

NEW CHUM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Meeting minutes – Wednesday, 12 February 2025

Meeting details:

Meeting:	New Chum Community Reference Group (CRG)
Date:	Wednesday, 12 February 2025
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 previous meeting's minutes	Chair
4. Actions from previous meetings	Chair
5. Correspondence	Chair
6. Site operations and environment update a. Cell 3B construction progress b. Summer rainfall review c. Landfill gas capture update d. CRG site tour planning	Cleanaway
7. General business	All
8. Next meeting	Chair
9. Meeting close	Chair

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Minutes:

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed all attendees and declared the meeting open at 5:15pm.

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)
- **Georgie Olivier** (acting as CRG secretary on behalf of Cleanaway)
- **Walter Wood** (community member)
- **Ian Dalzell** (community member)
- **Wendy Davidson** (community member)

Apologies were received from:

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

3. Confirmation of previous meetings

The Chair confirmed the circulation of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 5 December 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 December CRG meeting.

4. Action items from previous minutes

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

- No comments were made.

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.

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- The Chair tabled the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation's (DETSI) [Swanbank and New Chum Update - January 2025](#).
 - The Swanbank Public Health Inquiry has been announced to investigate community concerns about odours from the Swanbank and New Chum Industrial Estate, with public consultation sessions planned to hear from residents.
 - This document was tabled to keep CRG members informed about the inquiry and the planned community consultation sessions.

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 progress update:
 - Construction of cell 3B has been completed.
 - The final Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) report has been submitted to Ipswich City Council (ICC).
 - The New Chum Landfill and Resource Recovery Facility has been granted an On-site Operational Purposes Permit by DETSI, meaning the site is once again permitted to accept industrial, construction and demolition waste streams once reopened.
 - Cleanaway is aiming to reopen the site sometime during the second quarter of 2025. The reopening date has not yet been confirmed.
 - A sacrificial liner has been installed over Cell 3B to protect the underlying primary liner from UV exposure. This temporary measure ensures the integrity of the cell until waste placement commences.
- Summer rainfall review:
 - The site has received significant rainfall since the December 2024 CRG meeting.
 - Total rainfall included an 80mm single-day event in December and 41.5mm in February, with the site's stormwater management systems operating effectively throughout.
 - Compared to previous years, onsite stormwater management has improved, with monitoring systems providing early warning of high-rainfall events, and stormwater storage capacity increasing by 10ML since this time last year.
 - Controlled releases were undertaken in December and January as pre-emptive measures based on weather forecasts, helping to manage water levels and prevent overflow risks in compliance with environmental requirements.
 - The Leachate Treatment Plant has reached its initial 30ML treatment contract, and operations are now in a second trial phase to assess performance and make the necessary plant adjustments. Data is currently being reviewed to determine next steps for plant optimisation.
 - Cleanaway continues to monitor and refine the treatment process, addressing technical challenges in plant operation to ensure effective leachate management in line with environmental compliance.

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- Landfill gas capture update:
 - The site's second landfill gas flare successfully commenced commissioning and is now operating for performance monitoring as part of commissioning.
 - As a result, DETSI informed Cleanaway the landfill gas Environmental Protection Order (EPO) is expected to be closed out this week, reflecting Cleanaway's compliance with regulatory requirements.
 - The development application for Cleanaway and LMS Energy's landfill gas conversion project is still under review by Ipswich City Council.
 - *More information on the Cleanaway–LMS Energy gas-to-energy project is available in the [CRG December Meeting Minutes](#).*
 - A geo-targeted public awareness campaign regarding the landfill gas conversion project was conducted via social media, reaching over 130,000 unique accounts and garnering more than 205,000 views.
 - If the development application is approved, landfill gas will be transported via an underground pipeline to LMS Energy's facility, reducing emissions and contributing to renewable energy generation.

CRG member Wendy questioned whether the second gas flare would still be needed once the LMS gas-to-energy project is operational.

- Michael clarified the landfill gas flare system will remain as a backup, ensuring that gas continues to be managed effectively even if the power generation system experiences any downtime.

CRG member Wendy then questioned whether Cleanaway receives any government rebates or financial assistance for the proposed landfill gas-to-energy project.

- Michael confirmed that Cleanaway does not receive any government rebates or financial assistance for the landfill gas capture and conversion project.
- He explained that while Cleanaway earns Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) for reducing emissions, no direct funding or grants were provided to support the installation of the gas capture system or conversion infrastructure.
- Michael then concluded his update speaking to the CRG site tour planning activities:
 - Cleanaway proposes the CRG site tour be held in mid-March before reopening activities ramp up during the second quarter of the year.
 - The tour will be scheduled after work hours to ensure safe access without interference from heavy machinery.
 - CRG members will receive email invitations and follow-up calls to confirm attendance.

7. General business

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

CRG member Wendy inquired about the court case involving Shamrock Civil Engineering Pty Ltd (Shamrock) and whether an insurance issue was part of the legal dispute.

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- Michael acknowledged there is an ongoing court case involving Shamrock but was unable to provide further details. He noted that while he was not working for Cleanaway at the time when Shamrock was operating onsite, and does not have the full details, he believes adequate insurance coverage is a key point of contention in the case, and that it relates to the construction of Cell 3B and the flooding in February and May 2022.

8. Next meeting

The Chair suggested the next meeting be held on **Thursday, 10 April 2025**. This date will be confirmed with CRG members via email in the coming weeks.

9. Meeting close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6:01pm.

-ENDS-