

# CLAYTON & DINGLEY

## LANDFILL FORUM

### Meeting summary (5th February 2013)

#### What is the Clayton & Dingley Landfill Forum?

The Clayton & Dingley Landfill Forum provides a collaborative opportunity for the Clayton and Dingley community, local industries, state and local government, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Victoria and other people to voice their concerns and aspirations regarding odour, dust, contaminated water run-off and other environmental impacts in the general Clayton and Dingley area.

This summary provides an overview of the third Clayton & Dingley Landfill Forum held on 5th February 2013 at the Clarinda Community Centre, Clarinda. This summary includes information presented by EPA Victoria, Kingston City Council and landfill operators about actions being taken to address odour, dust and other environmental impacts associated with landfills in the area as well as questions raised and suggestions put forward by the community.

Electronic updates from the Forum, and general information about the program are available for download at <http://www.claytondingley.net.au>

The next Forum will take place at Clarinda Community Centre on 28th May 2013. If you wish to attend this Forum please register your interest by email to [Keith@claytondingley.net.au](mailto:Keith@claytondingley.net.au).

#### Forum Opening Comments from Participants

Since the second forum on September 11th there appears to be an improvement in the frequency of odour events in the area. Attendees at the Forum did have mixed views on this but in general acknowledged the decrease. Observations were made that this could be attributable to the weather conditions and seasonal effects.

## Summary presentation comments and questions from the floor

\*Please note copies of the Forum agenda, presentations and handouts are available for download at <http://www.claytondingley.net.au>

### EPA UPDATE, (LEIGH BRYANT, REGIONAL MANAGER, SOUTHERN METRO)

Leigh passed a 'Report Card'\* to all attendees detailing the current regulation activity in place by the EPA with each of the operators in the area. Leigh also referred to images no. 1 and 2 below that illustrate the level of reports received from the EPA.

The figures are for last financial year (2011 to 2012). This shows all pollution reports received by the EPA and not just odour. It is clear that Clayton & Dingley generate a large number of reports.

Odour reports for that past 3 months are as follows;  
November 52 mainly from Clarinda and Dingley,  
December 44 spread between Oakleigh South, Clayton South and Dingley,  
January 2013 - 9 mainly from Clayton South.

January 2013 has seen a reduction in odour reports. This is likely to be the result of a combination of factors including work done by the operators both as required by EPA notice and of their own accord and the dry weather.

Dry weather has brought its own issues with keeping litter and dust within the landfill sites. EPA observed that on the windy days some sites were closed to assist in managing the dust issue.

- **Matters highlighted in the 'Report Card' include:**

**Clayton Regional** - The initial notice was to install gas and leachate extraction wells, 36 have been installed and are operational. This has led to an increase in the amount of gas being extracted from the site. The current notice requires the site to reach a predetermined leachate level.

**TPI Deals Road** - EPA will be issuing a notice similar to those issued to other sites.

**TPI Fraser Road** - Two current notices in place, one to address leachate levels and gas extraction, the second surface emissions to Best Practice Environmental Management level.

**TPI Victory Road** - Two notices in place, one to address leachate level and the other for progressive rehabilitation.

**TPI Henry Street** - Notice in place to address leachate levels and progressive rehabilitation. This has been appealed and is in mediation at VCAT.

**TPI Carroll Road** - Notice in place to address leachate levels and progressive rehabilitation

- **In reference to comments raised at the end of the last Forum on 11th September 2012:**

**Din San is closed** as a landfill and cannot reopen without EPA approval. From the EPA viewpoint we are now moving to ongoing management and rehabilitation of the site.

**Management Authority for Landfills** - How a landfill is managed is up to the business or individual chooses to run it. However it needs to be compliant with its EPA licence and whatever other permits that may be in place. EPA has recently updated the Best Practice Environmental Management for landfills. This is a guidance document for how to manage a landfill.

**Application of Current Technologies** - EPA requires operators to implement current technologies at the time of approval. Landfills being built from scratch now may look different or have better or different technologies involved. There are limitations on what you can apply to site that has been operating for a number of years.

- ***A concern was raised about the levels of topsoil being used to cover the landfill area in order to minimise the birds on site***

**EPA Response** - EPA requires cover every night (volume depends on the landfill). EPA has conducted spot checks to see if operators are doing the right thing as part of licence requirements.

## KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL UPDATE (RACHEL HORNSBY, GENERAL MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CITY OF KINGSTON)

- ***What is Council doing?***

Council's Senior Officers have been in regular discussions with the EPA and landfill operators to advocate for progress on works.

Council's planning department is undertaking site inspections and audits to ensure issues and notices are being followed up on.

Council is keeping the community informed through regular articles in Council's journal Kingston Your City, announcements on Council's monthly radio hour on Southern FM, community bulletins, website updates and media releases to local newspapers.

- ***What happened at the site inspections?***

There have been about a dozen site inspections and audits since the last community forum on September 11th 2012.

Some of these inspections have uncovered fencing and landscaping issues. Council is following up on these issues until positive outcomes are achieved. For instance, Council was very pleased when Clayton Regional Landfill replaced fencing in November 2012.

Council responded to concerns about seagulls at Transpacific Industries' Fraser Road site and TPI has since implemented a plan for gas guns and bird scares to manage the issue.

- ***Council's Environmental Health team***

There has been a steady decrease in the number of calls to Council regarding landfill odours (October 2012 - 3 calls, November 2012 - 2 calls, December 2012 - 2 calls, January 2013 - no calls).

Late last year, Council was in discussions with the Department of Health to request a health study on Kingston's landfills. We have not received any indication that the Department of Health will be undertaking such a study. Council has since asked the department to advise Council whether it will perform the study and, if not, who will.

## SUMMARY OF RECENT COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY - 10TH SEPTEMBER 2012 TO 5TH FEBRUARY 2013

Please note the following summary report of Council enforcement activity has been supplied post the 5th February Forum in response to participants requests to see a similar 'Report Card' by Council in line with the EPA activity.

### CLAYTON REGIONAL LANDFILL, 654-718 CLAYTON ROAD, CLAYTON SOUTH

Action	Outcome
A Planning Contravention Notice issued in June 2012. In October 2012 notice was given again that the landfill management group still required to replace fencing, and update landscaping.	Follow up inspection in November 2012. Fencing and planting had been done. Discussions underway about the nature strip.

### LANTRAK PTY LTD, 150-170 OLD DANDENONG ROAD, HEATHERTON

Action	Outcome
Inspection October 2012.	Clean fill operations occurring on site (clean fill is clean soil that is being sifted and processed). Discussions underway about future of the site.

### DIN SAN, 370-440 OLD DANDENONG ROAD, DINGLEY VILLAGE (1 GRANGE ROAD, DINGLEY VILLAGE)

Action	Outcome
Inspections in September 2012 with relation to concerns raised about refuse being placed on site.	No evidence of any contravention of Town Planning Permit. This site is still accepting cleanfill so as to be able to complete their final contour heights
Follow up inspection in December 2012 with relation to final contours and levels of fill and closing of clean fill site.	All going well, final contours should be in place mid to late February 2013.

### TRANSPACIFIC INDUSTRIES, 649-681 CLAYTON ROAD, CLAYTON SOUTH

Action	Outcome
Inspection in November 2012. TPI required to repair fences, update landscaping and clarify the heights of their mounds on site.	
Inspection in December 2012.	TPI agreed to increase their landscaping on site, and plant a row of trees adjacent to Clayton Road to shield the road from dust.

## TRANSPACIFIC INDUSTRIES, 19-71 CARROLL ROAD, OAKLEIGH SOUTH

Action	Outcome
Landfill Audit on 19 October 2012: Contravention Notice sent to Manager of Waste and Environment at Transpacific requesting them to install wheel wash facilities, repair and replace fencing, and install a fire hydrant within the site.	TPI given until 31 of January 2013 to complete the fencing, and the 30 April 2013 to complete the landscaping and fire hydrant facilities. Council continues to follow this up this as some works still not completed.
January 2013 request from TPI about updating signs at the site, and a change in opening times.	What TPI proposes falls into their existing conditions on the Planning Permit.

## TRANSPACIFIC INDUSTRIES, 1 FRASER ROAD, CLAYTON SOUTH

Action	Outcome
Council has appealed to the Supreme Court.	Supreme Court Hearing March 2013.
December - concerns raised about seagulls coming from the landfill tip face.	TPI implemented a plan for gas guns and bird scares. Also put complainant in touch with Department of Sustainability and Environment (Victoria) about advising further on seagulls.

## Comments for EPA & KINGSTON COUNCIL from Participants

- *A concern was raised about the levels of topsoil being used to cover the landfill area in order to minimise the birds on site*

**EPA Response** - EPA requires 300 to 150 mL of cover every night (volume depends on the landfill). EPA is checking opening times to see if operators are doing the right time (as part of licence requirements).

- *Are there conditions in planning permits to limit number of birds at landfill sites?*

**City of Kingston Response** - Yes planning permits have such conditions

- *Have Kingston Council talked to other 3 councils about Clayton Regional Landfill? (in reference to the site being filled faster)*

**City of Kingston Response** - Yes, but Kingston can't force other councils to speed up the rate of filling up their cells.

- *Have Kingston Council received landscape plans?*

**City of Kingston Response** - Yes

- *Can the EPA provide an update on any action in relation to health concerns?*

**EPA Response** - SITA will fund (as part of enforcement undertaking for Hallam Road Landfill) an independent literature review on health impacts (conducted by RMIT). RMIT is finalising the report. The report will be public and the EPA will look to share the findings at the next Forum if the work has been completed.

**EPA Response** - Department of Health (DoH) has a rigorous process for conducting health studies. It is a multi-step process. DoH began a health study on Dandenong South. However it stopped at the first step, where preliminary information from relevant parties (e.g. councils) were analysed and their was insufficient evidence to proceed further.

## COMMUNITY UPDATE; TOXIC ODOUR ACTION GROUP UPDATE (DAVID TYSON, TOAG REPRESENTATIVE)

*Please note. David presented a brief overview and background to the TOAG group. For further information, or to support the group, contact information has been provided at the back of this summary report.*

- The community is frustrated that there is no confirmed end date for the landfills.
- TOAG membership is open to everyone and the group welcomes support from the community.
- The Group has stakeholder representation from the schools in Clayton, Community Groups in Clayton (eg. Kingston Soccer Club), Churches in Clayton (eg. The Korean Baptist) and the Clayton Traders Group as well as other prominent community stakeholders.
- The Group seeks to build strong links with the EPA and Kingston City Council as a way of working collectively to resolve key issues regarding the tip odours/operators.
- The Group has a strong focus on trying to address community concerns in Clayton regarding perceptions of possible health issues arising from odour emissions from the tips.
- The Group seeks to value the voice of the local members of the community and empower those in the community who wish to speak up about their concerns (both financially, psychologically and health wise) in a safe and structured environment that is respectful of all stakeholders.

## OPERATOR UPDATE; ENVIROMIX (MICHAEL WOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, ENVIROMIX)

- In the last 2 years, Enviromix has reduced number of tonnes / cubic metres on site.
- Purchased new windrow turner (as part of their management plan). This will reduce surface area; and reduce turning time of windrows (of whole site) from 2 days to half a day. They can now turn twice a week to keep material more aerobic, hence reducing odour.
- Submitted Southeast tender (15 year contract).
- Kingston Council doesn't want them operating in Kingston.
- Current plans are they will now operate to 2017.
- Enviromix have commenced operations under an EPA RD&D Permit at a new site at Stanhope Victoria.
- There is no firm end date for operations at this stage.

## OPERATOR UPDATE; TRANSPACIFIC INDUSTRIES GROUP (ANNA CRAWFORD, ENVIRONMENT MANAGER POST COLLECTIONS - SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING, TPI)

*Please note Anna's presentation is available for download\**

- Carroll Road Landfill was temporarily closed mid February 2013. Construction of the last cell is underway and anticipated this will be finished by mid 2013.
- Henry Street Landfill has commenced trading as of mid February 2013 and is anticipated to be full by mid-2013.
- 18 new gas extraction bores has been installed at Fraser Road.
- New trade waste application submitted - once approved, this will allow for disposal of more leachate at from the Clayton Road sites.

- Conducted a leachate sump audit at all Clayton Sites.
- We are currently designing sewer connections for Henry Street and Carroll Road Landfills have sewer connection at to increase leachate disposal; odour neutraliser; water bath. Using a new odour neutraliser for leachate in the on-site dam.
- Spraying water on internal roads to control dust. Purchased additional road sweepers.

## OPERATOR UPDATE; CLAYTON REGIONAL (DAVID CROWE, MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES, CITY OF BOROONDARA)

*Please note David's presentation is available for download\**

- 250 Indigenous and native trees have been planted at landfill. Only 2 trees have died.
- New leachate dam will soon be commissioned.

### Comments for OPERATORS from Participants

- *Why do Boroondara take waste o Clayton Regional Landfill?*

**RESPONSE FROM DAVID CROWE** - Due to landfill levies and they are locked into contracts.

- *How do you stop dust from trucks on Clayton Road?*

**RESPONSE FROM DAVID CROWE** - Use water to suppress dust but creates mud. Mud then needs to be transported offsite.

- *Does TPI's Road Sweeper stay on site?*

**RESPONSE FROM ANNA CRAWFORD** - It is taken between sites. It is used on roads.

- *TPI is using fishing wire to keep birds out. Have you thought of animal rights?*

**RESPONSE FROM ANNA CRAWFORD** - Melbourne Water trialed this method.

**RESPONSE FROM GEOFF WEBSTER (TPI)** - Wire is spaced out so birds fly into the wire and hit their wings and stop. They don't get caught.

- *Are there foxes?*

**CLAYTON REGIONAL RESPONSE** - No foxes observed.

- *How does contamination in soil affect trees?*

**RESPONSE FROM DAVID CROWE** - There is an issue with salt in the soil profile. They tried planting specific tree species. Contaminants can be nutrients for trees. Trees enhance soil the conditions.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

### Upcoming Clayton and Dingley Landfill Forums

Further Clayton and Dingley Landfill Forums will be held on the following dates:

- 28 May 2013

Agendas, confirmation of venue and meeting reminders will be sent in advance of all Forums. For further information about times and location of the forums or to register your interest please contact:

Keith@claytondingleyjf.net.au



## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the **Clayton and Dingley Landfill Forum**, contact Keith Greaves, the Clayton and Dingley Landfill Forum Coordinator:  
Keith@claytondingleyjf.net.au or view the Forum website at [www.claytondingleyjf.net.au](http://www.claytondingleyjf.net.au)

**To report pollution contact the 24 hour EPA Pollution hotline:**  
1300 EPA VIC      1300 372 842  
[http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/community\\_issues/clayton-clarinda.asp](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/community_issues/clayton-clarinda.asp)

**To contact Kingston City Council:**  
1300 653 356      [info@kingston.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@kingston.vic.gov.au)  
[http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/page/page.asp?page\\_id=2797](http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/page/page.asp?page_id=2797)

**24 hour Transpacific Industries Group Stakeholder and Community Liaison Officer (Olga Ghiri)**  
1800 213 753  
<http://www.transpacific.com.au/content/clayton-news-and-events.aspx>

**To support or get involved with TOAG please contact:**  
Toxic Odour Action Group  
Bill Pontikis  
E. [bill.pontikis@live.com.au](mailto:bill.pontikis@live.com.au)

[www.claytondingleyjf.net.au](http://www.claytondingleyjf.net.au)