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, 4 March 2026

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

ATTENDEES

MEMBER NAME	28/06/23	10/10/23	27/03/24	26/06/24	25/09/24	05/03/25	28/05/25	27/08/25	04/03/26
Jim Houlahan (JH)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Ian Jensz (IJ)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thelma Wakelam (TW)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

GUESTS AND STAFF

- **EPA**: Jo Prendergast (JP), Tim Saliba (TS), Samantha Cseh (SC)
- **Veolia**: Nick James (NJ), Ashley Kelly (AK), Jessica Keyt (JK), Mark Globan (MG)
- **Earthsure**: Tai Truong (TT)
- **City of Greater Dandenong**: Matt Berry (MB), Cr Rhonda Garad (RG)

FACILITATOR

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

5.40pm WELCOME AND AGENDA

SMc welcomed participants and explained how the meeting would proceed.

CRG members introduced themselves. SMc welcomed Cr Rhonda Garad as the new City of Greater Dandenong councillor representative on the CRG.

5.50pm GOVERNANCE and PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Sign-in sheet and revised Terms of Reference (ToR)
SMc outlined the updated terms of reference and sign-in procedure:

- The ToR has been updated to be a shorter document, detailing the commitments of each CRG member.

- This new process has been implemented to ensure long term members and guest participants are all familiar with the structure and share the same expectations of the Community Reference Group meetings.

SMc outlined commitments from Veolia, stakeholders and community members (see Appendix 1, slide 3-5), and welcomed any feedback on the updated ToR.

All CRG members agreed to this process.

Updated minutes approval process

- To ensure full transparency and best practice through the engagement process, the minutes approval process has been updated.
- Meetings are recorded for the purpose of minute-taking, and these recordings are destroyed once the final minutes have been approved.
- Minutes will be shared with CRG members prior to finalisation for approval and clarification.
- To allow minutes to be approved as quickly as possible following the meeting, members will receive draft minutes within two weeks of the meeting, and have two weeks to approve or clarify points.
- A non-response will be taken as acceptance of the minutes.
- Final minutes will be published on the Veolia website within four weeks of the meeting.

All CRG members agreed to this process.

AK reminded the CRG that the Veolia TRRRP Community webpage is the main hub for information relating to the site, and also provides a direct way for people to get into contact with Veolia and find out more information.

JH: If someone wanted to learn more about this site, does the EPA have a link through to the community website hosted by Veolia?

JP: EPA wouldn't be able to host a list of links that would be kept up to date. We do have a list of permits, conditions and sites on the EPA public register. The businesses names, alongside their addresses and contact details are listed there.

For more information about specific sites, VicUnearthed is a website managed by the State Government that has information about contaminated sites, landfills and other sites. There's a wealth of information about goings on across the state on that site.

SC: We have hundreds of licenced sites across the state, so keeping the links up to date would be very resource intensive. We can share the details of VicUnearthed with you for your reference.

ACTION #1: VicUnearthed, EPA and Veolia community webpages to be shared with the CRG.

OPERATIONAL UPDATE (Veolia)

NJ provided an update on site operations and projects

Upkeep works – Leachate ponds

- Slightly progressed from last year, working through with an auditor for a report that will go to the EPA.
- The new bund wall has been established, and the ponds have been lined.
- Estimated that within the next two months, 9920kl of operational treatment capacity will be back online.

Proposed Cell 21 (see Appendix 1, slides 9-11)
JK provided an update on Cell 21 proposal:

- Veolia is looking to again go through the application phase with the EPA following the initial rejection of cell construction in August.
- Working through the approval process with the regulator for the development licence application.
- If the cell was approved, the delivery of the cell would be part of current operations.

RG: So with this additional cell, are you trying to increase the hazardous waste ratio of the site from 35% to 40%?

JK: We haven't defined that yet, we're still going through this application process. There's some context around that condition that has been lost over time. When we received the licence condition around the waste ratio, this site was accepting both putrescible and reportable priority waste (RPW). The licence condition was about managing the risk of those two waste types interacting in the same cell. What we now have is highly specialised, engineered cells that are only designed to hold what we call reportable priority waste. That condition could be considered a legacy condition from a time when it was more relevant to the site.

RG: To the EPA, what is the 35% ratio based on? Is it within a foundational document, is it a fixed ratio or can this be changed?

SC: We aren't from the Permissions team, but we can take this back to them to find out more information for you.

Action #2: EPA to explore information surrounding 35% RPW site ratio, and investigate source.

MG: The heritage of that ratio was when the site first opened in 1990, there was a cell which contained both waste streams within the cell, using a clay liner. At the time, the number was actually 25%, and EPA used a reference document from the United States to create the ratio. Over time that got increased to 35%, and there has been the assumption that it would be possible for us to exceed this limit.

There was going to be a state-owned waste facility in the Upper Mallee region of Victoria. When that didn't end up going ahead, Veolia stepped in and developed a monocell, which is a double composite-lined landfill cell which has been operating since the early 2000s.There is not another landfill cell designed like it.

It's important to note that the waste that was being received here in the 90s when the site opened is significantly different to what is being received now. There is not the same level of industry sending RPW to us that there used to be.

There is an EPA reliance on an email from 2010 that this site would exceed the 35% ratio, but the relevance of this email and the licence condition that we are discussing does not hold the relevance that it used to, as the site is not receiving the same kinds of waste that it used to.

Discussion was held around the potential use of Cell 21 for putrescible waste, and if there was opportunity for this to be used to extend the lifespan of the Hallam Road Landfill. Comments were also made by community members as to City of Greater Dandenong's commitment to TRRRP's closure and its continued operation.

TW: Will the proposed Cell 21 change the site's contour plan at all?

JK: No, the operating licence and contour plans for this site have always included future Cell 21 (see Appendix 1, slide 8). It is built into our licence that the land formations will not change with the development of Cell 21. There is no change and this complies with the final land formations for the site.

SC: The contour plan on the licence is a legal requirement, so this is the only contour plan that is relevant and current today.

TW: What is the timeline that we are looking at for having Cell 21 approved? And what would the lifespan of that cell be once it's constructed?

JK: This will be a process that unfolds over several months, from development licence approval and operating licence amendment through to cell construction. It is expected that the Cell will not be operation for another year and a half.

MG: Depending on fill rates, the lifespan of the cell could be around 6 to 8 years.

<u>Proposed Cell 21 pre-engagement</u>

AK provided an update on Cell 21 pre-engagement methodology and activities:

- Community consultation, including a doorknock of neighbouring sites within the separation distance of 500m from the site radius.
- Through the pre-engagement process, Veolia set out objectives to notify, discuss, and seek feedback on Cell 21 from local community, businesses and interest groups.
- Veolia has been communicating this through discussion with the CRG, emails, doorknocking and meeting with local businesses and delivering flyers, providing tours to interested stakeholders, and sharing information through the TRRRP community updates webpage.
- The opportunity to share feedback was broadcast to the CRGs and their interest groups, as well as on the flyer delivered to neighbouring businesses.
- Through doorknocking, Veolia spoke to 43 of 65 businesses, and one resident, within the 500m radius of the site.

- 41 gave neutral responses, 2 were positive. 1 of one residents was neutral.
- AK will be meeting with a new business that has opened since doorknocking activities to discuss the proposed Cell 21 with them.
- Veolia has not received any responses via the invitation to provide feedback or website link regarding Cell 21.

TW: I think this is a good approach, and you're doing what sounds like a good job. It's quite an effort to get out to that many businesses.

JH:I wonder if businesses nearby really understand what's gone into the cells here, as I don't think the term 'reportable priority waste' would mean anything to a lay person.

JK: 'Reportable priority waste' is the legal term, and what it is called within industry, which many of the types of operations in the local Business Precinct would be familiar with We have to be careful when we distribute information as to how we refer to different waste streams, and RPW is what we are allowed to use. Using the term 'hazardous' doesn't accurately describe what the waste is, and so we are specific in using RPW.

AK: I appreciate that for many RPW may not mean anything, but that is why Veolia's engagement with the community incorporated face to face doorknocking to allow dialog, and provides resources on our website if people want to learn more about the site and our industry.

Environmental update
JK provided an update on environmental notices and EPA inspections at the site:

- No active notices currently at TRRRP
- Veolia continues to submit voluntary LFG monitoring program to EPA monthly
- There haven't been any EPA inspections since the December meeting
  - January 2025 - EPA conducted a permission compliance assessment with no further actions flagged.
  - September 2025 - EPA conducted an announced inspection following an anonymous pollution report. No adverse findings.

PROJECT UPDATES (EarthSure)

TT provided an update on EarthSure activities:

Thermal treatment plant

- Operating since 2017, operating as BAU.
- 2026 has started with a slow first quarter of activity, with two weeks of production in 2026 thus far.

JH: Does the cost of energy affect operations? Is there any way to move towards renewable energy to power the site?

TT: Yes, the energy cost is not cheap, it's a significant cost of our operation, but the benefit is that we are ridding contaminated waste.

One of the emerging waste streams that will require Thermal Treatment Plant (TTP) treatment in Australia is biosolids. Recently it has been determined to contain PFAS, so the biosolids are required to be treated. Historically, biosolids have been used by farmers to grow crops, as fertiliser. What they also offer is a high calorific value. Not as good as coal, but if we could remove the PFAS from the biosolids, they could become an alternate energy source.

The nature of the biosolids is such that thermal treatment is the only way of destroying the PFAS within them.

RG: What are biosolids?

TT: The outputs of the sewage treatment plants, separate from the treated water. It is a residue that needs to be dealt with, and has its own treatment process. They behave similarly to soil once treated. EarthSure applied to the EPA to demonstrate that the TTP can treat this waste type, and have submitted our findings and are awaiting approval.

RG: It would be great to get a briefing paper or some more information on this

TT: We have a report that I need to seek approval to share with you, but my door is open to discuss other site operations.

Action #3: TT to see if biosolids treatment report can be shared publicly

JH: Would the TTP handle the toxins and dioxins from the residual biowaste?

TT: Yes it will, there are waste streams associated with cosmetics that are often poured down the sink that are deemed to be recalcitrant, so those toxins are present in the biosolids. I don't think you'll find many dioxins, but we test for that in our plans.

The CRG discussed the nearby capped and lined mound (CALM) managed by Melbourne Water. EPA shared that the audit reports for that site are publicly available on the EPA website for more information.

<u>Tour of TTP and soil washing plant (See Appendix 1, slide 14)</u>

- EarthSure invited local firefighters to the facility to share the details of what the site does, and fire safety procedures.
- The firefighters received a tour of the TTP and soil washing facility. They were very interested, and provided favourable feedback on the plants' fire management plans.

<u>TTP research and development (See Appendix 1, slide 15)</u>

TT provided an overview of the research and development behind the TTP's operations

- This plant has formally demonstrated that it can destroy PFAS. You need to understand PFAS in detail to know what you've done with it. PFAS is a group of many compounds that sit under the PFAS umbrella.

- At Veolia, there is a global initiative called Safe Harbour, which is a mandate from the company that if any arm of the business is engaged in any activity that may present any safety considerations, the global team will send people to ensure that activities are not causing harm to humans or the environment.
- The TTP is regulated by a PFAS measurement standard called OTM45, which the site has demonstrated it can pass.
- There is also a new measurement called OTM50 which has not yet been regulated. This has a higher level of rigour than OTM45.
- EarthSure undertook OTM50 research to advance industry knowledge, and was able to demonstrate that the plant was able to meet these standards. This plant is unique in Australia, but also globally.
- The plant has continuous emissions monitoring on the discharge stack, which is where the site is most vulnerable to PFAS contamination leaving the plant. During OTM50 testing, PFAS molecules were not found in the discharge stack.

Soil washing plant

TT provided an update on the soil washing facility:

- Commissioning has been completed.
- EarthSure has collected sufficient data to present to the EPA, which EPA is now reviewing.
- The plant is expected to gain an operating licence around the end of March to treat Category C contaminated soil. Category C soil is the least contaminated soil type, and so can be treated by water.
- There has been testing of output products with potential partners, and end users are very interested in these recovered materials.

TT invited any questions.

JH: You mentioned the steam stacks as one of the output areas of the TTP. With the stacks there, you've said that there is live time monitoring, are we able to access that real-time data publicly?

TT: We don't provide public access for our data. We receive that data, and we have a licence limit to comply with, so we program the plant to ensure that the limit outlined in our licence is never exceeded. Our licence limits on our discharge emissions are very stringent. The steam that is discharged is cleaner than what comes out of the exhaust of a car.

The EPA is empowered to walk on site at any time to inspect us and our systems. That information is available to the EPA at any time for enforcement reasons, and we receive annual audits from them. If you're asking for us to host that information on a public website, that is unlikely to happen. Not because we are refusing to do so, but because we are unable to do so at this time. It would be very costly and resource intensive to run.

JK: Each of our sites goes through an annual report to the EPA. They assess that and publish it on their website. They publish information that they can. If we have an issue on site, we are obliged to report that to EPA.

Industry does not provide all of the information and raw data due to the complexity of the information as it wouldn't help the public be able to understand what is going on onsite.

We regularly report to EPA, and we are transparent with key findings and compliance presented to you at these CRG meetings, as much as we can be.

OTHER BUSINESS (Veolia)

SMc invited any further questions from the CRG.

IJ: As the only nearby resident to this site, I've been here to see the landfill operations go from bad to well managed. I have trust in Veolia to manage this site, and they have built trust with me. They allow me to visit when I want to and I've had no complaints, including from other neighbours.

There's not been rubbish, smells or contaminant problems. Even the depackager has low odour. The EPA does their job correctly, and City of Greater Dandenong does as well. I don't see an issue in this site continuing to run.

The next CRG meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 May 2026.

7:00pm MEETING CLOSE.

Action tracker:

Item	Action	Who	Date
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
Action March 2026 #1:	VicUnearthed, EPA and Veolia community webpages to be shared with the CRG.	EPA, Veolia	Before next CRG
Action March 2026 #2:	EPA to investigate information surrounding 35% RPW site ratio, and share with the CRG	EPA	Before next CRG
Action March 2026 #3:	TT to investigate if biosolids treatment report can be shared publicly when finalised	EarthSure	

Appendix 1 – Veolia slides

Terms of Reference & Sign In Process

- This new process has been implemented to ensure long term members and guest participants are all familiar with the structure and share the same expectations of the Community Reference Group meetings

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Commitments

Veolia commits to:

- **Provide funding and resourcing** for CRG operations
- **Appoint an independent facilitator** to manage meetings, agendas, logistics, and ensure community concerns are considered appropriately
- **Provide timely briefing papers, reports and information** required for informed discussion
- **Make agendas and minutes publicly available**, with agendas distributed one week before meetings and draft minutes circulated within two weeks after meetings
- **Host meetings** at the Veolia facility, a suitable nearby venue, or online as agreed with the facilitator and CRG members
- **Protect personal information**, using it only for CRG related purposes and ensuring it is available only to Veolia, the facilitator, administrative support and other CRG members to enable contact

VEOLIA 3

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
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Commitments

Community representative members commit to:

- **Participate actively** by attending meetings and presenting the views of the community
- **Share accurate and timely information** with their community about CRG activities, plans and information/outcomes provided through the CRG
- **Prepare for meetings** by reviewing documents in advance
- **Recommend agenda items**, contribute constructively, and undertake agreed actions within set timeframes
- **Uphold respectful behaviour**, ensuring all members are heard and discussions remain professional; refrain from conduct that may cause offence or embarrassment
- **Share contact details** with Veolia, the facilitator, statutory authorities and fellow CRG members for operational purposes
- **Comply with the TOR**, recognising that membership may be revoked for repeated breaches following warnings by the facilitator

VEOLIA 4

Commitments

Stakeholder representatives commit to:

- **Participate actively** by attending meetings and presenting the views of the organisation they represent
- **Prepare for meetings** by reviewing documents in advance and contribute any information for presentations
- **Recommend agenda items**, contribute constructively, and undertake agreed actions within set timeframes
- **Ensure organisational representation** by notifying the facilitator of any apologies or substitutions of attendees prior to meetings
- **Uphold respectful behaviour**, ensuring all members are heard and discussions remain professional; refrain from conduct that may cause offence or embarrassment
- **Share contact details** with Veolia, the facilitator, statutory authorities and fellow CRG members for operational purposes

VEOLIA 5

Record Keeping & Minutes Approval

- Meetings are recorded for note-keeping purposes only
- Community members asked to review and acknowledge minutes within this timeframe
- Draft minutes emailed for review
- If no feedback is received within two weeks, minutes will be deemed final
- Final minutes will be published on the Veolia website within four weeks of the meeting
- Recording will be deleted

Purpose – to ensure full transparency and best practice through the engagement process.

VEOLIA 6

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
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TRRRP - Project Updates

Upkeep works - Leachate Ponds

- Ponds finalised
- 9920kl of operational treatment capacity will be back online shortly

The new bund wall is established and ponds lined

VEOLIA 7

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
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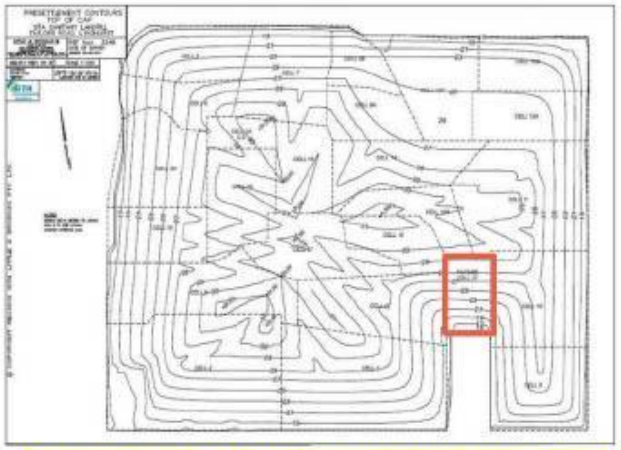
TRRRP - Proposed Cell 21

- Since the August update the initial application for Cell 21 was rejected
- Veolia have sought early feedback from local community, businesses and interest groups regarding the development of this final cell
- If the cell was approved the delivery of the cell would be part of current operations
- A future proposal requires a Development Licence Application



Future Cell 21 depicted in existing Operating Licence

VEOLIA 8

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
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Pre Engagement - Objectives

The engagement objectives are to:

- notify, discuss and seek feedback on the proposal of Cell 21 and the required licence amendment with the sites long term Community Reference Group
- capture feedback from community, stakeholders and community reference group members regarding the proposal of Cell 21
- keep local and relevant stakeholders of the landfill informed of the changes, the process and why it is important
- address community interest about the operations of the facility
- provide relevant and accessible information
- demonstrate the value of having a priority waste landfilling solution in the heart of Australia's manufacturing hub
- broadcast to community means in which they can engage with the site about the licence amendment, landfill cell and general operation of the facility

VEOLIA 9

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Pre Engagement - Methods

- Discussed with long term **Community Reference Group**
- **Letterbox dropped** and **door knocked** and **discussed** with the business precinct within the separation distance
- Shared to communication and feedback methods to **community updates webpage** to supports more passive interest in the facilities
- Provided **tours** to interested stakeholders
- Opportunity to **send feedback** was broadcast to the CRG and to their interest groups

VEOLIA 10

Pre Engagement Insights

Recent door knock findings:

- We spoke to a representative for 43 of the 65 businesses that were letterbox dropped within the separation area.
- In discussions 41 were *neutral*, 2 were *positive* regarding the proposed cell.
- 1 of 1 residents were *neutral* about the proposal
- Next week - catching up with a newly established business that has since opened within the separation distance

Community and social media:

- No additional feedback or queries have been received via the email since.

Door knocked, discussed and provide letter with reply details within mapped area

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Taylors Improvement notices and actions

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

Latest EPA inspections

- Jan 30, 2025 - EPA conducted a permission compliance assessment with no further actions flagged.
- Sept 23, 2025 - EPA conducted an announced inspected following an anonymous pollution report. No adverse findings.

VEOLIA 12

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: **1800 368 737**
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TRRRP - EarthSure Thermal

Thermal Plant

- Typical start to the year, slow in Q1
- 2 weeks of production in 2026

Treated material and plant

earthsure 13

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TRRRP - Fire Rescue Victoria Tour

Proactive site tour

- 20 firefighters attended a tour of the facility
- Favourable feedback

Touring the wash plant

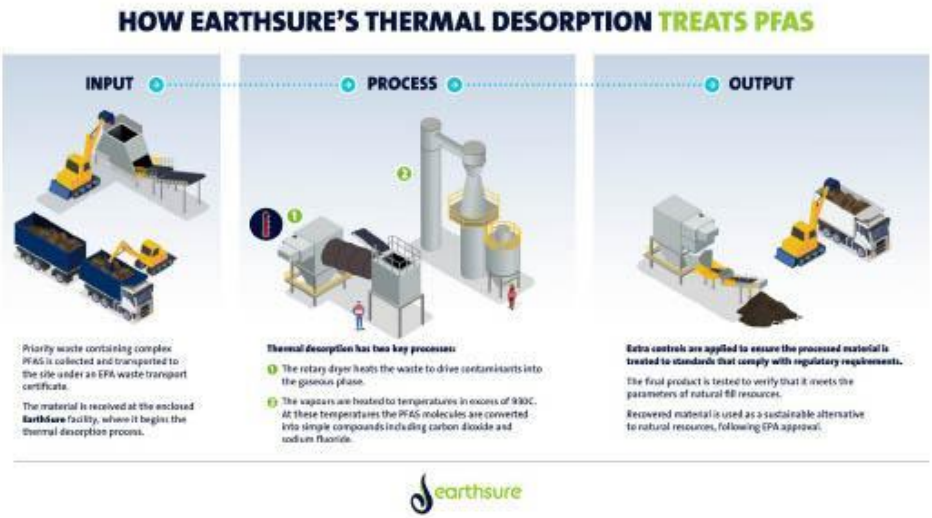
Touring the thermal facility (Steam stack featured)

earthsure 14

TRRRP - EarthSure Thermal

Thermal Plant R&D

- Previous studies demonstrate the thermal plant offers PFAS destruction
- To advance industry knowledge the Other Treatment Method 50 research has been undertaken
- The report is being generated
- Additionally, we can confirm PFAS destruction by sampling the soil outputs of the plant



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TRRRP - EarthSure Soil Washing

Soil Washing

- Commissioning Report submitted to EPA
- OL application expected mid March 2026
- Strong demand by industry for recycled products
- Have trialled output products with a number of potential partners with favourable initial outcome

On site water treatment

Soil treatment

earthsure 16

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