

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – Thursday, 5 December 2024

Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Community Reference Group (CRG)
Date:	Thursday, 5 December 2024
Location:	New Chum Boardroom, Cleanaway, 100 Chum Street New Chum
Start time:	5:00pm

Agenda items:

Item	Discussion led by
1. Welcome and introduction	Chair
2. Attendance and apologies	Chair
3. Confirmation of minutes	Chair
4. Actions from previous meetings	Chair
5. Correspondence a. Queensland Health update – free mental health support	Chair
6. Site operations and environment update a. Cell 3B construction progress b. Leachate management EEO finalised c. Landfill gas capture system update (co-presented by LMS Energy)	Cleanaway
7. Ipswich Magistrates Court update	Cleanaway
8. 2024 Community Benefits Fund – event summary	Chair
9. General business	All
10. Next meeting	Chair
11. Meeting close	Chair

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Minutes:

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open at 5:05pm.

2. Attendance and apologies

The Chair acknowledged the attendance of:

- **Michael Azevedo** (Regional Manager, Cleanaway)
- **Andrew Musgrave** (acting as CRG chair on behalf of Cleanaway)
- **Jo Hoban** (acting as CRG secretary on behalf of Cleanaway)
- **Walter Wood** (community member)
- **Ian Dalzell** (community member)
- **Fiona Lambert** (Group Manager – Project Development & Compliance, LMS Energy)
- **Ed Styles** (Group Manager – Projects, LMS Energy)

Apologies were received from:

- **Aaron Carter** (General Manager of Solid Waste Services Queensland, Cleanaway)
- **Brett Davey - Observer** (Ipswich City Council, Manager City Design)
- **Wendy Davidson** (community member)
- **Paul Hurley** (community member) – apology
- **Bryan Carmont** (community member) – apology
- **Vicki Carmont** (community member) – apology
- **Mark Delitt** (community member) – apology

3. Confirmation of previous meetings

The Chair confirmed the circulation of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 17 October 2024. The Chair provided an opportunity for CRG members to comment on the minutes of the previous meeting.

- No comments were made. Minutes were adopted as a true record of the October CRG meeting.

4. Action items from previous minutes

The Chair acknowledged there were no carry over action items from the October meeting minutes. The Chair provided an opportunity for CRG members to comment.

- No comments were made.

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5. Correspondence

The Chair asked if any correspondence had been sent or received in relation to the CRG, or relevant to the operation of the New Chum landfill and resource recovery facility, of which the CRG should be aware.

- No correspondence was noted by CRG members.
- The Chair shared a Queensland Health update received via the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation's (DETSI) Swanbank and New Chum odour update newsletter.
 - Free mental health support is now available for adults impacted by Swanbank odour issues.
 - West Moreton Health has partnered with the Ipswich Medicare Mental Health Centre to provide this service, offering evidence-based support for individuals, families and carers experiencing distress or mental ill-health.
 - The centre's team is familiar with the odour issues and is focused on engaging with the community.
 - Located at Level 1 of the Eats Building in the Nicholas Street Precinct, Ipswich, the centre provides free walk-in support—no Medicare card, referral, or healthcare plan is needed – and they are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm.
 - Queensland Health also encourages anyone with odour-related health concerns to visit their GP or call 13 HEALTH for advice.
 - The Chair noted a link to the Ipswich Medicare Mental Health Centre fact sheet will be emailed to members after the meeting and included in the meeting minutes [<https://bit.ly/Ipswich-Mental-Health-Centre>].

6. Site update – remediation and environmental actions

Michael Azevedo provided an update on remediation and environmental actions at New Chum over the past two months, which included:

- Cell 3B construction is nearing completion.
 - Once construction is complete, the final construction drawings will be supplied to DETSI and Ipswich City Council (ICC).
 - Cleanaway is planning to reopen Cell 3B in April 2025, after this summer's wet season.
 - There has been a slight delay in commissioning the second landfill gas flare. The power connection was needing to be upgraded – Energex is assisting with these upgrades. Commissioning of the second flare will commence after that work is completed.
- Wet season has begun with New Chum site receiving 263mm of rain during November, including 80mm received on Saturday, 30 November.
 - The site's stormwater management system operated as per normal and without incident during these rain events. There was one controlled release during November.
- New Chum's Basin 2 now has an additional 10ML of storage, which assisted in the effective management of such high rainfall.
 - Commissioning of the site's Water Treatment Plant is ongoing.
- The CRG Chair asked if DETSI had reviewed and approved New Chum's stormwater management plan – Michael confirmed they had reviewed last years.

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- Michael went on to say that due to the storm water EPO works and changes to the stormwater infrastructure, the site stormwater management plan was still in review to reflect the new set of thresholds. Once completed, it will be submitted to DETSI for review.

Michael provided an overview of Cleanaway's leachate management Environmental Evaluation Order (EEO) being finalised by DETSI:

- Cleanaway acknowledged DETSI has now finalised the EEO issued to Cleanaway on Friday, 12 July 2024. As part of DETSI's EEO process, Cleanaway supplied all necessary information and updates in a timely manner, with our leachate collection system found to be adequate after the extensive review.
- DETSI now has a clear and comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted approach we have implemented to manage the site's complex leachate issues in an environmentally responsible manner. Cleanaway continues to closely monitor and manage leachate at the New Chum landfill to the highest environmental standards.
- The Leachate Treatment Plant has resumed operations for a trial period and is currently performing well.

Michael and LMS Energy provided a landfill gas capture system update. Michael commented:

- Cleanaway and LMS Energy, a leader in the methane abatement and bioenergy sectors, have made a planning application to convert gas captured at the New Chum landfill and resource recovery facility into electricity. Under this proposal, landfill gas would be transferred about 1km via an underground pipeline to LMS's neighbouring bioenergy facility for conversion into electricity for the Ipswich community.
- This collaboration was established as Cleanaway has an abundance of captured landfill gas, while LMS Energy operates a [nearby landfill gas power generation facility](#) (located less than 1km away) at a decommissioned ICC landfill, which is experiencing a decline in its gas supply. The collaboration offers both parties the ability to not only maximise the life of existing infrastructure but to improve their environmental contribution to the Ipswich community by converting the landfill gas to electricity.
- A formal communication and development application process has been initiated with ICC, with LMS undertaking the implementation of signs, taking out print media notifications and collaborating with Cleanaway in a coordinated social media advertising campaign that commenced Friday 29/11/2024 and will run until the 19 December notifying residents within a 20km radius of the New Chum site, about this proposed project. This is in alignment with ICC process of community consultation and any members of the public who wish to comment can do so via the [ICC's Development.i web portal](#).

Fiona Lambert (Group Manager – Project Development & Compliance) and Ed Styles (Group Manager – Projects) then provided a business and project overview from LMS Energy.

- LMS are Australia's largest bioenergy company, operating 66 bioenergy facilities across three continents (Australia, New Zealand, United States).
- LMS abates more than five million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions across all their facilities each year, while generating enough energy to power a quarter of a million people every day

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- A new pipeline is proposed to connect Cleanaway's landfill to [LMS's existing Whitwood Road](#) gas power generation facility that has been operating for 20 years.
- The project aligns with environmental regulations, and a formal planning process is underway, including community consultation. The public notice for the pipeline development started on December 5, 2024, and runs until December 19, 2024.
- This is the first of two planning applications. LMS is preparing for a second phase to expand the power station, ensuring the project's longevity.
- The gas supply from Cleanaway's site is expected to last several decades, supporting continuous power generation.
- The partnership is mutually beneficial, allowing Cleanaway to manage its landfill gas effectively while supporting LMS's energy generation goals.
- The collaboration highlights a sustainable approach to managing waste and producing renewable energy.

CRG member Walter commented the collaboration between Cleanaway and LMS Energy has the potential of being a win-win situation.

- He emphasised that it effectively addresses environmental concerns by repurposing landfill gas to generate renewable energy, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- He also noted the economic and community benefits, including the efficient utilisation of existing infrastructure and contributing clean energy to the grid.
- Walter commended the partnership for its innovative approach to sustainable energy.

CRG member Ian remarked on the electricity generated from the landfill gas project, noting its potential to supply power to a significant number of homes or businesses.

- He acknowledged the environmental advantage of this renewable energy source, emphasising its contribution to the grid without reliance on fossil fuels.
- Fiona mentioned to Ian the existing base-load generator at LMS Energy's Whitwood Road facility is a 500kW engine, operating 24 hours, capable of producing up to 500 kilowatts of electricity per hour.
- Submissions in response to this planning application must be made to ICC between Friday, 29 November, and Thursday, 19 December 2024, via their website.
- The Chair noted a link to ICC's **Development.i** web portal will be emailed to members after the meeting and included in the meeting minutes [<https://bit.ly/Cleanaway-LMS-Bioenergy>].

7. Ipswich Magistrates Court ruling update

Michael provided an update from last week's Ipswich Magistrates Court ruling:

- Cleanaway has pleaded guilty to seven charges in the Ipswich Magistrates Court and accepts the penalties imposed by the Court. The charges relate to odour emissions and dealings with impacted stormwater following mass rain events that impacted the site in 2022.

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- Cleanaway takes environmental compliance seriously and acknowledges its responsibility to minimise offsite impacts of its facilities. Cleanaway acknowledges the impact the odour emissions had on the local community following the mass rain events in 2022.
- Since the flooding, we have spent more than \$60 million on improvements including storm water management and treatment, landfill gas capture and [innovative phytocapping rehabilitation](#) that have ensured Cleanaway has not contributed to odour since.
- Cleanaway has operated the site on behalf of Queensland since 1998 and we remain committed, through operational and community activities such as this CRG, to having a positive impact for local residents.

8. 2024 Community Benefits Fund – event summary

The Chair provided an update on Cleanaway's 2024 \$50,000 New Chum Landfill Community Benefit Fund (CBF), which included:

- The CBF celebration event took place on Thursday, November 7 2024 at Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway's Swanbank Station.
- The event was a success and was attended by ICC representatives and elected official, Division 3 Councillor Andrew Antonioli, Cleanaway's General Manager - Solid Waste Services Queensland, Aaron Carter, the 2024 CBF recipients, Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway volunteers, members of the Griffith University Landfill Rehabilitation (Phytocap) team, and local community and CRG members.
- Media coverage of the event included:
 - 4BC Radio interview with Rob Shearer [Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway]:
 - <https://bit.ly/2024-CBF-QPSR-4BC>
 - 4BC Radio interview with Roz Boyd [Redbank Plains State High School's Prep L Program Director]:
 - <https://bit.ly/2024-CBF-PrepL-4BC>
 - Ipswich News Today article:
 - [Ipswich-News-Today Page-2 141124.pdf](#)
- The 2024 CBF event video was viewed by all those in attendance [<https://bit.ly/New-Chum-CBF-2024-Celebration>].
- The Chair noted links to the event's media coverage, event video and image library [[Public Gallery](#)] has been emailed to CBF recipients and CRG members, and will be included in the meeting minutes.

9. General business

Members were asked if there was any issues they would like to raise with Cleanaway.

- CRG member Ian asked about the recent site tour that he missed due to illness. Michael confirmed Cleanaway will be hosting more site tours for CRG members and ICC's Division 3 Councillors (Cr Marnie Doyle and Cr Andrew Antonioli) in early to mid-2025.

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- LMS noted they would be happy to extend the New Chum site tour to include the Whitwood Road gas power generation facility.
- CRG chair committed to liaising with LMS regarding these upcoming site tours.

10. Next meeting

The Chair suggested the next meeting be held on **Wednesday, 12 February 2025**. This date will be confirmed with CRG members via email before the end of the 2024 calendar year.

11. Meeting close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:15pm.

-ENDS-