

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 11 March 2010

Time: 6.30pm – 7.45pm

Location: Club Menai Banksia Room 2, Menai

Item	Issue	Action	By
	<p>Welcome and Apologies KP welcomed attendees to the first meeting for 2010. Apologies were received from Dawn Emerson and John Ross.</p>		
1.	<p>Minutes Minutes with amendments as requested by DE were accepted.</p>		
2	<p>Business arising Regarding the action for ANSTO to provide its position on the exclusion zone, this was taken on notice as the ANSTO representative had attended on short notice. A response will be circulated to members and attached to the minutes.</p>		
3.	<p>Update on Ecolibrium Mixed Waste Facility RM reported that WSN was currently waiting on the Department of Planning's assessment of the application. The public exhibition period finished on November 2, 2009 and the responses to submissions went to the DoP at the end of last year.</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>JR asked why the facility is being built here, why not somewhere else? She indicated that with ANSTO and the tip, the local area had taken more than its fair share and the community had borne the brunt of impacts with truck movements through the area. The new facility would increase truck movements and impacts on local residents who don't like the area being a dumping ground for the whole of Sydney.</p> <p>GP reported that as long as 15 years ago the community allowed it to go ahead with the trade off being the provision of community facilities. The community had had a say in it but there had not been many submissions. A mega tip had been originally planned, but community opposition resulted in this not going ahead. Under current plans waste could be expanded till 2020.</p>	<p>WSN to provide email updates to the CAC on progress of the approval.</p>	<p>RM</p>

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	<p>RM noted that consent runs out in 2024. This part of the development approved in 1999 had already gone to public exhibition and been approved by government agencies. The trade off is building sport facilities such as the netball diamonds which are paid for by the waste management association. A portion of the tonnage to landfill royalties goes to council for maintenance of facilities.</p> <p>JR indicated this is in a part of the Shire which she and other residents in her neighbourhood are unaware of. She didn't know about the proposal till she received a notice in the letterbox, but by then it was a fait accompli.</p> <p>IK asked who the consent authority is.</p> <p>KP replied that as a Part 3A approval, the Minister for Planning is the authority. She suggested members could write to the Minister with concerns.</p> <p>JR noted she had done this in regard other developments and it is a terrible process and probably too late for this facility.</p>		
4.	<p>Update on Operational and Environmental Matters</p> <p>The Operations and Environmental Update was distributed to the meeting.</p> <p>RM presented an aerial photo of the site as part of the operational update, indicating current land filling operations in stage 5 cells 1 and 2 and correction filling in 3 and 4.</p> <p>He reported that the golf course is close to finishing and carting will stop by September. WSN is in the process of handing over the mini bike area to the PCYC. Some limited trials have taken place on the site in February.</p> <p>Gas infrastructure installation is complete and repairs are being carried out in operational areas. Some leachate wells are being converted to dedicated gas extraction wells.</p> <p>A new truck parking area will be near the weighbridge rather than adjacent to the previous mini-bike site. A DA has been sent to DoP with the support of the Sutherland Shire Council. WSN is awaiting approval from ANSTO (the landowner).</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>JR asked why trucks would be parking on site. What benefit to local residents would that be? Would this result in more trucks on local roads?</p> <p>IK indicated it would be waste collection trucks parked here.</p> <p>RM replied that they are contract trucks from Rockdale, Hurstville</p>		

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	<p>and Kogarah. They currently travel through the streets, but WSN takes over the contract at the end of May. There will be no additional truck movements, but trucks will start here instead of elsewhere. IK noted they would stay overnight instead of coming in the early morning. The truck depot was always going to be on site, but has shifted from one area to another. He asked whether ANSTO as the land owner had requested that location. RM replied they had.</p> <p>IK noted that as the Environmental Assessment had been done for the previous site, would a new one be required if for the new site. RM replied it is done as part of the Development Application for the new site.</p> <p>JR noted large green areas on the map. She asked whether this would remain or be subject to more expansion. RM noted the land is owned by ANSTO. He suggested that with any vacant land there is a potential for development but as it is difficult to get approval for landfill anywhere, it was unlikely to be used for this purpose. The area 7 on the map had been owned by WSN but was handed over to Sutherland Shire Council for recreational purposes. 120 hectares went to council, 5.6 hectares to the Gandangara Land Council and 10 hectares to National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>JR reported that last year there were a lot of odours associated with a break down at the gas plant. Her daughter's 21st birthday celebrations were ruined by the smell. It happened regularly last year. She asked what is likely to happen in the coming period with more rain expected. RM reported that odours can come from three sources. In the green waste area if moisture is raised the wind row is turned. There is a series of gas lines with 356 gas wells to extract gas to the power station to generate electricity. 20 megawatts is generated to power 20,000 homes. In operational areas trucks fill at one end and then fill across. In wet weather weight can cause damage, the move to another area and backfill.</p> <p>Last year a combination of several things resulted in odours. There was an issue of availability of construction crews to repair gas extraction equipment and last year the site experienced the wettest 6 months for over 40 years. This year a construction crew will be on standby for the winter period. The aim is to avoid last year's problems. It has been a coup to retain the construction crew. The best gas extraction only captures about 70% of gas. The other 30% dilutes with air fairly easily. In winter cool air traps the gas and minimises its dilution with air. But with the construction crew on site to conduct quicker repairs it is hoped to minimise impacts this year.</p>		

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	<p>Environmental Matters</p> <p>EB reported on landfill gas and odour monitoring. Most odour was associated with gas emissions from gas infrastructure and landfilling activities. In the northern area leachate rises have been turned into dedicated gas monitoring wells. Damaged gas infrastructure detected during odour monitoring has been repaired. Requirements are that monitoring occur quarterly, but is currently undertaken on a 2 monthly basis and will be conducted monthly from April to August. RM reported that this allows for checks on the effectiveness of repairs and direct repairs to problem areas.</p> <p>EB reported that there were nil odour notifications in November and December 2009 and January 2010, and one in February from Engadine, which was thought to be due to turning of wind rows. Ground water quality monitoring was conducted in December with no excesses detected.</p> <p>There were two wet weather overflows in February at Lucas Heights 2, with ammonia levels below licence limits, and one at Lucas Heights with ammonia below target levels, but with elevated turbidity levels at the top and mid sampling points. RTA road works may have contributed to this.</p> <p>High levels of turbidity were recorded on February 7th at all sites. On February 14th lower levels were recorded, but the highest at the lower Creek site, near where trail bikes were seen in large numbers. Dust gauge 1 was the only one to record levels slightly above target in January which was attributed to PCYC works in the area. DG3 elevated levels may have been due to excavation works nearby.</p> <p>Questions and discussion</p> <p>IK asked why physical damage noted during odour monitoring was not picked up in other ways. RM responded that it is, but damage can happen on a daily basis.</p> <p>EB noted a bird survey in February was conducted by the EPA. GS reported that Lucas Heights hasn't previously had ibises. RM noted that tags showed they were the same family of birds found at other sites across Sydney.</p> <p>GP thought there used to be four monitoring points for groundwater. Was there a reduction due to vandalism? RM replied that all monitoring bores are still in place. New bores screen at discrete levels. They check the different aquifers. GS thought the monitoring points GP referred to were as a result of the Petrozzi Report comparing Mill Creek with two others. But this was not for groundwater, and didn't address saltation which was the main problem, but only chemicals.</p>		

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	<p>EB noted they monitor at three points. She reported that the company undertaking rehabilitation at the WSN site boundary reported that excellent results from the site compared to further down the catchment.</p> <p>CH indicated she thought this work was part of the Georges River Sustainability Plan.</p>		
5.	<p>Community Feedback on Odours This item was covered as part of the Update on Operational and Environmental matters.</p>		
6.	<p>Actions The action regarding ANSTO's comment on the exclusion zone remains open. ANSTO will provide a response by email which will be attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Action regarding progress of Ecolibrium was covered in the agenda. WSN will continue to provide updates to the CAC.</p> <p>In relation to the action asking WSN to inform CAC whether responses to submissions are in the public arena, it is thought they are all on the DoP website. RM will check whether this is the case.</p> <p>On the action for WSN to provide a site map showing dust gauges, this was done at the meeting and is closed.</p>	ANSTO	
7	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the Mini Bike Site <p>MP reported that WSN had done a good job to now and was undertaking final grooming of tracks. Legal documents for the hand over needed to be sorted, with the official opening expected in May. RM noted this would give PCYC time to increase its membership.</p> <p>MP reported that the facility had been closed since Oct 2008. The kids were glad to be back riding. A couple of the champion riders had a few complaints, but they were things such as bends and sections of track which could be sorted out as a club. The old club had been 21 years in the making.</p> <p>IK said the photo seemed to indicate three circuits.</p> <p>MP reported there are five tracks. A trail off track 5 is more of an adventure trail, with tube stock to be planted by kids. Records will be kept as to who plants what, so that they can return in later years to see their tree.</p> <p>GS noted that tracks are graded according to bike types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about capturing the history/highlights of LH CAC <p>This discussion was raised by JR at the previous meeting. IK suggested a way to do this may be via a pamphlet.</p>	<p>KP to discuss with DE and JR</p>	<p>KP</p>

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	<p>EB noted records can be accessed through the library. JR supported the idea of a history of highlights. She suggested few in the community know anything about it. For every complaint there are 100 people who don't ring up. People are sick of trucks, rubbish on the side of the road and odours. She has asked residents what they are concerned about. It would be good to show the history of action over a number of years. IK suggested the Historical Society may be able to help. KP suggested that as neither JR nor DE was present, she would talk with them about how to take the matter forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about Lucas Heights Sports Club and golf course <p>GS reported that the Lucas Heights Sports Club went out to tender but Council has decided not to go ahead at this stage. As it is still only a nine hole course, it would wait till the 18 hole course was operating, then revisit all patrons regarding the viability of a club. The golf course should be handed over in about September, then council staged works would commence with completion expected nine months afterwards. The viability of the club would then be reviewed.</p> <p>New amenities blocks on fields 9 and 10 were handed to over to the club today. A tender will close in a month and a half for maintenance of all fields and areas as part of a package deal. There are new maintenance depots for fields 1 and 2. A temporary building will be provided at the golf course as function room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about rainfall dam <p>GS reported that the rainfall dam which had been at 26% was now at 100%. As it has been the hottest summer in 15 years council was glad to get through with one dam fill over summer. EB asked whether level would be established for the dam. GS replied there would be in the next couple of months - probes for water quality would be used. The golf course is irrigated at night time. The types of native plants used didn't do well in the wet soil. Council is taking advice from WSN regarding native replacement plants.</p> <p>GP said he appreciated JR's attendance and hoped to see her at future meetings. Each year an ad is placed for more people to attend. There have only been four community members attending regularly. He came to the committee 15 years ago as an opponent of the mega tip. He hopes he has a more balanced view now. It has been noted that if the facility was not here, Sutherland Shire</p>	<p>how to take the matter of capturing the history of Lucas Heights CAC forward</p> <p>Update on sporting facilities and golf club be added as a standing item to the agenda.</p>	<p>KP</p>

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	<p>Council would be paying over \$20 per bin for removal. At one stage there was a suggestion to truck waste to old mines in the Hunter, but CSIRO reported it may kill the grape crop. He hopes JR continues to attend as the community needs to be represented.</p> <p>JR noted that her motivation is to try and ensure minimum impacts on the community. She feels this part of the shire has done enough, whereas some parts won't even agree to a skatepark.</p> <p>RM reported that WSN is one of three government departments up for sale. A bill has been introduced to parliament and is awaiting upper house approval. A government media release on the issue was distributed to the meeting.</p> <p>JR asked what the implications of a government corporation going private may be.</p> <p>GJ said they have been told it will be business as usual, and the community meetings will continue.</p> <p>GS noted that its use will be governed by the DA on the land. The same legislation will cover private owners.</p> <p>RM reported that sites that are no longer operational such as Lucas Heights 1 would stay in government hands under the Waste Asset Management Corporation.</p> <p>GP asked whether there would be any capping on fees and charges, as experience showed when other government companies became private, fees increased. He thought this inevitable as private organisations sought to make profit for their shareholders.</p> <p>RM asked members to forward specific questions to him before the next meeting so he can seek a response, or bring questions to the next meeting.</p> <p>IK asked about the fate of the roving committee which was to be made up of government agencies. It seems to have met once then folded.</p> <p>RM noted it was established to provide technical scrutiny on the development. Invitations had been extended to agencies such as Sydney Water, the EPA and NPWS but they all declined invitations. Sutherland Council was the convenor but there was no interest in attending by the agencies.</p>	<p>The press release regarding the sale of WSN to be attached to the minutes</p> <p>CAC members to fwd questions to RM. RM to seek responses</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>RM and members</p>
8.	<p>Meeting Closure Meeting closed at 7.45pm</p>		

Agenda	Action summary		
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Item			
3.	WSN to provide email updates to the CAC on progress of the approval.	RM	Ongoing
6.	The action regarding ANSTO's comment on the exclusion zone remains open. ANSTO will provide a response by email which will be attached to the minutes.	ANSTO	
7.	KP to discuss with DE and JR how to take the matter of capturing the history of Lucas Heights CAC forward.	KP	Before next meeting
7.	Update on sporting facilities and golf club be added as a standing item to the agenda.	KP	Ongoing
7.	The press release regarding the sale of WSN to be attached to the minutes	KP	
7.	CAC members to fwd questions to RM. RM to seek responses before the next meeting	RM and CAC members	Before and at next meeting

<p>Next meeting: Thursday 24 June 6.30 to 8.30pm Venue : Club Menai</p>