

# Woodlawn Eco-Precinct Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	28 August 2025	<b>Time</b>	5:00pm to 7.00pm
<b>Coordinator</b>	Justin Houghton, Site Manager, Woodlawn Eco Precinct	<b>Location</b>	Woodlawn Conference Room 619 Collector Road, Tarago

### Committee List

Name	Present	Name	Present
Justin Houghton (JH Veolia Woodlawn Eco-Precinct Manager)	✓	Dr Samantha Johnson (SJ - Community Rep)	✓
Cr Keith Smith (KS - GMC Councillor)	✓	Lois Wake (LW - TADPAI)	✓
Fiona Jeffery (FJ - Community Rep)	✓	Cr John Preston (JP - QPRC Councillor)	
Tom Martin (TM) (Longwater Association Member and Community Rep)	✓		

### Visitors List

Name	Present	Name	Present
Scott Martin (SM) (GMC Director Planning & Environment)		Kathryn Whitfield (KW) (Veolia Chief Growth Officer)	✓
Raymond Choy (RC) (Veolia Environment Manager)		Jamie Seaton (JS) (CLC Facilitator)	✓
Lena Bax (LB) (Veolia Head of Communications and Public Policy Veolia Australia and New Zealand)		Carmen Loecherer (CL) (GM NSW Resource Recovery)	✓
Andrew Warner (AW) (Woodlawn Community & Stakeholder Officer)	✓	Clara Ng (CN) (Veolia Strategic Development Manager)	✓
Megan Surawski (MS) (Veolia Government Relations Lead)	✓	Alvin Stone (AS) (Veolia Manager Public Relations)	✓
Max Rixe (MR) (Director, Rixe Group)	✓		

**Minutes**

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction and welcome</b>
<p>JS: Opened the meeting at 17:10pm with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.</p> <p>JS: Resigned as CLC Chairperson following Veolia’s decision about the commercial viability of the appointment. Advised that Veolia has appointed Max Rixe as the new Chairperson.</p> <p>JS: asked new visitors to give self-introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MR: Incoming Chairperson. Australian citizen who renounced US citizenship. Runs executive leadership consultancy Rixe Group in Canberra.</li> <li>• CN: Veolia’s ARC Project Manager, replacing KW who is promoted to Chief Growth Officer.</li> <li>• AS: Veolia’s Media and PR Manager.</li> <li>• MS: Veolia’s Government Relations Lead, resides in Canberra.</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SM</li> <li>• JP</li> <li>• RC</li> <li>• LB</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Actions from previous meeting</b>
<p><u>Meeting action 1)</u> closed.</p> <p><u>Meeting action 2)</u> closed.</p> <p><u>Meeting action 3)</u> closed.</p> <p><u>Meeting action 4)</u> AW explained that new charter section is in final stages of internal review and will be sent to CCC members. Target distribution date is 12/9.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Eco-Precinct Operational Update</b>
<p><u>JH delivered operational presentation</u></p> <p><u>Regarding community donations:</u>          SJ: Were donations distributed beyond Tarago?          JH: Yes, including to fire stations, schools, and other organisations as far away as Wingecarribee          KS: Passed on comments that school tree planting donations are welcomed by local schools.</p> <p><u>Regarding odour complaints:</u>          LW: What does 'OER' acronym stand for? MR advised it is odour emission rate.          SJ: Is the reduction due to tarps?</p>	

JH: Replied that a range of work at the MBT contributes includes cover on waste, aerating older leachate, and adding a biofilter around the perimeter. Focus on the landfill to reduce odour emissions.

SJ: Do you expect more improvement?

JH: Yes, especially with the organic cover.

KS: So in colder months the measurements are higher.

JH: Yes, it is an inversion effect.

#### Environmental compliance section (JH)

JH: presented the slide about EPA water monitoring.

JS: Explained that agenda item 6 will be moved to this part of the meeting, to align with slide being presented by JH.

SJ: Message to the community has caused some nerves. Panic has set in.

FJ: EPA results pinpoint pollution from Woodlawn site. It is meant to be a no discharge site, so the community should be worried. What is Veolia's response?

JH: EPA is doing testing and will determine actions for Veolia and the next steps. EPA needs to sample flowing water. Veolia found out about email content at the same time community did so still working through the information.

FJ: Read the EPA email regarding flowing water (sampled after 15mm rain but prefer 30mm samples).

TM: Biggest concern for the community is PFAS and PFOS - levels are reported to be low but their significance is unknown, future effects are a concern.

JH: Veolia cannot pollute the environment. Water testing will be completed and EPA will instruct Veolia about the necessary actions. Monitoring bores are being put in and the parameters for bore monitoring have been increased; EPA will use that data.

FJ: Are you still planning to line ED1?

JH: Yes, that is still the plan.

FJ: What is the timeframe for that work?

JH: Treatment options will be looked at first due to cost, but EPA may require action. Very costly.

FJ: If cost prohibitive, what then?

JH: Interception bores are one option. Reducing the size of catchment or size of dam. The PRP (Pollution Reduction Program) requires an additional bore plus more sampling and ecological survey of creeks.

FJ: What are Veolia's next steps?

CL: Risk assessment survey, ecological survey. Data needed first before substantial work.

KS: Is Veolia irrigating now or planning to?

JH: Not at the moment.

CL: Future irrigation is a possible option; Veolia needs to be ready for periods of heavy rainfall.

JH: All water must be tested before release. There is significant demand for treated water.

Keith: Can it be improved enough to go into Lake George?

JH: Yes, it can be.

CL: Water experts would be involved in that scenario.

SJ: What can CCC members communicate to the community about Veolia's EPA response?

AW: Tarago Times is an outlet for this info.

FH: The EPA email was effective.

JH: Community should contact EPA for advise about EPA investigations.

CL: Who received the EPA email?

FJ: Received email.

JS: Received the email.

FJ: Details are on EPA website; suggested AW post the link on the Facebook page and Veolia webpage.

Also noted that anyone who wishes to receive alerts on Tarago odour management can subscribe on the EPA website. Suggested that JS likely received email as facilitator of CLC to forward to members.

**ACTION: AW to post link to EPA webpage on Facebook and Veolia website.**

Regarding the Planning Applications Modifications slide:

JH: Mod 6 should be approved in a few weeks. Tanks will be delivered; need to be here before the wettest months. Will be bringing in the tanks plus 5000 sq metres of fill.

CL: Freeboard will be a risk if tanks aren't available by December.

FJ: Suggested that tank transport details should be communicated via Facebook.

**ACTION: AW to share info via Facebook**

FJ: School bus hours should be avoided for delivery of materials.

AW: Veolia will consider this but cannot commit in meeting.

JH: Understand risk to kids. Emphasised that trucks use the road and there are rules for everyone.

FJ: Kids are unpredictable and sometimes lack concentration.

SJ: Share information on Facebook for the attention of parents of the schoolchildren.

FJ: Doesn't agree with sharing information via Facebook for the attention of parents as it could cause backlash.

KS: Suggested sharing information via UHF channels to bus and truck drivers so drivers are informed of bus locations..

JH: Driver inductions are an opportunity to share information.

JH/AW/CL - agreed to talk with trucking contractors and try to facilitate transport outside of school bus transport hours wherever possible.

<b>5</b>	<b>Energy From Waste (ARC) update</b>
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CN delivered ARC presentation - announced that a Parliamentary Enquiry into Energy from Waste (EFW) technology was announced in early August. There are no timeframes for the enquiry as yet.

LW: What is the status of the enquiry?

TM: An Upper House Parliamentary enquiry is happening at the moment.

SJ: Is it focusing on individual projects?

TM: No, projects statewide.

JH: Is there a website with the information?

CN: Yes, will provide the link to JS circulate.

<p><b>ACTION:</b> JS to include link in minutes (refer to the following link <a href="https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/Pages/committeeprofile/select-committee-on-proposed-energy-from-waste-facilities.aspx">https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/Pages/committeeprofile/select-committee-on-proposed-energy-from-waste-facilities.aspx</a>)</p> <p>SJ: Will the Government be approaching community for submissions?  KW: Yes, its a public hearing and submissions are invited.  FJ: Now the EFW enquiry is happening, is the ARC response to submissions going to be delayed until after the enquiry is complete ?  KW: Potentially but undetermined at the moment. Will take this question on notice until we have information on the timeframes of the enquiry.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CN to determine effect of EFW enquiry on timing of the ARC response to submissions process.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Veolia's response to latest EPA water monitoring results</b>
<p>[Item 6 was discussed earlier in the meeting – refer item 4]</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
<p><u>Meeting minutes process</u>  FJ: Minutes review process should provide all CLC members with visibility of edit requests made by any individual, and the edits made.  <b>ACTION:</b> MR to ensure visibility of minutes are provided to all.</p> <p><u>Next meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 November preferred as first option</li> <li>• 18 November preferred as second option, subject to JP availability</li> <li>• Tarago Hall is the preferred venue.</li> </ul>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Meeting close</b>
<p>Meeting closed 6:21pm</p>	

**Action List**

Item	Action	Assigned to
1	ACTION: Develop new conflict of interest provision for the CLC charter for the consideration of members.	AW (Veolia)
2	ACTION: Post link to EPA webpage on Facebook and Veolia website.	AW (Veolia)
3	ACTION: Share information about Mod 6 materials deliveries via Facebook	AW (Veolia)
4	ACTION: Provide link to EFW Upper House Parliamentary enquiry website	JS (Chairperson)
5	ACTION: Determine effect of EFW enquiry on timing of the ARC response	CN (

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	to submissions process.	
6	ACTION: Ensure visibility of meeting minutes change requests and subsequent changes are provided to all members.	MR (Incoming Chairperson)