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, 27 August 2025

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

ATTENDEES

MEMBER NAME	29/03/23	28/06/23	10/10/23	27/03/24	26/06/24	25/09/24	05/03/25	28/05/25	27/08/25
Jim Houlahan (JH)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Ian Jensz (IJ)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thelma Wakelam (TW)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

GUESTS AND STAFF

- **EPA**: Tim Saliba (TS), Michaela Hodge (MH), Martin O'Shaughnessy (MO)
- **Veolia**: Nick James (NJ), Ashley Kelly (AK), Mark Globan (MG)
- **Earthsure**: Tai Truong (TT)
- **City of Greater Dandenong**: Matt Berry (MB)

FACILITATOR

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

APOLOGIES

- Jessica Keyt (JK)

5.40pm WELCOME AND AGENDA

SMc welcomed participants and explained how the meeting would proceed.

TW noted that the previous meeting minutes were dated incorrectly.

Action #1: Facilitator to amend dating error in May meeting minutes and redistribute.

5.50pm GOVERNANCE and PREVIOUS ACTIONS

AK and NJ provided an update on outstanding actions from the previous meeting.
Completed Action #2 March 2025 Update: Veolia to explore opportunities for further signage at the public entrance of TRRRP

- Community feedback has been heard and Veolia have added detail to the signage outside the property, including the facility's licences and opening hours.
- Further detail can be found on the FAQs on the community webpage.
- Physical additions include solar-powered LED signage applied to support 24 hour operations, and additional traffic management has been added to restrict trucks from turning left out of the site.
- Google Maps has also been notified to remove the left turn from directions provided when leaving the site

IJ: I'd like to commend the Veolia team for taking onboard the community feedback and implementing some changes. It's definitely made a difference, as my neighbours have mentioned the improvements. JH inquired about why these concerns were raised. In response, it was clarified that these measures are required by permit conditions; and although the signage had always been in place, it had not consistently been observed in practice. This is also covered in the May meeting minutes.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE – Veolia

NJ provided an update on general site operations:

Leachate ponds

Leachate pond works are ongoing.

- Old bund walls have been removed
- Process of instating new bund walls has been completed, awaiting better weather conditions to finalise this.

Depackaging facility

NJ provided an update on the depackaging facility:

- Business as usual, with nothing to report.

Cell 21

- Submitted a notification to submit design for Cell 21, which was refused by the EPA.
- Returning to the waste percentages to address EPA feedback.
- Working through the feedback to continue

JH: Is the issue with the 30/70 ratio?

MG clarified that the original licence referenced 35% prescribed industrial waste across the whole site. Veolia tracks this percentage over time and its view is that the site won't exceed that. Veolia will continue to work through this with the EPA to address their concerns.

TW: Is the City of Greater Dandenong involved in determining these ratios?

MG clarified this is an EPA requirement, not a planning permit requirement.
The ratios came about many years ago when the site was co-disposing general waste and prescribed industrial waste in a single cell using a clay liner. The current liner is a double composite. The

business should probably have looked at having an amendment in the licence some time ago. If you take the requirement as it is written, we believe we'll be well under the amount.

Action #2: Veolia to confirm if the landfill waste ratios are required as a part of the planning permit with City of Greater Dandenong or the licence with EPA.

TW: How are these calculations for the waste ratios being done? Given the landfill has been operating for longer than Veolia has been here, how do we know that the data is accurate?

MG said Veolia has data going all the way back to when the landfill opened. We have the overall airspace of the site, and then the tonnes of waste that are coming into the site, which are tracked when they arrive. Depending on what waste is coming in on truck loads, the ratio is balanced. We're tracking well below the overall airspace. We still have capacity for general waste in Cell 20.

JH: Until when?

MG said Veolia does not have a sunset clause on this site, so it depends on the market and what people will send here. We don't get the waste that we did when these requirements were written, when we were receiving 600,000 tonnes of waste in the 90's and early 2000s. These days we get around 20,000 tonnes, so it's a slower process. He said there are no recycling options for the type of waste that comes to this site, and that Veolia is in discussions with the government regarding the need to build the final cell, Cell 21, because the state needs it for the reportable priority waste.

Environment

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

- Two EPA inspections have been held at TRRRP this year.
- EPA visit in July 2025 for an inspection of Earthsure's facilities (covered later in the meeting).
- No current active notices.
- Voluntary LFG monitoring submitted monthly, and landfill gas (LFG) management improvements are continuing to be made across the site.
- There was a question about carbon dioxide levels around TRRRP and surrounding sites. A recent third-party assessment showed background CO^2 concentrations are generally higher in the business precinct, unrelated to the landfill.

JH: Is the higher baseline due to the industrial nature of this area?

MG said it is likely to do with the geology of the region.There has been research conducted by the City of Casey around Brooklyn Greens finding that there were naturally elevated CO^2 levels, even many kilometres east of that area,in the broader area due to natural geology.

PROJECT UPDATES (Earthsure)

TT provided an update on Earthsure projects on site:

Thermal treatment plant (TTP)

- Have run 4 campaigns since the last CRG, 9 total this year

- Research and development such as OTM-50 testing, which demonstrates that the Earthsure thermal plant offers a solution for PFAS
- Combination of soil washing and thermal treatment will allow for a complete solution for residuals from the soil wash plant.

JH: What is OTM-50? And where does the EPA fit in this process?

TT confirmed that OTM-50 stand for 'other testing methods 50', a step further than that which is required by EPA.

TT explained that Australia is advanced in recognising PFAS impacts, and Veolia has a global initiative to develop solutions for PFAS contamination. When Veolia's head office found out that there was a program in Australia that offered a stronger testing method than what Veolia was currently using globally, they wanted to learn more. It allows Veolia to verify that the PFAS treatment is sound.

No soil leaves the facility until the EPA approves it after testing. The testing is conducted by independent, National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) registered practitioners. Veolia does not test the soil itself.

JH: If there is a high volume of contaminated soil somewhere else in Melbourne, can the site be moved closer to them?

TT said that the cost of moving this site is significant and unlikely to be financed by a client. PFAS chemicals are incredibly mobile, if they don't get treated, they can leech into waterways and people can consume them. With the advancements in technology, people are finding PFAS in drinking water. This site intercepts the waste, treats it, and produces clean soil, eliminating any future liabilities of PFAS contamination.

JH: Is Veolia the only company who can treat this?

TT: There are other operators who are permitted to receive and address PFAS waste, I can't speak to their operations.

<u>Earthsure workplace safety checks (See Appendix 1, slide 11)</u>

- At least once a year, an independent hygienist visits to install monitoring stations around Earthsure's facilities, most recently undertaken in July this year.
- In the lunch room when Earthsure staff work, in the changeroom, one in the workface and monitors are placed on the staff to walk around and gather data for an endurance test.
- Those samples are collected and sent offsite for analysis to see what the environment and personnel are exposed to during their work day.
- There is an Emission Control System (ECS) that is primarily used to monitor any contaminants carried in the air, and filter them out before release into the atmosphere. The emissions monitoring continues once this air is released.
- However, Earthsure has found that the ECS' main job is to clean the exhaust from the mobile plants within the building, to create a safe atmosphere for the Earthsure team.

JH: Is this based upon a risk assessment that PFAS is carcinogenic?

TT confirmed that PFAS is normally carried by air. But the molecules themselves have a really high burn temperature, as they primarily were created in the development of firefighting foam. At this stage, research in industry has identified three PFAS molecules. They are the three that are regulated. Veolia has spent a lot of money to study PFAS in R&D. We have found over 12,000 PFAS-like substances in the world that are unregulated. Not because we don't know about them, but because we don't know what effects these other PFAS-like contaminants could have on humans, flora and fauna.
Ten or 20 years ago they started researching this. To collect significant data, you need a lot of strong and precise information in order to make any conclusions.

JH: Is the PFAS treatment process only for soil, would you be looking at expanding into treating liquids as well?

TT said Veolia currently has treatment processes that can treat PFAS contaminated water, and referenced the soil washing plant. However, that is a collection of PFAS, rather than a destruction of PFAS. It's captured onto absorbent carbon and PFAS-specific resins that cost around $30 or $40 per litre. When that resin is full, we can take it to the thermal plant to destroy it, which provides a complete PFAS capture and destruction process.

Soil washing plant (SWP)

- Commissioning of clean soil has commenced
- Licence approval tracking before the end of the year.
- Dust monitors on four corners of the site continuously collecting air samples and reporting dust levels around the site. Dust levels that have been recorded are well below the allowable limit of 90 micrograms per cubic litre.
- These numbers are compared with the hygienists who put their independent dust monitors onsite to verify the numbers, which they have.
- We have a dedicated water cannon to ensure that the soil is damp that reduces dust while moving it.

IJ: I was invited to see the soil washing plant and was very impressed with it. I haven't said that for a long time in the 30 years that I've been coming to these meetings. It was very quiet. It's good to have some positive progress on this site. How can you put it in better hands than Tai's, somebody who really cares about this.

Operations

- Lots of learnings to be had by the new engineers.
- Significant training for management of the soil washing plant happening. Engineers have to sit a competency test.
- Equipping the team with knowledge is important to ensure the team knows the plant well.

JH: Who owns the material once it crosses the weighbridge?

TT reconfirmed that the liability of dealing with the waste falls with Veolia once it is on site. But before the waste is accepted a detailed process determines if Veolia will accept the waste. An environmental report is required to demonstrate what is in the soil. If necessary, Veolia will help them acquire an environmental report. Then, if the report says the material is something that the site can accept

lawfully, an assessment must be made as to if the site has room to store it before discussion can proceed. There are gates and checkpoints well before the material comes into the site.

TT also noted that the EPA also imposes a financial assurance (FA) upon Veolia. The site is allowed to take on so many tonnes of soil. EPA protects the community by ensuring we have money put aside to treat any soil on site if the company folds, so that the waste will still be treated. The current FA sits at around $10,000/tonne, which is many times more than the current cost per tonne to treat.

JH: Is the material coming from Victoria-wide?

TT confirmed it is mainly from Victoria but occasionally comes from interstate because Victoria has the most thermal treatment plants.

EPA Audit

- 8 EPA officers attended from different departments.
- A scheduled audit of both Earthsure facilities.
- Given a tour at each site, and received confirmation from the EPA that there were no issues raised during the visits.

AK shared an update on communications and engagement with the CRG.

Soil washing communications

- New educational material being developed, to be shared online soon.
- There is a video on the website that provides an overview of the facility.
- The new posters will be uploaded onto the website shortly soon.
- Veolia wants to make sure that the wider community is able to access information that the CRG has a deeper understanding of already.

EPA UPDATE (EPA)

Action March 2025 #8 Update: EPA to investigate historical interstate transport of waste and share with CRG.

TS confirmed that having followed up, this information is not readily available, and that the community will need to submit a Freedom of Information request if they wish to pursue.

JH: Do you know if there are different levy arrangements that have discouraged material going interstate?

MG said many years ago the Victorian levy went up to $230 a year, while Queensland had no a levy at that time, so there was a lot of waste going from NSW to QLD as it was cheaper.

MO reiterated that there was some degree of a cost differential between states at that time. He said that current Ministerial agreements detail that you cannot move waste to a location with a lesser standard of treatment, and that it must be treated to an equal or higher standard. That requirement has been around for many years now. Regularly the EPA will get consignments that are coming from interstate, we get enquiries that the paperwork has come through, and the team will even forward

these to the regional offices to see if there are any concerns in the area where the waste may be sent. It's a much tighter system than it used to be.

AK asked if there had been any feedback or concerns raised by the community to the EPA regarding TRRRP, which TS confirmed that there had not been.

OTHER BUSINESS (Veolia)

AK asked MB if there had been any feedback or concerns raised by the community in Dandenong in relation to TRRRP, which MB confirmed there had not been.

Colemans Road traffic

MB noted that following the community concerns expressed related to traffic in the Dandenong South precinct at the May meeting, he had followed up with Council traffic engineers regarding the speed signs on Colemans Road. He said they had no concerns with trucks currently, but were working with Victoria Police to address hooning behaviour. Traffic monitoring will be undertaken to seek data on traffic flow and speeds. Some minor vegetation covering speed signs has also been removed.

AK sought any further questions from the group.

JH: There's been a lot of discussion around domestic waste incineration. Is this site being considered for that?

MG referenced that there is a cap on Energy from Waste in terms of the total capacity allowed in the marketplace, and that this site will not have an Energy from Waste facility.

The group discussed why there was a cap put in place, with several comments made that it was to encourage the reduction of waste and development of other innovative waste processing solutions.

TW: Are there any other projects in the pipeline coming through for this site?

MG confirmed there were no other projects being planned.

The group discussed the significant improvement seen on the site over the years.

IJ: The improvements in working together and working with industry have been great over the last 30 years or so.

MO: The improvements and the relationship in working collaboratively with the Council and EPA from the industry have been great to see. Sometimes we lose track of the timeline, as we're working in the here and now, but the industry has come a long way, it's chalk and cheese compared to where we were 36 years ago. The professionalism that you find today, which is ubiquitous in these larger companies like Veolia was not there all those years ago, the knowledge bank wasn't there either so it's been very good. Opportunities like the tour of Earthsure's facilities are extremely useful for us, and the sharing of information from Veolia to EPA is now part and parcel.

JH: I think as community members that we echo your sentiments Martin.

JH: Is Council or EPA working towards a terminal date for this site, or the selection of another site?

EPA representatives were not able to comment on that, saying it sits largely with Council in the planning sphere. MO said that this site is a state resource now, there is a lot depending on this site. If TRRRP didn't exist tomorrow, we would all know about it.

MG reiterated that there is no sunset clause on this site, but that the State Government has concerns about the site closing. Back in the 1990s we were accepting 600,000 tonnes of waste, and now we are taking in 15-20 tonnes per day now. The make up of the waste that we accept has changed a lot.

Action #3: Veolia to provide information about the waste historically and currently accepted at TRRRP waste at a future CRG.

The next CRG meeting will be held in conjunction with the Hallam Road Landfill CRG group on Wednesday 19 November 2025.

7:00pm MEETING CLOSE.

Action tracker:

Item	Action	Who	Date
Action March 2025 #7	CRG members to review historical minutes to see when tonnages have previously been reported.	CRG members	Considered complete. Community members to follow up only if they wish.
Action August 2025 #1	Facilitator to amend dating error in May meeting minutes	Facilitator	Complete.
Action August 2025 #2	Veolia to confirm if the landfill waste ratios are required as a part of the planning permit with City of Greater Dandenong or the licence with EPA.	Veolia	Before next CRG
Action August 2025 #3	Veolia to provide information about the waste historically and currently accepted at TRRRP waste at a future CRG.	Veolia	First TRRRP CRG in 2026

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

Lorem ipsum dolor

Meeting Governance
Actions

Action	Who	Slide/ Note
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	

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Meeting Governance Actions

Signage action

Now installed at entrance, listing all operations

Interested parties can also read project updates and FAQs on TRRRP webpage.

New signage - interested group can also read project updates and FAQs on webpage

VEOLIA 4

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Meeting Governance
Actions

Physical
Physical traffic management infrastructure applied to prevent trucks from turning left out of site.

Solar and LED lighting and applied to support 24/7 operations.

Digital
Google maps has been notified to remove left turn from direction out of site

Behavioural
Drivers are followed up with if they have not complied

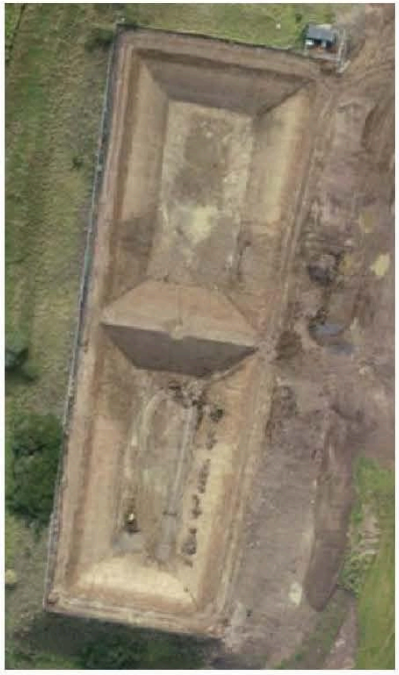
Signage and additional traffic management applied

VEOLIA 5

Operational Updates

Upkeep works - Leachate Ponds

- 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)
- Supports capacity for current, future cells and EarthSure



Through earthworks the three ponds have become two. The depicts the ponds prior to lining system.

VEOLIA 6

Operational Updates

Depackager

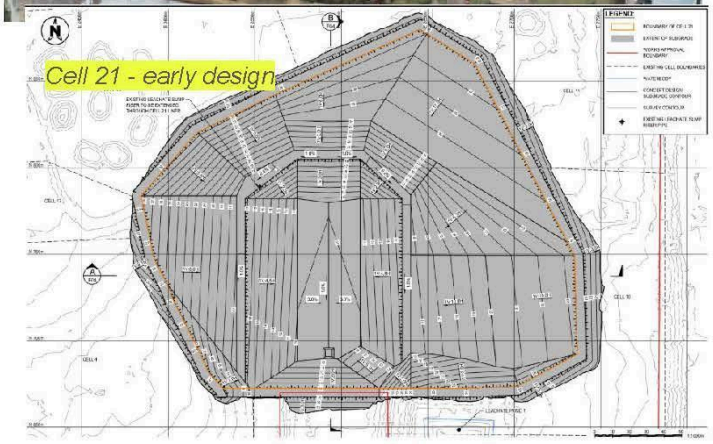
- Running BAU

Separation collection bin

Operational Updates

Cell 21

- Design
- Fault line
- Contours
- Timeline
- Waste %



VEOLIA 8

General Updates

Improvement notices and actions

EPA inspections

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

July 2025 - Inspection of EarthSure (Slide 16)

Notice	Description	Action	Status
No active EPA notices	NA	LFG Monitoring Program provided to EPA upon request	NA

Note: *Updated background carbon dioxide (CO2) sampling has been undertaken in the area and and an endorsed third party assessment confirms that background CO2 concentrations are generally higher in the in the business precinct, unrelated to the landfill.*

Traffic management

VEOLIA 9

Thermal Facility
Update

Operation

- Ran 4 campaigns since last meeting, 9 in total this year.

Solutions

- Research and development such as OTM-50 testing demonstrates that the EarthSure thermal desorption plant offers a solution for PFAS.
- The combination of thermal and washing will allow for a complete solution for residuals from the soil wash plant
- The strength of EarthSure's research and results has supported Veolia's global BeyondPFAS campaign.

VEOLIA 10

Thermal Facility - Workplace monitoring

Update

Carried out in July 2025 as part of scheduled assessment

VEOLIA 11

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Soil Washing

Update

Commissioning

- Commissioning of clean soil has commenced
- Licence approval tracking before the end of the year

Controls and monitoring

- Minimum fortnightly aerial tracking
- Water cart for haul roads
- Binding agent for storage stockpiles
- Boundary monitors
- Surface water reused in wash process with excess discharged to trade waste
- Stockpile management plan with clear triggers and contingency action
- Demo of new water canons occurring shortly

VEOLIA 12

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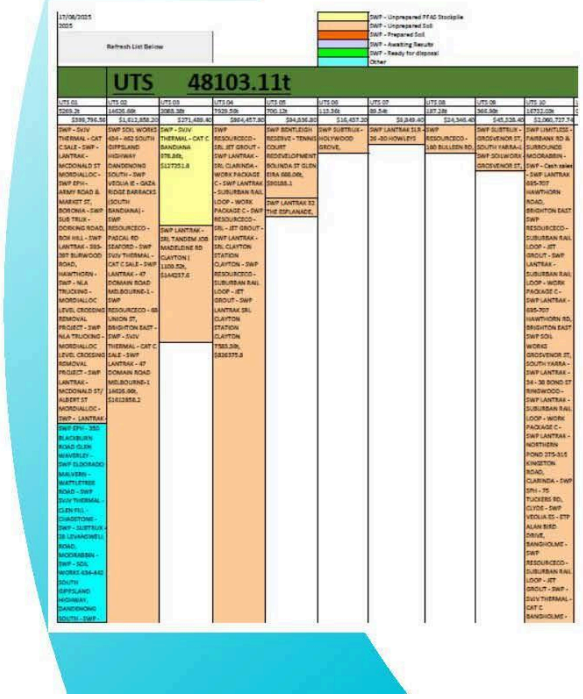
Soil Washing - Materials Tracking

Update



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Soil Washing - Site Personnel Training

Update

VEOLIA 14

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EPA Scheduled Audit of EarthSure:25 July 2025

Update

- EPA attended EarthSure sites on 25 July 2025
- A total of 8 EPA officers from different departments attended including Permissioning, Southern Metro, Science and Engineering, Liquid Waste Specialist, Solid Waste Specialist and Licencing.
- EarthSure site management provided presentation and hosted site inspections at each EarthSure Facility.
- Entry Report issued on 29 July 2025
- No non compliances were reported
- One Inspection Outcome was noted in EPA's Entry Report. It was related to Soil Washing Facility's transition from DLX to OL.

Draft educational material

VEOLIA 15

EPA Scheduled Audit of EarthSure: 25 July 2025

Update

VEOLIA 16

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