

Minutes

Meeting Date: 19 March 2009

Time: 6.30 – 8.30 pm

Location: Club Menai, Banksia Room 2

Item	Issue	Action	By
	<p>Welcome and Apologies AC Apology received from Guy Russell</p>		
1	<p>Minutes Minutes of the previous meeting (3 Dec 2008): Corrections to be made to comments made by DE, and clarification of date of completion of the new sports club</p>	KP	ASAP
2	<p>Business Arising There was no new business arising</p>		
3	<p>Update on Operation and Environmental Matters RM Described operations in Stage 5 Cells for the month of March and the approval of a new 'Alternate Daily Cover' project by the EPA which will run for up to 12 months Reported on seed mulching of the riparian zone in Mill Creek that will commence in Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the site in April DE Commented that she had heard that seedlings nursery was being sold RM Responded that the Government is considering selling WSN. This may be what was heard. The nursery is run partly by volunteers and would probably continue under new ownership. WSN pays a nominal fee to a horticulturist. WSN pays a seed collector who collects seed, including seed from the conservation areas IK Asked what would happen should the volunteers not turn up RM Responded that WSN might have to make use of a local nursery. DE The GCCC (Georges River Combined Councils' Committee Inc) has a nursery that supplies the seed banks for the Lower Georges River RM Updated members on the status of the PCYC NSW: Architects met with WSN and the PCYC to discuss plans for the site and works</p>		

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	<p>program on 3 March. The licence agreement for the relocation has been signed. WSN has arranged for professionals to identify the asbestos contaminated areas and for these to be cleaned up</p> <p>MP</p> <p>The architects have put the paperwork in to Council. The work on site should have started but the fences have to go in first for OH&S reasons</p> <p>RM</p> <p>The road also needs to be constructed through to the entrance of the site, which will be entirely fenced and separate from the rest of the facility</p> <p>Update on Landfill Gas Management: About 56 or 57 gas wells are complete and the remaining will be finished in a day or so. Area 3 regularly comes up with odour hotspots so new design wells that run horizontally are going to be installed and if these are effective all the old wells will be replaced, hopefully before winter, around the end of April</p> <p>IK</p> <p>Why is this happening particularly in this area?</p> <p>RP</p> <p>Possibly because the rock is fractured, it is easier for the gas to migrate, there could be a shelf of Shale C that it's passing through</p> <p>DE</p> <p>Asked whether initially fracturing may have been caused by rock blasting</p> <p>RM</p> <p>There are certain criteria for the size of the blast. These will be actual geological fractures. The rock is generally a very tight sandstone, but if there is a shale seam within that there is a weakness</p> <p>GP</p> <p>Queried the number of plants that had died on the site during January</p> <p>RM</p> <p>Responded that plants had died everywhere due to the excessive heat, and that there had only been around 30mm of rain over that period</p> <p>IK</p> <p>Asked whether WSN would water should the heat wave happen again in the future</p> <p>RM</p> <p>Responded that there are no plans at present. In terms of our obligations and preparing for the handover I have thrown in as much money as possible. When the site is handed over to the PCYC they will be responsible. I have done replanting in quite a few areas although there was no budget for this; we hoped that if it was done at the right time there would be a good result.</p> <p>DE</p> <p>Remarked that there seem to be a lot of weeds</p>		

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	<p>RM There are but there is no soil erosion problem. We don't want the weeds to take hold especially in the riparian zone JP <i>(showed news articles reporting on success of recyclables recovery, and power, water, compost and high-grade fertiliser production)</i> Commented on WSN's milestone of 1 million megawatts of green energy produced at Lucas Heights, and community interest in WSN's alternative waste technology operations IK Observed that carbon trading schemes are looking at charging for past gas emissions RM The Waste Management Association is considering the implications of the application of the tax retrospectively EB Commented that this would be like getting old power generators to pay for power generated previously RM The waste industries are campaigning for no retrospective charges removed</p>		
4	<p>Community Feedback on Odours</p> <p>EB Informed members that gas monitoring was conducted on 23 January and 5 March and that two rounds of odour patrol had been performed in mid-February at 6 am but there were no odours detected and that there had been very few complaints DE On 16 February around mid-morning there was a strong musty smell at the traffic lights RM Rain saturates the green waste and when it is turned odour is released. On site the smell is tolerable, but as it travels it becomes stronger EB Indicated that she would chase up record of odour levels from morning of 16 February. There were no major problems with wet weather overflows. The dust gauge levels were all slightly elevated due to the very dry conditions and increased truck movements during this time. Limited in the total amount of dust suppressant WSN can spray because of the resulting mud RM All the activity, the council trucks and excavations are taking place right next to the dust monitors EB Added that the 12 month average is below the Target Level of 4 g/m2/month, except for one area on the main haul road. AC</p>	EB	18/06/09

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	<p>Enquired whether the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation had any matters to raise with the group RG Confirmed that the ANSTO had no matters to raise at this stage</p>		
5	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Contact List <p>AC Confirmed that the contact sheet had been updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of Site Samples <p>JP Informed members that asbestos found on site has been classified according to waste guidelines as suitable to be disposed of on site. Council has given approval for disposal to occur.</p> <p>IK Asked where the asbestos had come from</p> <p>RM Comes from pieces of fibro – probably from a demolition, and then illegally dumped. It's not asbestos dust. WSN is getting professionals to clean it up and monitor the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whereabouts of the PCYC Minibike property license <p>MP License has been signed off, which includes rules regarding vegetation and grass maintenance as well as run-off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up on the overflow from the council dam <p>EB Informed members that she does a monitoring report to SSC every 3 months, and that the Council would have copies of these going back years. Previous reports can be re-supplied if required.</p> <p>GS was requested to check Council records for any overflow from the Council Dam <i>NB: This dam was designed for wet weather overflows once capacity of the dam has been reached.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of better sound control options <p>This was investigated by both JP and AC and Club Menai made available Banksia Room 2 for use of CAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of best methods of contact of potential stakeholders within the community <p>JP Discovered that Council has a huge list detailing all locally involved community groups which would be very useful. JP expected that the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) for the AWT (Alternative Waste Transfer) would go on display at the Menai Market Place, and would also be advertised in mailouts.</p> <p>IK Asked whether this was going to mean more waste being brought in to the Lucas Heights site</p> <p>RM Responded that the volume would not increase but that it would</p>	GS	18/06/09

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	<p>accelerate the timeline and possibly bring the finish date closer and that the AWT would reduce the amount of waste that needed to be buried. Dry waste would go through a digester and would be responsible for the generation of more electricity JP Added that 100% of mixed household or red bin goes straight into landfill while in an AWT this is only 30% and the waste is inert and relatively odourless. 70% is recovered. and recycled. Special tours are conducted eg. For Sutherland Council. When the facility is fully up and running there will be public tours. In the meantime please contact JP GP Enquired when the operation is expected to wind up as the timeframe seemed to be changing and he thought it was supposed to be 2012 RM Responded that his understanding is that because the rate of input has halved it would now be operational until 2024. The government has an overall 10 year waste reduction target of 60%. Increasing waste levies are a part of how they are aiming to achieve this. They want to encourage industry to develop technology and send waste to AWTs.</p>		
6	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots Grants Program <p>JP Notified members that the next round is yet to be announced for next year. We are also renewing our sponsorship of the Barden Ridgebacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Golf Club <p>GS Informed members that the first 9 holes would be operational by the end of May. Regarding the sports club building prices were double the original estimates but meeting with the architects since building prices have come down since then. Have a construction certificate for the sports club for the southernmost fields, fields 9 and 10. Soccer fields will be connected to pumps and when there is surplus water in the dam this can be diverted to the fields DE Commented that there is a lot of good happening and CAC needs to hear the good news stories more often, with possibly a visit to the sites of successful projects. Felt members need an overview JP A Lucas Heights site tour is booked for 19 September RM Pointed out some areas of the sites are a bit rough and not driveable but could be worthwhile IK Asked if Lucas 1 could be included in the site tour.</p>		

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	<p>RM Could do a short 10-15 minute meeting and then members could take the bus to the site, do a loop and look down from the top</p> <p>JP Indicated she would send details of public tours to KP to include with minutes</p> <p>DE Very concerned about road dumping</p> <p>RM Responded that with increased levies dumping may get worse. EPA have run campaigns and get lists from the weighbridge of people who turned away once they found out how much they had to pay with some success matching dumped material with the dumper. The lack of lighting is a problem and a lot of dumping is on the RTA corridor. Felt the Council might have some other campaigns and pointed out that the WSN takes responsibility for its own immediate area</p> <p>GS Suggested that isolated cameras might be installed to catch illegal dumpers</p> <p>JP Announced the advertising for Expressions of Interest from independent facilitators has occurred. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to tender. Lucas Heights was well represented and most of the feedback on CAC facilitation services has been positive. Among the comments that came back was the need to make meetings more interesting. Hoped that media clippings and information about green energy production is helping in this regard. Commented that residents of the Shire could feel proud they are host to the largest green energy facility in Australia. <i>(RG left meeting: 19h55)</i></p> <p>GP Commented he had heard that a number of councils were no longer recycling because of current low profitability and lack of overseas markets, asked if waste is going into landfill</p> <p>RM Answered that he was not aware of recyclable waste going into landfill and felt this was media hype, although suggested it might be more difficult moving it at the moment and that prices had declined.</p> <p>AC Date of the next meeting is 18 June at 6.30 pm</p>	<p>JP & KP</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

Next meeting:	18 JUNE 2009
Venue :	BANKSIA ROOM 2, CLUB MENAI

Agenda Item	Action summary		

1	KP to amend December minutes and send to WSN for publication on website	KP	ASAP
4	EB to check record of odour level from morning of 16 February	EB	18/06/09
5	GS to request Ian Drinnan to attend meeting and advise if Council had a means of catching illegal dumping of rubbish at Heathcote Road	GS	18/06/09
6	JP to send information about public site tours to KP	JP	ASAP
6	KP to circulate public site tour information to members of the WSN LH CAC	KP	ASAP