TAYLORS ROAD RESOURCE RECOVERY PRECINCT

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

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

MINUTES

Date: 5.30pm, for 5.45pm start, Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Location: Taylors Road Resource Recovery Precinct (TRRRP), 890 Taylors Road, Dandenong South

ATTENDEES

MEMBER NAME	14/12/22	29/03/23	28/06/23	10/10/23	27/03/24	26/06/24	25/09/24	05/03/25	28/05/25
Jim Houlahan (JH)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Ian Jensz (IJ)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thelma Wakelam (TW)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

GUESTS AND STAFF

- **EPA**:
- **Veolia**: Nick James (NJ), Ashley Kelly (AK), Jessica Keyt (JK), Mark Globan (MG)
- **Earthsure**: Tai Truong (TT)
- **City of Greater Dandenong**: Matt Berry (MB)

FACILITATOR

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

APOLOGIES

- Jim Houlahan
- Jo Prendergast, EPA

5.40pm WELCOME AND AGENDA

SMc welcomed participants and explained how the meeting would proceed.

MB introduced himself to the CRG.

5.50pm GOVERNANCE and PREVIOUS ACTIONS

AK and NJ provided an update on outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

Action #1 March 2025: Veolia to source and share comparison data of gas levels from five years ago to today

See Appendix 1, Slide 3

- Three years' worth of data presented, where the orange bars represent methane, and blue is total landfill gas (LFG) volume captured.
- LFG has been relatively stable throughout this time period
- Maintenance on wells has improved LFG capture from April 2024

Action #2 March 2025: Veolia to explore opportunities for further signage at the public entrance of TRRRP

- Veolia's new signage template does include further detail of operations on sites, which will be in line with what community was requesting.
- The sign will now acknowledge the waste streams managed at Taylors Road Resource Recovery Precinct (TRRRP): priority waste, packaged food recycling, and Earthsure operations.
- Waiting for final design to come back and the new sign out the front should be updated soon.

IJ: Should it be noted that it is a hazardous waste facility? I believe that's what Jim was referring to when he raised this last meeting.

AK: That is what priority or reportable priority waste is referring to. This is the EPA's language, so it's in line with regulatory requirements, and is the most appropriate for describing the waste we receive here.

TW: These terms seem to not convey the hazardous nature of the waste, I don't think community would know what that means

JK: From an industry perspective, this is the accepted way of referring to the waste that is managed here. Community members may not connect the dots, but from an industry perspective, it's a very well-known term.

NK: Likewise, if someone was to Google the term, it would be explained quite quickly.

AK: We do also have the community page if someone types in Taylors Road Resource Recovery Precinct, which has FAQs relating to the landfill operations and Earthsure, so the information on that page has a lot more granular detail that supports the signage updates we will be receiving.

Action #3 March 2025: Veolia to provide a windrose for wind direction captured on site.

See Appendix 1, Slide 4

- Over the long-term, the five-year average for winds are dominantly southerly winds, heading to the north, with some north-easterlies.
- Local wind roses depict the dominant average being winds to the north over the last 5 years and in May 2025.

IJ: I've recently been recording more north easterlies at home, which used to be very rare, but I assume that with the recent developments popping up over the years it has shifted how the wind is channeled around my house.

Action #4 March 2025: Earthsure to investigate potential for further dust monitoring, and provide more information on the parameters of the dust monitoring alarm system

TT: Earthsure has installed an additional dust monitoring station, to the south of Cell 2, alongside existing monitors near Cell 12B and 12A. Recent monitoring results show that readings are well below the 90µg/km threshold that the EPA sets.

IJ: I think the concerns are when there are really strong winds, like the other night when there were gusts of 100km

TT: If there are gusts at that speed, most things will be lifted, including dust from the street. We're managing the dust using a water cart and water cannon, and are in the process of finalising design for a permanent sprinkler system

Action #5 March 2025: Veolia to investigate what information can be shared in regard to historical and recent tonnages received at TRRRP

See Appendix 1, Slide 5

- Not exact numbers, but a rough amount to provide an idea.
- The tonnages coming in are project dependent and there are new waste levies coming in that will possibly impact this.
- A new Waste Levy is coming into effect on 1 July 2025, which may impact tonnages coming in.

AK: Another part of this question asked by community is 'If it's not going into the landfill then where is it going?', and to that I would say that the new waste levy has also created new resource recovery streams, like places like Earthsure reducing the rate of waste being sent to the landfill as it is being diverted to facilities like organics composters or soil treatment facilities. Under the upcoming Victorian waste levy, the price is harmonised with NSW, so the cost of the levy is almost the same between VIC and NSW, which should reduce any interstate transport of soil.

MG: The interstate transport was happening when QLD did not have a waste levy, so companies could save money by shipping it up there. A lot of the waste we get is packaging waste, might have some residuals, oily rags. We aren't getting treatment plant residues. Over the years that industry has shut down, so they aren't generating that waste anymore. We used to receive well over 300,000 tonnes a year, and we would be only doing a tenth of that now.

TW: Is there any reason why that industry has closed down?

MG: It was cheaper to send those processes overseas. There's no chrome platers or things like that left in the country to generate that waste. And as Ash said, the levy has developed more innovative ways of treating waste that means that that waste doesn't go into landfill. Earthsure is one of four facilities in the state to have a thermal treatment plant.

TT: Victoria is the most active by way of thermal soil treatment facilities by far compared to other states. There's four in the state, and none in the rest of Australia.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE – Veolia

NJ provided an update on general site operations:

Leachate ponds

Leachate pond works are ongoing, with work commencing in early March 2025.

- The old bund walls have been removed
- The pond liner has been stripped back and the central bund walls have been removed.
- The new bund is being instated, in the process of being completed using new clay.
- These ponds will have the same capacity as the previous design.

IJ: Is there much leachate being extracted out of this site?

NJ: Yes, there's always going to be leachate generated on site at a landfill.

Depackaging facility

NJ provided an update on the depackaging facility:

- Diversion chutes have been added to the facility
- Currently operating at around an 80% diversion from landfill.
- Year to date, the depackager has diverted over 2000 tonnes of organics from landfill
- Organics are partly going to a Veolia organics facility, and to another company's site.
- Leftover packaging is placed into the TRRRP landfill.

Environment

JK gave an update on the sites environmental compliance including any EPA notices issued.

- No EPA visits since last CRG.
- No current active notices.
- Voluntary LFG monitoring submitted monthly, and landfill gas (LFG) management improvements are continuing to be made across the site.

PROJECT UPDATES (Earthsure)

TT provided an update on Earthsure projects on site:

Thermal treatment plant (TTP)

- Business as usual, incoming soil rates have dropped a little.
- The plant is not being turned on as often, but is operating with a strong throughput.
- The plant's maintenance schedule does not stop when the plant is not in operation, so checks are being completed at their usual schedule.
- OTM50 test method completed – A stack analysis of the TTP, a new testing method which is the latest and not in EPA legislation yet, which uses OTM45.
    - OTM50 tests for more parameters than the current OTM45. Even with its additional testing, Earthsure's discharge quality is very good. This is the second time in the world

this test has been done, and the first in Australia. A company in the United States completed their tests a few months ago.
  - The reason this testing was undertaken was directly from Veolia's global leaders in Paris, who have asked for it.

TW: How often is the plant being operated?
TT: Since the start of the year, it's been turned on twice. Each time we turn the plant on, it takes a week to complete the process. The plant requires 12 hours of heat up to achieve required operating conditions before any feed is introduced and 10 hours of cool down after it is empty.

Soil washing plant (SWP)

- In the final stages of construction.
- Energising the plant this week, to allow electricity to run through the electrical system of the plant, which is a significant milestone. This needs to be done methodically and safely, with testing to ensure the electricity to go where it needs to go.
- Mechanical construction is nearly complete.
- Looking to test and commission the plant during Q3 2025. Hope to put clean soil in Q4, and test contaminated soil once the clean soil testing has been completed satisfactorily.
- The contaminated water that is used to wash the soil is being cleaned in the water treatment plant, to be reused to clean more soil. This water has to get topped up every now and then.
- There are no airborne contaminants that could arise from the facility, as the way the soil is treated is mechanical and a cold, wet process.
- Outputs from the plant include contaminated water and clean fractions of aggregate, ranging from stones, gravel, sand and clay.
- The contaminated water is then transported into a water treatment plant, where the water is cleaned to be reused.

IJ: Is it a quiet plant?

TT: Yes, the soil is pumped as a slurry which is silent, and the conveyor belts that bring the soil into the plant are silent. It's far quieter than the TTP, which has a 300kW fan that is noisier than the soil washing plant. The motors on these pumps are around 5kW.

TW: Where does the water come from?

TT: We have a main supply that we can feed into the plant, it gets used to wet and rinse the soil fractions. Water recovered from the washing process is sent to the water treatment plant. In the treatment plant, the water goes through a particulate filter trap to trap dust, and then the clarified water goes through a series of 12 multimedia filters, including activated carbon and ion-exchange resin to absorb any contaminants. The water that comes out of the water treatment process is very clean.

Construction and commissioning
TT outlined the commissioning and testing process for the SWP (See Appendix 1, Slide 12)

- Earthsure has started receiving some commissioning material
- There will be rigorous testing to make sure the plant is ready to operate:
  - Electrical testing to ensure the power is flowing correctly

- Functional testing to make sure that the electrical cables are going to the right equipment, test the equipment to make sure it is operating properly
- Water testing, where clean water is pumped through to ensure there are not leaks. There is also effluent runoff management in place to intercept the water to take it back to the water treatment plant.
- Clean soil testing, to make sure the system has been proven to be effective. EPA has approved 5,000 tonnes of clean soil to pass through the facility for testing.
- Contaminated soil testing, to make sure that the plant is able to clean the soil to the point where there is no difference between the tested clean soil and the cleaned contaminated soil.
- Then finally there is a process of optimisation and refinement to help the plant run more efficiently.

IJ: Is that a recent photo? There seems to be more soil than the last time we saw it.

TT: It's from a couple of weeks ago. We have the dust monitors and a dedicated water cart and cannon to keep the dust down while it is being stored.

Operations

- To better direct the flow of traffic onsite, and ensure waste is directed to the correct facility on site new signage has been installed across TRRRP.
- Installation of LED signage to address the 24 hour operations on site is being invesitgated.
- A new Operations team has been recruited to help run the SWP including:
  - Environmental Engineer
  - Safety Engineer
  - Site Engineer
  - Plant Engineer
  - Production Engineer
  - Electrical, Instrumentation &Control Engineer
  - Mechanical Engineer
  - Works Supervisor
  - Production Crew
    - CROs
    - Padtechs
    - Mobile Plant Operators

TW: How often do you expect this plant to be operating?

TT: This plant will be operating around the clock daily, and we'll be looking to operate up to 96 hours per week. I estimate that it might take us three days of maintenance to ensure the plant is ready for the next round of soil. So, four days on, three days off. When we have optimised the plant process, we'll be able to operate five days a week

Soil Washing Plant recap (See Appendix 1, Slide 14)

TT outlined the flow of material around the soil washing plant, from material acceptance and catchment area, into the processing and water treatment area, then to treated product. The outgoing trucks will pass through the wheel wash.

TW: This grades the aggregates, yes?

TT: Yes, soil is made of many components, which will get washed, filtered and stockpiled into specific bunkers, from mango-sized rocks down to very fine sands. The recycled products that come out of this will reduce the need to use quarried virgin products. The products will also come with an analytical report, which virgin product is not required to have.

IJ: Where do you think the incoming soil will come from?

TT: We are hoping that it will come from some of the state government's infrastructure works, including Big Build projects. We are also anticipating that projects will likely send their soil to the closest facility, so it's hard to know exactly what we will get. Competition is tough and the cost of fuel is impacting this.

OTHER BUSINESS (Veolia)

AK sought any further questions from the group.

IJ: So Colemans Rd, Taylors Rd, I've noticed that the trucks that are coming to Veolia are speeding, in a hurry to get to the site. How can that be controlled? Can we put more speed signs up?

MB: So, traffic and speeding are a Victoria Police issue. I'm not a traffic engineering specialist so I can't speak to how to fix that, but I can take it to our traffic engineers. We install the signs under the guidance of traffic engineers.

ACTION: MB to reach out to City of Greater Dandenong traffic engineers to see what can be done, and provide feedback to AK.

IJ: So with the soil washing plant up and running, how many trucks will be coming in with the 24 hours operations?

TT: Around 45 trucks a week.

The next TRRRP CRG meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 August.

6:45pm MEETING CLOSE.

Action tracker:

Item	Action	Who	Date
Action March 2025 #1	Veolia to source and share comparison data of gas levels from today to five years ago	Veolia	Complete – See Appendix 1

Action March 2025 #2	Veolia to explore opportunities for further signage at the public entrance of TRRRP	Veolia	Complete – See Appendix 1
Action March 2025 #3	Veolia to investigate providing a wind rose for the site.	Veolia	Complete – See Appendix 1
Action March 2025 #4	Earthsure to investigate potential for further dust monitoring, and provide more information on the parameters of the dust monitoring alarm system.	Earthsure	Complete.
Action March 2025 #5	Veolia to investigate what information can be shared in regard to historical and recent tonnages received at TRRRP	Veolia	Complete – See Appendix 1
Action March 2025 #6	Facilitator to source contour plan discussion from previous minutes	Facilitator	
Action March 2025 #7	CRG members to review historical minutes to see when tonnages have previously been reported.	CRG members	Before next CRG
Action March 2025 #8	EPA to investigate historical interstate transport of waste and share with CRG.	EPA	
Action May 2025 #1	MB to reach out to City of Greater Dandenong traffic engineers to see what can be done, and provide feedback to AK.	City of Greater Dandenong	Before next CRG

Appendix 1 – Veolia slides

Agenda

1. Meeting governance
2. Governance and previous actions
3. Site update
4. CRG and Communications
5. EPA update
6. Other business

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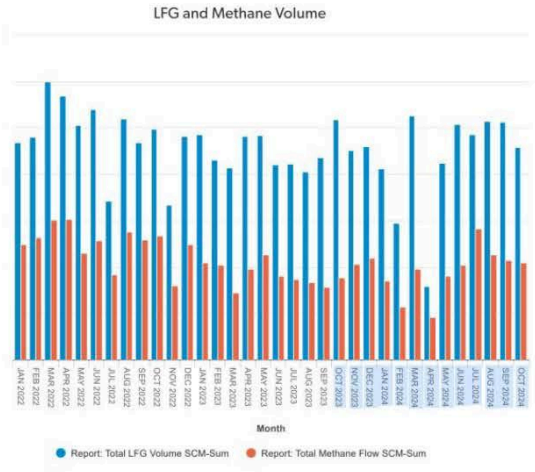
Meeting Governance Actions

1. Veolia to source and share comparison data of gas levels from today to five years ago

2. Veolia to explore opportunities for further signage at the public entrance of TRRRP



Maintenance on wells has improved LFG capture from April 2024

New signage template being installed includes the facility name and lists all operations

VEOLIA 3

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Meeting Governance Actions

3. Veolia to investigate providing a wind rose for the site.

Local wind rose depict the dominate average being winds to the north over the last 5 years and in May 2025.

4. Earthsure to investigate potential for further dust monitoring, and provide more information on the parameters of the dust monitoring alarm system.

On slide 11

VEOLIA 4

Meeting Governance Actions

5. Historical and recent landfill Tonnes

Takeaways:

- Tonnes are usually project dependent
- The landfill levy has provided incentive for projects to seek alternative treatments, reducing tonnes to landfill
- Facilities like EarthSure and the depackager and other competitors help create circular economy alternatives to landfilling
- Levys have been harmonised between NSW and Vic.

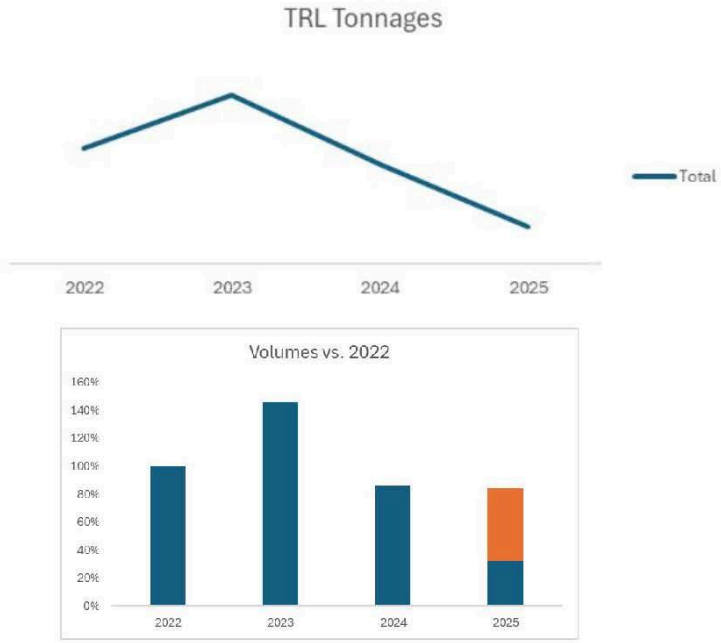
Waste levy

Find waste levy rates and key information on Victorian waste levies.

A waste levy must be paid for all wastes that are received at permissioned landfills.

One of the key purposes of the waste levy is to help reduce waste. Waste levies encourage waste generators to look for ways to reduce the amount of waste they generate and send to landfill.

Waste Levy: Source EPA website



Landfilling rates over recent years and projected in 2025

VEOLIA 5

Meeting Governance
Actions

Action	Who	Slide/ Note
Veolia to source and share comparison data of gas levels from today to five years ago	Veolia	Slide 4
Veolia to explore opportunities for further signage at the public entrance of TRRRP	EPA	Slide 4
Veolia to investigate providing a wind rose for the site.	Veolia	Slide 5
Earthsure to investigate potential for further dust monitoring, and provide more information on the parameters of the dust monitoring alarm system.	Earthsure	Slide 5
Veolia to investigate what information can be shared in regard to historical and recent tonnages received at TRRRP	Veolia	Slide 6
Facilitator to source contour plan discussion from previous minutes	Facilitator	
CRG members to review historical minutes to see when tonnages have previously been reported.	CRG members	
EPA to investigate historical interstate transport of waste and share with CRG.	EPA	

Operational Updates

Upkeep works - Leachate Ponds

- In the March meeting we noted the works were commencing the following week.
- The old bund walls have been removed
- The process of instating the new bund wall is being completed
- Same capacity as previous design (3 ponds down to 2)

Early stages of the upkeep works includes stripping back the lining and removing the two soil bunds.

VEOLIA 7

Operational Updates

Depackager

- In the last meeting the facility was nearing 1000t or diversion from landfill.
- Year to date that is now over 2000t diversion from landfill.
- Organics gets further composting

Separation collection bin

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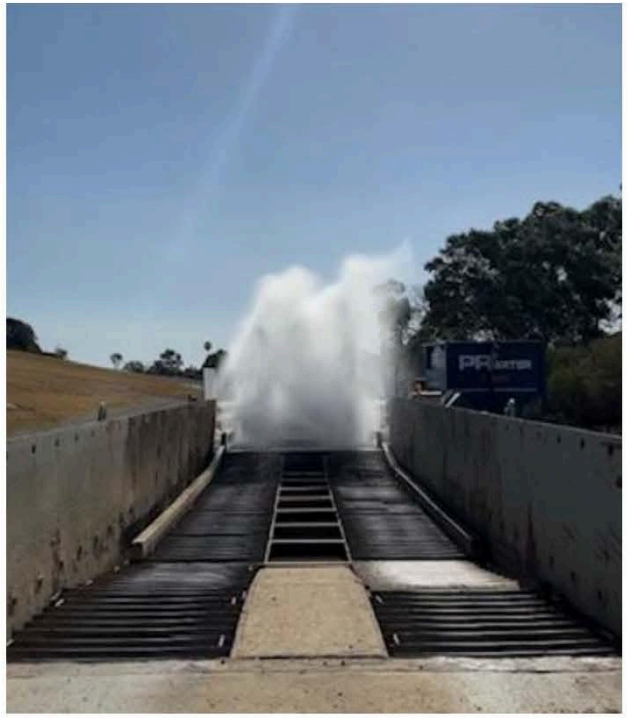
General Updates

Improvement notices and actions

EPA inspections

Jan 30, 2025 - EPA conducted a permission compliance assessment with no further actions flagged.

Notice	Description	Action	Status
No active EPA notices	NA	Voluntary LFG Monitoring Program submitted to EPA monthly	NA



Wheel wash

Thermal Facility
Update

Operation

- BAU
- Plant reliability remains high
- Soil Intake lower than previous years

Maintenance

- Scheduled Maintenance continues
- CEMS scheduled calibration
- Electrical compliance testing
- OTM50 test method completed first in Australia, second in the world

VEOLIA 10

Soil Washing Facility

Update

VEOLIA 11

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Project Updates

SWP Construction

Construction

- The facility is physically established
- The systems are currently being connected and installed

Commissioning

- Commissioning scheduled to commence during Q3 2025
- Some commissioning material has been received
- Commissioning process will be rigorous:
  - Electrical testing
  - Functional Testing
  - Water testing
  - Clean Soil testing
  - Contaminated Soil testing
  - Optimisation

VEOLIA 12

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Project Updates

Operations

Construction

- New signage installed to ensure waste is waste is directed to correct facility
- LED signage to address 24/hr operation
- New Operations team recruited
  - Environmental Engineer
  - Safety Engineer
  - Site Engineer
  - Plant Engineer
  - Production Engineer
  - E, I&C Engineer
  - Mechanical Engineer
  - Works Supervisor
  - Production Crew
    - CROs
    - PAdtechs
    - Mobile Plant Operators

VEOLIA 13

Project Updates

SWP Overview/ Recap

Overview

1. Material is accepted over the weighbridge using waste transport certificates and placed in the material acceptance and catchment area.
2. Untreated material is fed into the hopper, treated and allocated into particle size.
3. All treated output products are quarantined and analytically tested
4. The treated product is tested prior to off-site recycling
5. New wheel wash is utilised for all vehicles

VEOLIA 14

Thank you
VEOLIA