



Inaugural Forum Notes

13th June 2012

Hello

Welcome to the first summary report from our newly established '*Clayton and Dingley Landfill Forum*'. Formerly presented to you as the 'Clayton and Dingley Information Forum'. The name change is a result of feedback I have received since the 13th July and I would encourage further feedback on the purpose and format of the forum to help plan our next gatherings.

I am very grateful for the support and energy provided by everyone to ensure we started our quarterly gatherings in a constructive way. We have all recognised there is still a considerable amount of work to be done and are clearly determined to work together to identify, monitor and resolve these challenges as we move forward.

I promised to provide a summary of our discussion. This report is intended to deliver on that promise. I would like to highlight this is not an exact record of our discussion but a reflection of the key points raised. If anything has been missed I would be grateful if you could bring it to my attention. The website for the forum is currently under development. At this stage I am expecting to have it running by our next meeting. Finally I would like to remind you of the future forum dates. Agendas, confirmation of venue and meeting reminders will be sent in advance of all forums. The current schedule of dates is:

- 11th September 2012, 5th February 2013 & Tuesday 28th May 2013

Speak soon,

Keith Greaves

CDLF Facilitator keith@claytondingleyjf.net.au

Clayton & Dingley Landfill Forum, Inaugural Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday 13th June 2012

Time: 5:45pm for 6:15pm to 9:00pm

Where: Kingston City football Club, Grange Reserve, Osborne Avenue
Clayton South

Facilitator: Keith Greaves

AGENDA

Meeting Purpose:

Provide a collaborative opportunity for the Clayton and Dingley community, local industries, state and local government, EPA Victoria and other relevant stakeholders to voice their concerns and aspirations regarding odour, dust, contaminated water run-off and other environmental impacts in the general Clayton and Dingley area.

5:45pm	Open for registrations & refreshments
6:15pm	1. Welcome Meeting purpose and guidelines, Agenda for the evening by Keith Greaves, Facilitator CDLF
6:20pm	2. Group Check In Key comments, questions and issues from the floor by Keith Greaves, Facilitator CDLF
6:45pm	3. Context for the meeting by John Merritt, CEO, EPA Victoria & John Nevins, CEO, City of Kingston
7:00pm	4. An overview of current EPA activity by Bronwyn Green, Manager, Southern Metro, EPA
7:15pm	5. Operator Update – Enviromix, Status Report by Michael Wood, General Manager, Enviromix
7:25pm	6. Operator Update – Din San, Status Report by Paul Smith, Managing Director, Din San

7:35pm	7. Operator Update – Clayton Regional Landfill, Status Report by Ian Barnes, Chairman of Clayton Regional Landfill User Group
7:45pm	8. Operator Update – Transpacific Industries, Status Report by Olga Ghiri, Stakeholder and Community Liaison Officer, Transpacific Industries
8:00pm	Break
8:15pm	9. Panel Questions
8:45pm	10. Future meetings and communications by Keith Greaves, CDLF
9.00pm	Meeting Close by Keith Greaves, CDLF

Item 1 - Welcome

Keith introduced himself as the independent facilitator and explained the purpose and the role of the forum, including the forum values and conduct. Please note a copy of these values and guidelines are included in appendix no. 1. Attendees in the room were invited to review and provide feedback on the purpose, role, values and conduct of the forum.

The agenda was outlined and it was stated that the presentations and notes from the evening would be made available to attendees.

Item 2 - Group Check In

The group was asked to take a moment to talk to the person next to them to discuss their thoughts. The floor was then opened for questions and or comments.

Group questions, answers and comments were summarised as follows:

- Strengthening Clayton project – part of the puzzle.
- Need a win – win situation. Somewhere to put waste where the residents are not impacted.
- Real estate and impacts on the value of housing.
- Permit conditions versus EPA licence for odour communication and actions by EPA and Council.
- Clayton Regional Landfill – Could Kingston send waste there to fill it quicker?

- Schedule of works from the sites made public.
- Will Clayton / Dingley area ever be free of tips?
- Need to show representation. Do we have the right balance? Need to make sure the community is heard?
- What is being done about the odour, dust, seagulls and the negative effects on families?
- Water testing and monitoring, who is doing it? Can this information be released to the public?
- Burning sensation in throat - Long term effects to community?
- Data, what are concerns and what are we doing about it? Results are important.

A number of general comments were made from the floor including (please note these comments are summary representations only):

Colin Bostock - Commented on his work on the strengthening Clayton project and noted that this is part of the puzzle. It is about the area and taking it forward, as Clayton is a fantastic area.

Gael Mitzy – Lives locally and is pleased that we are all getting together and discussing what the residents want. She believes it is important if we are going to have a landfill that whatever is done needs to be done right so that everyone wins, EPA, landfill operators and residents. There needs to be somewhere to put waste where residents aren't impacted. She thanked all attendees for coming to the forum.

Tass Koustikas – Thanked those in attendance for talking about an important topic. Has been a resident for 44 years and is concerned about what is going on. He wants a balance of representation, politicians, local residents, businesses so that the right thing is being heard.

Damian Coad – Odours affect the housing market financially and is having a dramatic effect on the choices and options people can and cannot make about where they choose to live. Damian raised some queries about the planning permit obligations for the City of Kingston Council under condition 53 and how this compares to the EPA licence for odour communications and actions by the EPA. Damian also requested about the findings of any water testing or monitoring, what can be done to get the information released to the members of the community?

Ayse Behaettin – Talked to people in her street and gets asked the same question. People have mentioned not only have they got the smell but they

have also got burning in their throats, is there going to be a long term effect on health?

Councillor Steve Staikos – Asked about what is being done in regards to the smell the dust, the seagulls and the negative effects on his life and family. These are the core issues from the residents from the north ward and he wanted to know how can we get it done straight away?

Councillor Arthur Athanasopoulos – It is important to understand data and concerns but the most important thing is what are we going to do about it? Arthur is concerned about actions and what to do going forward, residents don't want technical data they want clear messages about what is happening to the smell, dust and seagulls. The results are the most important thing.

Item 3 – Context for the Meeting

John Merritt discussed that EPA is dealing with the situation and that it needs to be fixed and it is evident there is still quite a bit of work to be done. The forum was put together based on the western suburbs forum around Brooklyn who also were dealing with significant dust issues and concerns about health. John recalled how an operator funded a Park at Brooklyn to assist and give to the community, facing similar challenges. John emphasised the EPA needs to make sure companies do comply with the law. The EPA is not going until these issues at Clayton & Dingley are fixed. The EPA need to hold operators to account and provide information that is requested by the community. EPA will be present at these forums and available to take questions from anyone throughout the course of the night.

John Nevins discussed that this is a major issue for Kingston City Council in terms of odour, dust, seagulls and mud on the roads. The Council is clear that the EPA has a lead role on dust and odour issues. This forum is attempting to provide information to the community. Council has a priority to ensure a presence at these forums and do what it can to ensure all actions are being followed through on. John noted that there were landfill representatives here tonight to answer questions about community concerns and needs.

Item 4 – An overview of current EPA activity

Bronwyn Green presented for EPA – Note a website link to download a copy of the EPA's presentation is included in appendix no. 2.

What the EPA have done to date, the current situation and a look to the future and what EPA plan on for the next six and twelve months. Reflect and review actions taken to date and see what has and has not worked to date. Bronwyn outlined that the EPA has:

- performed odour surveillance
- undertaken compliance inspections
- ramped up the pressure so operators take responsibility
- suspended operator's licence
- issued fines and notices
- sent data to operators so they can see the odour complaints weekly

Bronwyn presented a graphic explanation of all odour reports the EPA has received over the past 21 months. This data is sent to operators so they can see the odour reports weekly. Bronwyn discussed that the trend of odour reports shows that following the issuing of EPA notices that odour reports decrease.

The EPA has learnt about the extent of the issues over the last 18 months. Landfills and green waste facilities require different fixes and significant infrastructure is required to fix the issues. EPA has reviewed outcomes to date and renewed strategies with two clear priorities:

Priority 1 – Ensure long term solutions in place to address odour impacts. EPA is looking at the main reasons for odour and focusing on the fix. Within the next 6 months EPA aims, where infrastructure is not already in place, to issue notices to ensure operators put required infrastructure in place.

Priority 2 – To ensure that operator activities in the Clayton and Dingley area cause minimal environmental impact on their surrounding community. The EPA will work collaboratively with the the City of Kingston Council to address day to day environmental impacts.

The EPA will report back at the next meeting on progress against the priorities and milestones.

The EPA wants to be transparent and predicable so please ask questions and continue to report. The EPA appreciate reports and the effort the community are making.

Item 5 – Operator Update: Enviromix Status Report

Michael Wood provided a verbal presentation and clarified the following:

Enviromix was holding stock of around 30,000 cubic meters site 2 years ago with no odour complaint. The stock level site had been reduced to under 15,000 cubic meters before the drought stopped. In December 2010 the tips were full of water and were water logged. The group sought to comply and try do right thing by the community and provide a service to the councils they

operate for. During 2011 the site was reduced by EPA PAN to 8,000 cubic meters under 1/3 of peak stock. This forced the facility to operate as a pasteurisation plant through 2011, producing immature material with higher odour potential. The more mature it is, the less odorous it is. Towards the end of 2011 through VCAT process, EPA and discussions with residents of Dingley, Enviromix will install an air floor and then cover the compost with odour capturing fabric.. This will produce much more mature, less odorous compost in less time, reducing the odour potential to residents dramatically. We have reduced the stock in preparation for works. Enviromix is looking at a short to medium term life, on Vic Roads' lease. By 2020 or so Enviromix will likely have relocated. Compost is the way to take green organics out of landfill where it creates the methane and odour problems. Compared to the compost in November 2011 the odours are a quarter of what they are now. We try to stop when the wind is blowing in a westerly direction to keep odour down in Dingley. By the end of August or early September they expect to have installed new equipment to help aerate the compost. They will provide an update on progress in September.

Item 6 – Operator Update: Din San Status Report

Paul Smith provided a presentation and update on the following - A website link to download a copy of the presentation is included in appendix no. 3:

Din San is a small landfill which operated throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Sand was extracted from the site prior to filling. Last date for the weighbridge to receive waste, is the 30th June 2012. Once it ceases receiving waste, then it will be into the rehabilitation phase. By the 15th July there will be an intermediate cover and landfill cap. This will hopefully eliminate any concerns or odour issues. Rehabilitation has to be finished. Din San has been carrying out surface monitoring to determine odour issues. Main area of concern is the residential area – gas will run along edges of landfill. Din San do not believe they have any off site odour. Din San are running quarterly monitoring, ground water bores, additional groundwater leachate to contend with and sort out. The remaining available airspace will be full by early July 2012.

Item 7 – Operator Update: Clayton Regional Landfill Status Report

Ian Barnes provided an update as follows - A website link to download a copy of the presentation is included in appendix no. 4.

Five councils jointly own the landfill. They understand the frustrations of the community and that they have issues which they are progressively dealing with. They are aware of the discontent caused by municipal waste from outside the area being received at their site but clarified their landfill does

also provide a service to the Kingston community, through the transfer centre. Their site was previously a former sand mined area which has been progressively filled. The northern cell was built to the standards at the time however they recognise this is the area that is generating most of the issues. The 2nd cell which was built later, meets guidelines and is better. Issues being dealt with around the northern cell are: odour, leachate, pondage water and how the landfill is managed. They are closely collaborating with the EPA by meeting regularly, particularly in regards to the older cell. They recognise the need to operate the landfill using best practice, thoroughly investigate any problems and determine how to best address the problem and importantly, to do what works. Relevant experts have given external advice and based on information and design, they have implemented their works. They have committed \$1.5 million on the cell as well as addressing and upgrading the current tipping cell. They have developed a comprehensive plan and ongoing testing and monitoring will be in accordance with the plan. A major thing is to capture the gas on the old northern cell. There have been a number of wells drilled to capture landfill gas and convert gas into energy. But standards have improved over time and since then, 32 additional wells have been installed to make sure that the spacing and gas captured, is up to standard. The wells help to control: groundwater, leachate, capture gas and also release of odour. This has resulted in them capturing 30% more gas this year, and as more of the additional wells come online, the gas capture will progressively improve.

☑ They continue to do other works both major and minor, in line with a comprehensive plan to address all the issues. Over the next 3 months, there will be the completion of major gas capture works on site and extensive testing and measurement, audited by a range of independent experts and monitored by the EPA. The actions will definitely yield results and improve gas capture and leachate control, but it will take time. More aerators are being installed so that odour is reduced. The perimeter landscape plan is being reviewed and further planting will occur in Spring. The bird control measures for the site are also being reviewed. The Clayton Regional landfill is utilising the management plan, reviewing the data and constantly working to reduce odour and other issues. More actions are planned for the next six to nine months.

Item 8 – Operator Update: Transpacific Industries Status Report

Olga Ghiri provided an update on Transpacific's operations, extensive remediation and community engagement program as follows - - A website link to download a copy of the presentation is included in appendix no. 5:

Managing landfills is a multi faceted and complex discipline that requires expertise and considerable investment in infrastructure. Transpacific has made substantial investments in infrastructure to meet the challenges of dealing with variable climate at its Clayton landfill sites.

Regular surface monitoring for methane emissions is undertaken at the landfill sites to assess the effectiveness of gas extraction systems and to gauge the performance of final or interim caps. Transpacific uses the results of monitoring tests to address any hot spots.

The Fraser Road landfill site accepts putrescible waste on the eastern side, the western side is closed. The site will cease operating in 2017. The Henry Street site accepts solid inert waste and will be closed for approximately 12 months. The Carroll Road site is currently accepting solid inert waste whilst Henry Street is closed. Deals Road is closed and an interim cap was placed on the site in November 2010. Transpacific regularly undertakes gas monitoring at the Deals Road site as part of its ongoing rehabilitation program. The Victory Road site accepts green waste only.

Transpacific's extensive remediation program includes odour suppression, minimising dust and road mud through diverse weather conditions. A number of control measures are in place including:

- forty-two new gas extraction wells installed at Fraser Road landfill;
- twenty-five new air pumps installed at Deals Road to maximise gas extraction from the site;
- all materials accepted at active tipping face are covered daily to minimise odour and litter;
- perimeter spray system works intermittently to reduce odour;
- currently trialling alternative mobile spray systems and odour suppressants;
- staff regularly collect stray litter and high wire perimeter fences trap litter from the open cells;
- dedicated site water carts are used to water down haul roads within the landfills;
- dust suppressants are sprayed over soil stockpiles;
- installation of wheel washes, rumble bars and well formed internal haul roads to minimise muddy roads.

Further remediation works can be seen on the Transpacific bulletin, issue 2. Transpacific has set up a free hotline number 1800 213 753 for residents to call, so they can determine whether the complaint relates to

one of their sites and investigate almost immediately. The Community Information Centre located at Victory Road Clayton, is open to all on weekdays which provides information material and the opportunity to speak directly with Transpacific personnel. Transpacific also offer site visits and a community website www.transpacific.com.au/clayton <<http://www.transpacific.com.au/clayton>>. In addition to this, Transpacific sponsors the Kingston City Football Club, Heatherton Football Club and Clayton Festival 2012.

Item 9 – Panel Questions

Can the perfume sprays be placed closer to the road side or of the site?

Answer: TPI commented they are working with the City of Kingston Council to submit the landscape plan to make sure that the perimeter of the site looks good once planting occurs and community issues will be addressed then and that odour treatment needed to occur as close as possible to the source.

Landfill owners spend money to do things they do, so how come the smell is stronger and not less?

(Ian Barnes) From Clayton Regional landfill's perspective, most of the dollars spent are recent. It is quite complex and the science related to it. There is the investigative work, installation, as well as give the best practice, but the results will take time. Work has just been finished and should be noticed within the next 3 months but most, will be over a 12 month time span.

(Bronwyn Green) Of the odour reports received, it appears that drilling leads to an increase in reports as a side effect.

Is it possible to minimise odour or maximise energy output at peak hour but not during non-peak hours?

(Olga Ghiri) Due to low atmospheric pressure released, you get more odour at night.

(Ian Barnes) Gas extraction is continual. Dual purpose wells installed are mainly to control that. Captured and converted to energy. Primary purpose is around odour control.

Any other wells across the area?

Answer: (Olga Ghiri) New wells are being put in at Fraser Road and some more are going in the next few months.

Are we being told that these measures may or may not help? Going forward, will EPA take action to address areas to fulfil the expectations of the community?

(Bronwyn Green) There are a number of different landfill time frames. All sources of odour will be required to put do work, including putting in infrastructure if required, over the next 6 months.

(John Merritt) The complexity is the number of different sources of odour, but smell from landfill is rotting waste, since the drought broke 18 months ago. It didn't rain for a decade and when it did, it created problems. This will get fixed but it will get fixed progressively. Operators are trying to suck and drill as fast as they can. Drilling releases the old rotten waste. Just stopping is not the answer, it's the old, rotting deep waste that is causing the problem. We need to keep at it until it's fixed.

(Olga Ghiri) It is seasonal, complaints go up on seasonal rains.

It is good to see the agencies and operators and concerned residents at the forum. We want to see change, as we all live in the area. Time frames associated with filling and closing of landfills, delivered change to reduce air space and bring closure date forward. No more tips in green wedge and boarding areas.

(Bronwyn Green) EPA's position around airspace is that EPA can't approve any increase in airspace without going through the works approval process. An operator would need to apply for a works approval and part of that process would include having to go through public consultation. Recently, Fraser Road landfill had a situation that they couldn't tip in new cell, they had to divert the waste to a different land fill to ensure no air space was gained.

(Laurie D'Angelo) Spoke of what airspace is and how the EPA has been in discussions about final rehabilitation at the sites and contour heights and what this means regarding airspace. In regards to approvals, Council approves planning permits and contour levels on the site and EPA approves the waste levels and airspace within landfill cells.

Health information, breathing and health issues is anyone thinking about us (residents)? Kids in the morning are going to school and have headaches when they wake up. Itching, sneezing, itching ears and breathing issues. Why are all the tips so close when they can be relocated somewhere else in Australia?

(Nectaria Kapsaskis) The Department is monitoring the situation and at this stage does not believe that a health impact assessment is necessary, based on the information we currently have.

(Ayse Behaettin) Lots of people don't speak English so they don't report it.

Dust is getting in the children's eyes at sporting grounds. It does have an impact and it needs to be looked at.

Generally speaking, communication has been deficient between Council and EPA. Will EPA reconsider and look at the airspace issue and look at bringing the site closed earlier?

(John Merritt) EPA had granted approvals at this site and based on this advocated for a closing date of 2017, earlier than that asked for. EPA is keen that end dates are put in place for landfills so people can manage their future.

Item 10 – Future meetings and communications

Dates to be confirmed by Keith Greaves.

Item 11 – Group Check Out and Close

Keith thanked everyone for attending and requested that comments be passed back to him. Time had run out for this evening and not all points raised have been answered but they are being captured and will be brought up at the next forum. Special thanks to Jim and Bill for assisting in the logistics for the forum.

CLAYTON AND DINGLEY COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

What is the **PURPOSE** of this forum?

This forum provides a collaborative opportunity for the Clayton and Dingley community, local industries, state & local government, EPA Victoria and other relevant stakeholders to voice their concerns and aspirations regarding odour, dust, contaminated water run off and other environmental impacts in the general Clayton and Dingley area.

Keith Greaves, draft for discussion, 13th June 2012

CLAYTON AND DINGLEY COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

What **ROLE** does the forum have?

The CDCIF will:

1. Provide an open forum which enables issues relating to odour, dust, contaminated water run off and other environmental impacts in the general Clayton and Dingley area to be discussed.
2. Provide an opportunity for local industries, state & local government, EPA Victoria, and other relevant stakeholders to report on plans, actions and progress towards the achievement of a healthy environment for the Clayton and Dingley community.
3. While the forum does not have any decision making authority, the intent is that the forum will inform key stakeholders and that public concerns are consistently understood and considered.

Keith Greaves, draft for discussion, 13th June 2012

CLAYTON AND DINGLEY COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

Forum Values

*Participants believe
we must:*

1. Work in partnership
2. Provide open communication
3. Have shared accountability
4. Focus on our purpose and role

Forum Conduct

*Diversity of opinion is
expected but
participants agree to:*

1. Uphold the values of the group
2. Respect the views of others
3. Contribute to discussion in a manner that provides for equal share of voice

Keith Greaves, draft for discussion, 13th June 2012

Appendix No. 2 - EPA Presentation

A copy of the EPA presentation from the forum on 13th July can be downloaded at the following link:

[EPA Presentation.pdf](#)

Appendix No. 3 – Din San Presentation

A copy of Din San's presentation from the forum on 13th July can be downloaded at the following link:

[Din Presentation.pdf](#)

Appendix No. 4 – Clayton Regional Presentation

A copy of Clayton Regional's presentation from the forum on 13th July can be downloaded at the following link:

[Clayton Regional Presentation.pdf](#)

Appendix No. 5 – TPI Presentation

A copy of TPI's presentation from the forum on 13th July can be downloaded at the following link:

[TPI Presentation.pdf](#)