outstanding actions sitting with City of Casey

7:00 POST-TOUR RECAP – Veolia and Earthsure

NJ and WT provided a recap of the sites visited during the site tours.

Hallam Road Tour and upkeep works

LMS Energy Bioenergy Facility

- An energy generation facility that converts LFG generated at HRL to energy. All LFG that is generated onsite is extracted out to the energy grid.
- Uses 8 engines and 8 gas flares to generate this.
- Generates enough energy to power 10,000 homes per annum.

Active Cell 14

- Filling is progressing. Not much to update upon.

SL: I've never seen so much litter coming out of the site before. Why does it currently look like this?

NJ: About a week ago we had what we would deem an 'freak weather event' with wind gusts up to around 50-60km/hr on site. We closed the tip face and tried to capture the litter as best we could. We have the new litter nets going up to help prevent that from occurring.

Cell 15 construction

- Cell 15 is currently under construction, with a HDPE plastic lining covering the tip face.
- Construction is around 80% complete.
- Soil that has been dug out during construction will be stockpiled to be used as bulk out, fill and for capping if possible.
- Cell 15 is the highest site of the landfill's contour.

JT: Have there been any refinements in the design of Cell 15 to prevent issues that have previously been cause for complaints or remediation notices?

MG: Best practice for landfill cell design changes all the time, so it will be different to previous cell designs on the site. One thing that has changed compared to cells 13 and 14 is the sidewall draining system. The design has been changed to remove the drainage geonet, which will reduce the amount of gas and odour that escapes, as well as a risk for fire. Horizontal wells have been put in to allow for a better control of gas removal.

SL: I wondered why there was such a large pile of soil, and raised it with the EPA, who said that Veolia was trucking it in to cap cells 11,12 and 13. But at a drop in session, Veolia has said it's to be used for cell 15 and potentially cells 12 and 13. Can you clarify?

BS: There was a miscommunication. The EPA assumed it was being stockpiled for capping works. We contacted Veolia, they agreed that it was being stockpiled for use, but I did not realise that it was from Cell 15, not being trucked in from other sites. It's not on the landfill boundary, so the EPA does not regulate the stockpiles.

SL: Thank you, I reached out to the City of Casey as I assumed it would be a planning and contour issue, who stated that it was up to the EPA. Having now seen the site, it makes a lot more sense.

MG: In this case, the cells are designed and we have a mass balance that we know what we want to cap it at, which is a 50,000m^3 delta in terms of surplus volume, that Veolia won't need as daily cover or soil for capping.

AK reiterated that questions like that can also be asked to Veolia, who are more than happy to answer them to reduce misinformation and create a faster answer process.

Litter nets

- Litter net upgrade project is in the process of being completed, with additional litter nets being installed by EWP around the site.

Cell 3 hotspot

- Cell 3 hotspot is being monitored while the management program remains in place. Leachate is being injected into the cell to cool the area down, which is working well.

Leachate ponds

- There are two remaining leachate ponds, following the decommissioning of ponds C and D to allow for the construction of Cell 15.
- A new treatment system is being constructed to be able to continually treat leachate. One tank will continually treat leachate, and the other will store the treated leached before it gets tested by South East Water and eventually discharged into sewerage.
- Once operating, one tank per week will be able to be treated and discharged, which is around 84 megalitres of treated leachate.
- See HRL CRG June 2024 minutes for further information

Capped cells

- Capped cells are undergoing upkeep maintenance for summer, managing the grassed areas.

CL: When are revegetation works going to commence, are we going to see any trees planted?

> MG: The grass you see is a form of revegetation. The current soil profile in the cap design is one metre, then the plastic liner and the cap. Shallow rooted plants, like grass can be added. Anything deep rooted may struggle to grow or compromise the capped cell. Trees would impact the cap, as their deep root systems can pierce the cap lining. A phytocap would need to be added in order to increase the soil depth of the site. If more plants are what the community would like, Veolia is happy to have that conversation.
>
> BS: Historically many closed landfills are grass only, as the piercing of the cap can reintroduce water into the cell. This would reactivate the waste process. Ideally we want to be drying out the waste within the cell.

CL: There's so much potential for the site, we want an area that we can be proud of and enjoy that is established before handover so that it rewards the community for our patience with the site.

SL noted that in order for Veolia to do this, two new EPA licences would need to be granted. One to put the addition soil down, and one to change the contour of the tip to include the extra soil height.

JT: Planting these plant will do a lot of healing for the community, and take the edge off for the community.

> MG: If that's something that the community wants, we're happy to take a look at it, and it'll be easier to start it on our end, rather than going through the City of Casey or the EPA.

ACTION 2: Veolia to investigate further revegetation options for HRL site.

Taylors Road Resource Recovery Precent tour and upkeep works

NJ and WT provided an update on activities at TRRRP.

Earthsure thermal treatment plant

- The thermal treatment plant takes in Category A and B contaminated soils and treats them to remove them of contaminants, turning it into thermally treated material (TTM) to allow for reuse.
- Contaminants are typically oils, PFAS chemicals and heavy metals. Soils are treated to up to 550 degrees Celsius, and get released as fine black sand, which was seen on the tour.
- TTM is often used in landfill construction as bedding, or as engineering fill.
- The facility has processed 15,000 tonnes this year alone.

CL: Can anything grow in thermally treated soil?

WT: Not in its finished state. To treat soil to that temperature will remove any nutrients. You can mix it with compost to add these in. TTM will never be used as a final layer for capping or revegetation due to this.

JT: Is it a profitable business to treat soil? I would imagine that it has pretty high input costs.

WT: Currently, contaminated soil treatment is a free market. There are three facilities in Victoria that can treat Category A and B soil, including us. The reason the contaminated soils are brought to us is that the EPA has categorised them as hazardous to human health or the environment and require treatment.

Active cell 12

- Compared to HRL, TRRRP is a very different site. There are 10 trucks per day entering the facility. Currently the only facility in Victoria that can accept Category B soil.
- The filling process for cells is the same, using TTM as bedding for leachate drainage.
- Spray sealant is being used on soil stockpiles to reduce dust, which gives the stockpiles a green tinge.

Depackaging facility

- The depackaging facility has been installed to help divert waste from landfill.
- It takes waste from packaged foods and separates the plastic packaging from the organics, which go to an organic digester.
- Currently operating with a 70% diversion rate, up from 50% at commissioning. Veolia are hoping to increase this rate again in the new year

Leachate ponds

- Three leachate ponds operating currently, with repair works being undertaken in January 2025.
- TMM is being used in the repair project.

Earthsure soil washing facility

- Civil works are scheduled to be completed soon, with commissioning expected to start in February 2025.
- The soil washing facility compliments the thermal plant by treating Category C soil.
- All contaminants, that are not removed and treated in the water treatment process, get concentrated into the fines (clay) fraction, which is extruded as a cake. This is then either reused as appropriate or sent to landfill depending on the contaminant concentration in the clay fraction.
- The facility uses water, rather than heat, to clean the soil. It separates rocks and oversize, gravel and sands for reuse.
- It is a net consumer of water, using concrete ponds to collect water that is then pumped into the facility, used and then treated to be reused again. No wastewater will be discharged through this system.
- The facility will be able to process over 100,000 tonnes of contaminated soil annually.

Upgraded wheel wash

- The new wheel wash is almost ready for installation, should be up and running before the end of December
- It will be a more efficient and easier to use wheel wash than the current one.
- TTM is also being used in the construction of the new wheel wash.

7:30 GENERAL UPDATE – Veolia and Earthsure

Improvement Notices

NJ provided an update on improvement notices across the two sites.

Hallam Road Landfill

- A Remediation Leachate notice was issued for a pipe fitting that failed, causing leachate impact. Veolia is investigating and testing for leachate impacts, and organising controls. A consultant visited on 5 December to conduct sampling.

JT: Seeing as leachate is discharged through sewer drains, are there considerations for the odour that may emanate from sewer vents due to leachate?

NJ: I can't speak for sewerage systems and their pathways, but we have a trade waste agreement with South East Water. Given that treated leachate is what travels through sewer drains, there is no ammonia smell.

SL: You mentioned that there is going to be some soil testing sampling occurring, is that going to be on Veolia's side of the boundary line, how far are you going to be into the reserve next to it and the wetlands that adjoin the Hampton Park area?

BS: The notice is worded around Veolia identifying the extent of the area, so they will go as far as they need to go to determine the localised area of the impact. The area determined will be decided by an independent contractor who does the assessment. From what I have seen, it was localised and had not reached the drainage line.

JK: We have an independent consultant coming out to conduct sampling, in line with our Sampling Analytical Plan, which is based on visual impacts. It then goes further with sampling undertaken in areas on the verge of that plan. There will also be background samples taken on unimpacted land, to see the differences and provide recommendations to return the impacted land to that background level. They will determine where any contamination may be, and provide advice on remediation.

Taylors Road Resource Recovery Precinct

- LFG Notice has been revoked, following the LFG Assessment being adopted to TRRRP's LFG Management Plan.

Environmental reports

- Veolia has received 16 environmental complaints per month for September, October and November.
- People have been sharing their feedback directly to Veolia through drop-in engagement sessions for the proposed Hampton Park Transfer Station

AK reiterated that community members can contact Veolia directly with any reports or feedback through the community engagement team at community.vic@veolia.com or via the Veolia Contact Centre on 1800 368 737.

7.40pm EPA UPDATE

AK invited the EPA to provide an update, of which there was none.

7:45pm OTHER BUSINESS

MG noted that long-time CRG member Tony O'Hara has tendered his resignation from all Veolia CRGs.

- Veolia received a letter last week from Tony, who has resigned from the CRG. We will be sending Tony a letter of appreciation for his participation over the last 20 years, as we deeply appreciate the contributions he's made and the positive impact he has had on Veolia's operations.
- Through Tony's active involvement on committees and reference groups, Veolia has been able to learn from and educate the community. Historically, when the community has been hard to engage with, Tony has helped bring people together.
- Veolia thanks Tony for his dedication and commitment to the CRGs as a whole.

Action 3: Veolia to send letter of appreciation to Tony O'Hara (see Appendix 2)

7:50pm MEETING CLOSE.

ACTION TRACKER			
Item	**Action**	**Who**	**Date**
TRRRP March Action #1	Share the outcome of SWP Development Licence Exemption to CRG when received	Veolia	
TRRRP March Action #2	Share resources regarding truck requirements with Veolia	EPA	Complete, see EPA's website
HRL September Action #1	EPA to follow up with their internal legal team to provide any further information on the civil case tabled in the Victorian Supreme Court.	EPA	Complete, see answer on Engage Vic website
HRL September Action #2	EPA to provide more information on the Anderson case outcomes and EPA's position on the outcomes.	EPA	Complete
HRL September Action #3	EPA to provide more information about the status of planning and cell cap design approval for Cells 12 and 13.	EPA	Complete
HRL September Action #4	Veolia to investigate if LFG monitoring data can be shared with the CRG.	Veolia	
HRL September Action #5	EPA (SC) to review findings from Anderson case relating to 70% number, landfill gas readings, and consider what commentary they can provide back to the group	EPA (SC)	
HRL September Action #6	EPA to share more information about the odour reporting process and any updates coming to pollution complaint portal	EPA	
HRL September Action #8	City of Casey to share FAQs and information once developed, following clarity from the EPA	City of Casey	

Combined CRG December Action #1	Currie to follow up on outstanding actions sitting with City of Casey	Currie	
Combined CRG December Action #2	Veolia to explore further revegetation options of HRL for the community	Veolia	
Combined CRG December Action #3	Veolia to send letter of appreciation to Tony O'Hara	Veolia	Complete, see appendix 2

Appendix 1: Veolia presentation slides

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP
AGENDA

- Governance
  - Previous actions
- Post tour recap - General Updates
  - Improvement Notices and Actions
- Project Updates
- EPA update
- 2025 dates
- Other business
- Close

2 Nom de la présentation

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP
GOVERNANCE

HRL

- 26 Feb 2025
- 21 May 2025
- 20 Aug 2025
- 19 Nov 2025 (Combined Tour)

TRRRP

- 5 Mar 2025
- 28 May 2025
- 27 Aug 2025
- 19 Nov 2025 (Combined Tour)

3 Nom de la présentation

MEETING GOVERNANCE

ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING TAYLORS ROAD

Action	Who	Due	Slide/ Note
Share the outcome of SWP Development Licence Exemption to CRG when received	Veolia	When received	Received in the last week, will share the link to EPA webpage in the minutes
Share resources regarding truck requirements with Veolia	EPA	Before next meeting	EPA Waste Tracker Link

MEETING GOVERNANCE

ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING HALLAM ROAD

Action	Who	Due	Slide/ Note
EPA to provide more information about the status of planning and cell cap design approval for Cells 12 and 13	EPA		
Veolia to investigate if LFG monitoring data can be shared with CRG	Veolia		EPA website link to public audits
EPA to review findings from the Anderson case relating to the 70% number, and landfill gas readings and consider what commentary they can report back to the group	EPA		
EPA to share more information about the odour reporting process and any updates coming to pollution complaint portal	EPA		
EPA to provide Landfill Buffer Guidelines slides developed by policy team to CRG via minutes	EPA	Complete	
City of Casey to Share FAQs and information once developed following clarity from the EPA	CoC		

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
EPA ENVIRONMENT LINE: **1300 372 842**

POST TOUR RECAP
GENERAL UPDATES

Upkeep works HRL:

- Additional litter nets installed
- Upkeep of grassed areas for summer
- Cell 3 monitoring hot spot monitoring program remains in place
- Stockpile management in summer conditions - reserved for daily cover and future landfill capping

Upkeep works TRRRP:

- Upkeep of grassed areas for summer
- Application of spray sealant

Hallam Road Landfill overview

Example of temperature probes Cell 3 (HRL)

Spray sealant applied to TTM (TRRRP)

GENERAL UPDATES

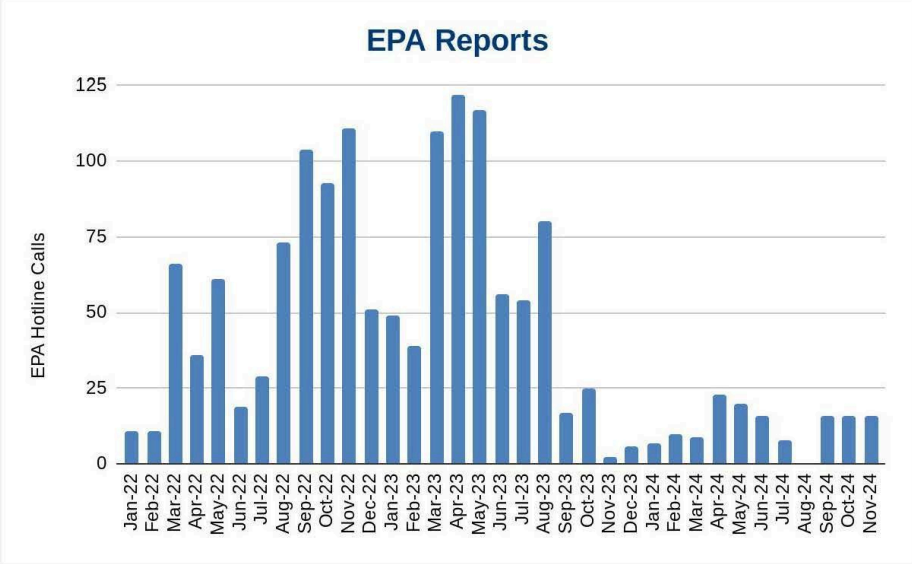
IMPROVEMENT NOTICES AND ACTIONS UPDATE

Site	Notice	Description	Action	Status
Hallam Road	**Remediation Leachate notice**	Pipe fitting failed causing leachate impact	To investigate leachate impacts and make recommendations for clean up	*Active* - Currently testing and organising controls
Taylors Road	**TRRRP LFG Notice**	Site inspection findings	Landfill Gas Risk Assessment being adopted to Landfill Gas Management Plan	*Notice Revoked*

Example of temperature probes Cell 3

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
EPA ENVIRONMENT LINE: **1300 372 842**

GENERAL UPDATES ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS



CONTACT US

If you would like to get in touch with the engagement team, or provide feedback about key site updates please email **community.vic@veolia.com** or call our contact centre on **1800 368 737** and our team will get back to you

PROJECT UPDATES

CELL 15 CONSTRUCTION

Cell 15 Construction

- Cell 15 approval has been provided by the EPA
  - Accepted batched leachate management proposal
  - Introduced microorganisms

Materials Management and Reuse

- Site won is being stockpiled for future use
- Managed by compacting in wet weather and dampening in dry weather

Night works

- Synthetic lining requested to be completed at night to keep workers cool during summer (Dec).

Batched leachate system progress

HRL Cell 15 - lining example - *dark plastic absorbs heat*

PROJECT UPDATES

TRRRP

Wheel wash

- The road has been widened in preparation for the install of the upgraded wheel wash

Materials Management and Reuse

- Thermally treated material permitted to be used as clean fill alternative for soil wash plant

Wash plant

- Civil works completed
- Installation of plant has commenced
  - Early 2025 commissioning projected

Civil works completed with soil wash plant components being placed. TTM applied as cleanfill alternative.

Preparation for the wheel wash install has commended with road widened.

VEOLIA

OTHER BUSINESS

Appendix 2 – Letter of Appreciation to Tony O'Hara

9 December 2024

Dear Tony,

On behalf of Veolia I would like to personally thank you for your years of participation, contributing a depth of knowledge, history and character when representing the community regarding the resource management facilities in Hampton Park and Dandenong South.

In the decades that have spanned during your time in the respective Community Reference Groups we have seen the application of new Environmental Acts, use of new resource management technologies and development of neighbouring communities and businesses, your interest and commitment in unpacking and contributing to these themes has been appreciated.

Through the CRG process our aim has been to foster respect and understanding between facilities and the community using the forums to discuss topics of interest at depth to help make informed decisions. Your contribution has seen the development of key waste infrastructure within the South East of Melbourne including but not limited to the Thermal Processing Facility which sees once contaminated soil reused rather than landfilled, the diversion and recovery of packaged food organics once destined for landfill and also the contribution to the wider waste industry.

While we respect your decision to resign, we want you to know that your voice, experience and at times sense of humour will be greatly missed in our CRGs. Your dedication has set a high standard for community involvement, and we are grateful for the time and energy you've invested in these groups.

Sincerely,

Mr Mark Globan
Victorian General Manager - Resource Recovery
Veolia Australia and New Zealand