

## **TULLAMARINE LANDFILL Community Consultation Group**

### **COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES**

**25th November, 2015**

**6:15pm for 6:45 – 9:45 pm**

**Hume Global Learning Centre - 1093 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows**

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#### **Meeting Purpose:**

*To provide an update on site rehabilitation. To discuss opportunities to increase the effectiveness of TLCCG for all participants*

#### **Attendees**

**Community:** Sam Cetrola, Russell Nilsson, Lolita Gunning, Ovi Clements, Helen van den Berg, Jos van den Berg, Frank Rivoli, Graeme Hodgson, Peter Barbetti, Mick Colaci, Harry van Moorst, Kim Westcombe, Julie Law

**EPA Victoria (EPA):** Alistair Nairn (Advisor - Community & Environmental Partners)

**Transpacific Cleanaway (TCL):** Kieren McDermott (Environment Specialist), Olga Ghiri (Stakeholder and Community Relations Manager), Alan O'Brien (Environment and Technical Manager), Mick Beljac (National Landfill Gas & Environment Manager), Bruno Pronesti (Acting Regional Manager Victoria Post Collections)

**Guests:** Civic and Environmental Consultants Inc (from the US): Henry Kerfoot

**Apologies:** Jeremy Settle (Senior Environment Protection Officer, EPA Victoria), Prue Hicks, Cr Helen Patsikatheodoru (Hume City Council)

**Facilitator** - Jen Lilburn

**Note taker** – Andrea Mason

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#### ***About these notes***

*Notes were taken and produced by Andrea Mason. Presenters were given the opportunity to review the notes relating to their item to ensure the discussion was accurately summarised, and that it details best available knowledge at the time of the meeting. Additional comments received after the meeting have been highlighted as such.*

*These notes will be posted on the Tullamarine Community Information page on the Transpacific Cleanaway website <http://www.transpacific.com.au/content/tullamarine.aspx> and will be available to the general public. Meeting participants should advise Andrea Mason or Jen Lilburn if they would like their name removed from this public document.*

The intent of these meeting notes is to promote open communication between Transpacific Cleanaway, local government, community and EPA Victoria. They are not to be used in a manner that compromises this objective.

### **Agenda Items and Actions from meeting**

<p><b>Welcome, Jen Lilburn</b></p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Confirm meeting purpose and agenda</p> <p><b>Progress on actions</b></p>
<p><b>Update on Cleanaway staff movements, Olga Ghiri</b></p>
<p><b>Overall site rehabilitation roadmap, Kieren McDermott</b></p> <p><b>Action 251115_1:</b> TCL to distribute the groundwater report no less than one month before the next TLCCG meeting.</p>
<p><b>Update on flare, Kieren McDermott</b></p> <p><b>Action 251115_2:</b> Mick to clarify what automated shutoff systems are currently in place with the flare, and whether it is possible for untreated gases to be released (e.g. if the flare operates outside the design criteria).</p> <p><b>Action 251115_3:</b> Kieren to provide further clarification around the safety procedures for the flare operations.</p> <p><b>Action 251115_4:</b> TCL to invite the flare engineers to provide their testing report next year and present at the next TLCCG meeting.</p>
<p><b>What TLCCG has influenced, Kieren McDermott</b></p>
<p><b>TLCCG – where to from here?, Jen Lilburn</b></p> <p><b>Action 251115_5:</b> The community members to put together a list and present the issues that are still of concern to the community and that have not yet been satisfactorily addressed and a point of frustration, for presentation at the next TLCCG meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 251115_6:</b> Jen to call for agenda items from the community in future.</p> <p><b>Action 251115_7:</b> The community should supply a community check list which TCL can use for any material they present so that they are prepared for the questions that are likely to follow.</p> <p><b>Action 251115_8:</b> Jen and Olga to use the community agenda items at the next meeting to develop the meeting timetable for 2016.</p>
<p><b>EPA Risk Assessment, Alistair Nairn</b></p> <p><b>Action 251115_9:</b> Alistair to investigate the presentation of the audit reform process to TLCCG.</p>
<p><b>2016 meeting dates, Wrap &amp; Close, Jen Lilburn</b></p>

## Item 1. Welcome, Jen Lilburn

Jen Lilburn (Convenor) welcomed everyone to the forum including new staff from Transpacific Cleanaway (TCL) and the community representatives.

### Progress on actions:

- **Action 190815\_1:** *There were several technical questions which needed to be addressed from the existing actions. Harry and Kieren were to meet outside this forum to discuss these issues:*

- PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl chemical) migration (**Action 090615\_1**)
- The parameters of groundwater sampling and suggestions for other elements that may be monitored in this process. (**Action 090615\_5**)

**No progress. Harry and Kieren urged to meet as soon as possible.**

- **Action 190815\_2:** *Kieren to initiate the production of a spreadsheet with the results of the wells testing for each compound across the years, to show measurements and trends.*

**Kieren reported that this is part of the technical review and will be completed by January.**

- **Action 190815\_3:** *Harry and Kieren to put together a list of all the uncertainties regarding issues still unanswered in the current draft reports for consideration at the next TLCCG meeting.*

**No progress. Harry and Kieren urged to meet as soon as possible.**

- **Action 190815\_4:** *Clete to investigate the option of supplying power to enable sampling in the buffer land with the electrical engineers. Complete; see Kieren's update in this meeting.*
- **Action 190815\_5:** *TLCCG members to email Kieren with any further parameters that might be added to the list e.g. PM<sup>2.5</sup> Complete – suggestions from August meeting included in parameters and nothing further was received.*
- **Action 190815\_6:** *EPA to provide an update on their assessment of the leachate and groundwater levels at the next TLCCG meeting. After the meeting response: EPA will be seeking the assistance of a consultant to undertake additional assessment, with TTTDAG providing scope of this work and selection of contractor according to EPA procurement guidelines.*
- **Action 190815\_7:** *It would be helpful to record which TCL decisions have been influenced by the community at this forum. Complete – see Kieren's presentation in this meeting*

## Item 2. Introductions and Update on Cleanaway staff movements, Olga Ghiri

General introductions from the group members were made for the benefit of new staff from TCL. Bruno Pronesti is Acting Regional Manager Victoria Post Collections. Bruno is filling the role and reports to Clete Elms who is now General Manager. Bruno has a background with the finance business arm and is familiar with the bufferland issues.

Mick Beljac has returned to The TLCCG after a few years and is the National Landfill Gas & Environment Manager. He brings valuable long-term knowledge of the site.

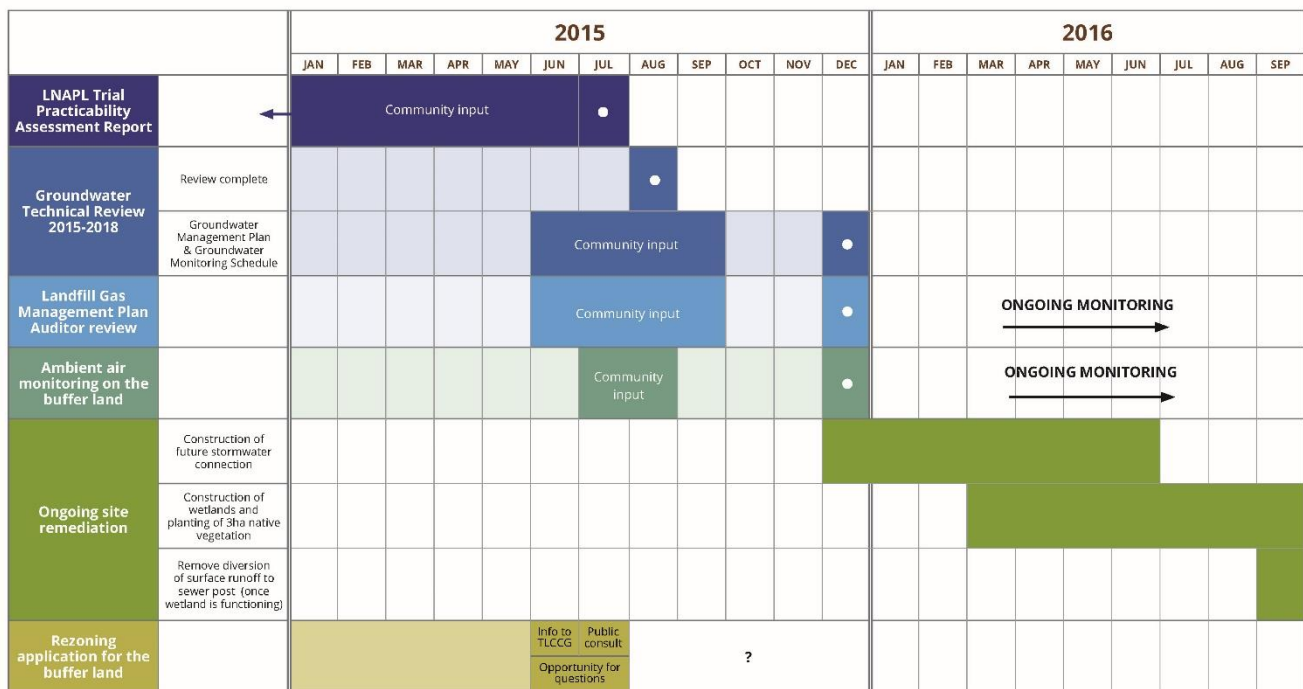
The group was assured that although Clete has expertise related to the flare, the current staff members and the consultants, Ektimo, are also still on hand to answer questions regarding the flare.

### Item 3. Overall site rehabilitation roadmap, Kieren McDermott

These notes should be read in conjunction with Kieren's presentation which can be seen in full in [Attachment 1](#).

Kieren gave an overview of the timeline for the landfill site rehabilitation in 2015/16 which is still running to schedule. The landfill gas and groundwater technical reviews will be sent to the Auditor and finalised before the next TLCCG meeting. The ambient air monitoring programs will be conducted in February in conjunction with the flare testing. The storm water works are on track for next year.

## TULLAMARINE LANDFILL SITE REHABILITATION ROADMAP



○ : complete

The above schedule is based on information and plans as at 3 June 2015. Dates are indicative and are subject to change.



Figure 1\_Site Rehabilitation Roadmap

**Question:** More time is required to review information, particularly large documents. If the groundwater report is released within a month of the next meeting could the meeting date be postponed?

**Response, Kieren:** That is possible. We will ensure the very large document is provided to everyone.

**Action 251115\_1:** TCL to distribute the groundwater report no less than one month before the next TLCCG meeting.

**Question:** What is the timeline and how long is the ongoing monitoring for the ambient air testing?

**Response, Kieren:** The ongoing monitoring timeline for ambient air testing will be determined by the Auditor. At present it is planned for annual reporting and this is ongoing for the foreseeable future. The groundwater monitoring is undertaken every quarter and the report will be every 3 years to the EPA.

**Question: Why is the groundwater reporting only after 3 years? What if there is a problem within that time - is there a fail-safe monitoring system in case of an unexpected change?**

**Response, Kieren:** The Auditor decided on a 3 year timeline based on the previous 3 years of monitoring results.

**Response, Alan:** The Post Closure Pollution Abatement Notice (PCPAN) report is sent to EPA annually and will be copied to the Auditor and TLCCG - any changes or trends are expected to take long periods to have any effect and will be noticed in those reports.

**Question: If the Auditor determines the reporting requirements, what is the EPA's role and why isn't the EPA proactive in directing the consultants?**

**Response, Alistair:** EPA relies on the information it receives via the Auditor, a system which has its own layer of scrutiny. EPA's role is to formalise the requirements and analyse the advice given. The weight of the knowledge comes from the audit.

**Comment: As the site is now in post closure mode, there is no licence in place with conditions that are to be met and annual reporting. EPA has been asked to look at annual reporting as things can go wrong very quickly which could be picked up within one year rather than three.**

**Response, Alan:** The reporting conditions in the PCPAN are very similar to those of the old licence objectives including groundwater objectives. Groundwater will be assessed annually when reporting to EPA in accordance with the requirements of the Post Closure PAN.

**Question: Is the report to the EPA commercial in confidence or publicly available?**

**Response, Alistair:** All annual reports/statements are public documents and available from the EPA website.

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#### **Item 4. Update of flare performance and air monitoring, Kieren McDermott**

These notes should be read in conjunction with Kieren's presentation which can be seen in full in [Attachment 1](#) and his responses to the Actions listed here.

##### **Community Questions / Request for Information emailed 11/11/2015**

**Action 090615\_5:** The parameters of groundwater sampling and suggestions for other elements that may be monitored in this process should be directed to Kieren.

**TCL Response:** Transpacific Cleanaway provided the community with the groundwater sampling parameters at the June meeting and provided details of the extra sampling that was proposed. This sampling has been completed and will be reported in the Technical Report for the Auditor Review (TRAR). The table of parameters is included with this response.

**Action 190815\_2:** Kieren to initiate the production of a spreadsheet with the results of the wells testing for each compound across the years, to show measurements and trends.

**TCL Response:** Transpacific Cleanaway has instructed Kleinfelder, the engineers responsible for production of the Groundwater Technical Review, to prepare a table of all chemical parameters assessed in the groundwater and to make a determination on the risk of each one. This assessment will be reported in the TRAR, which is expected in December, and will be made available to the community when it is ready.

**Action 190815\_3:** Harry and Kieren to put together a list of all the uncertainties regarding issues still unanswered in the current draft reports for consideration at the next TLCCG meeting.

**TCL Response:** Transpacific Cleanaway is arranging a meeting with Harry and Kleinfelder to discuss.

**Action 190815\_4:** Clete (Kieren) to investigate the option of supplying power to enable sampling in the buffer land with the electrical engineers.

**TCL Response:** Transpacific Cleanaway engaged electrical engineers Gordyn and Palmer to provide an assessment of the feasibility of installing a power supply.

**Action 190815\_5:** TLCCG members to email Kieren with any further parameters that might be added to the list e.g. PM2.5

**TCL Response:** Ektimo and ERM have been informed of the additional parameter requests and they are assessing if it is feasible to measure them.

**Action 190815\_6:** EPA to provide an update on their assessment of the leachate and groundwater levels at the next TLCCG meeting

**TCL Response:** EPA to respond.

**Action 190815\_7:** It would be helpful to record which TCL decisions have been influenced by the community at this forum.

**TCL Response:** The community has influenced many aspects of the management of the landfill and Transpacific Cleanaway will provide the details on the 25th Nov meeting.

### Flare

Kieren gave an overview of the flare operations, sampling regime and results.

To perform optimally the flare must operate at

- ▶ Above 760 °C in the flare chamber, and
- ▶ Flow rate of between 40 m3/hr and 200 m3/hr.

Flare operation data to date

- ▶ >950 °C as measured in stack and >850 °C at exit point
- ▶ Measured flow rate is approximately 160 m3/hr.

### **Questions/comments raised regarding the efficiency and specifications of the flare and its ability to provide 100% combustion of harmful gases including:**

- It is not achieving 100% combustion if the conditions are not met - the only real proof that the flare is working is by testing it.
- The figures quoted are design parameters by the company but we don't know what is really happening – **it's not achieving 100 % combustion**. In the US the requirements are more stringent – temperature, flow rate, how quickly the gases emitted are cooled down. If it's too hot there are other issues. The flare needs to be tested for real results.
- What happens if conditions are outside these parameters? Does it turn off or do gases escape into the air which have not been burnt to make them safe?

**Response, Kieren:** If conditions are outside the design parameters it is not meeting the requirements but there is automatic turn off below 760 and above 1200 deg C. The flare is monitored by TCL every 15 minutes. There is an alarm on the flare

**Response, Mick B:** If the flow rate is below the specifications the flare shuts down. If the methane levels exceed a set limit, there is also automatic shutdown. It is *possible* that some gases may be released into the air.

**After the meeting:** Mick clarified that he did not have the information on hand in the meeting to answer definitively whether there a chance for untreated gases to be released if the flare operates outside of the design criteria.

**Action 251115\_2:** Mick to clarify what automated shutoff systems are currently in place with the flare, and whether it is possible for untreated gases to be released (e.g. if the flare operates outside the design criteria).



**Comment:** If there is any chance that harmful gases could be released, then this flare is not what the community expected and it is not acceptable.

**Question:** If the flare shuts down and the gas can't escape where does it go - can it escape elsewhere when the pressure builds up? Is there a management plan for the variable events?

**Response, Kieren:** There is a lot of monitoring in place and systems designed to shut down the flare if required. The landfill itself is under vacuum and it would take a couple of days before anything could happen – by which time appropriate management measures can be undertaken.

**Question:** How do you know?

**Response, Kieren:** As part of the LNAPL trial TCL had to switch off gas around some of the wells. In order to protect staff and the community special testing was undertaken to measure how quickly gas pressure would rise to more than atmospheric pressure air.

**Question:** Given Mick Beljac's response earlier, is there a possibility the flare can release dangerous gases get into the air? This flare appears to let gases flow continuously and the EPA shouldn't be allowing this. Is there a safeguard?

**Response, Alan:** Changes in the gas flow don't change substantially or quickly. The gas flow is monitored every 15 minutes and has been shown to be quite stable. A significant drop in the flow rate would take years to happen unless there is a physical alteration to the site.

**Response, Mick B:** The monitoring system sends an alert and there is automatic shutdown if the conditions are not met.

**Response, Kieren:** The flare has telemetry attached to it so if something goes wrong with the flare it sends a phone message to alert staff and it takes 2 hours to get engineers on site. When the flare is shut down there are no gas emissions.

**Question:** Does the flare shut down also stop the gas pump and are there other safeguards in place?

**Response, Mick B:** Yes

**Action 251115\_3:** Kieren to provide further clarification around the safety procedures for the flare operations.

**Question:** The flare measurements shown are from February – not November. Has there been any change and can current figures be used in future presentations?

**Response, Kieren:** The results have been consistent all year with essentially no change. Current data can be shown in future.

**Question:** Is the amount of landfill gas actually declining?

**Response, Kieren:** The landfill gas will decline over a long time frame. It will potentially be ten years before the rate drops to half and 40 years before it drops to 40 m<sup>3</sup>/hr.

**Question:** In what way is the flare performing 'better than design'?

**Response, Kieren:** The monitoring shows that the current temperatures of ~ 900 °C are above the lowest temperature parameter for the flare to operate.

**Comment:** Please don't put motherhood statements in the presentations - all that is being shown is that the temperature and flow rates are within the specifications which doesn't prove that everything is OK. Also the equipment is designed in the northern hemisphere and not necessarily accurate for Melbourne.

**Action 251115\_4:** *TCL to invite the flare engineers to provide their testing report next year and present at the next TLCCG meeting.*

**Question:** How far is it from the flare to the boundary? Will it be safe for the new businesses proposed for the bufferland?

**Response, Kieren:** The boundary is more than 50m from the flare. The flare is showing conditions to be safe.

**Question:** How can the development of the land be allowed to continue if the safety issues and chemical gas issues of the landfill are not resolved? This is negligence by EPA, TCL and the Hume City Council – they shouldn't allow it. The development arm of TCL is driving this process and the community has not had its questions answered. What is the point of the TLCCG meetings if the company's agenda is being driven by the development potential of the bufferland?

**Response, Alan:** The ambient air monitoring planned to be completed before the next meeting is designed to provide some information for the safety of the buffer land development.

**Comment:** Why not provide the real time monitoring in the future so that the community can see it and be assured that it is safe?

**Response post meeting:** Real time monitoring for some landfill gas parameters is possible for some gases such as carbon monoxide but not all gases such as dioxins and furans and that is why Transpacific is doing emissions testing and ambient air testing.

#### **Ambient air test parameters**

Kieren explained the test parameters for the ambient air testing and the testing sites proposed. Electrical engineers have suggested several options to supply power to allow 24 hour testing on the bufferland - a generator with a noise suppressing cover with a carbon filter being the most likely option. The community in and around Wright St will be informed of this as there is expected to be some noise issues.

**Question:** The landfill is underneath the flight path of planes from Tullamarine Airport which also emit Volatile Organic Compounds that can be smelt – would this affect the readings?

**Response, Alan:** If you can smell it then there is something in the air. The freeway is also a potential source of VOC.

**Comment:** Perhaps many more air monitoring sites should be installed to account for any variables.

**Response post meeting:** This option is being explored with electrical engineers and further information on this testing will be made available at the next meeting.

**Comment:** The EPA is no longer doing air monitoring themselves but rely on industry reports so how can we to check the veracity of reports?

**Response, Alistair:** EPA has undertaken some air monitoring in recent years as part of a targeted program and found no need for further monitoring. EPA has limited resources – if there were indications of a higher risk, monitoring would become a priority.

**Question:** Does the EPA provide general fact sheets regarding air monitoring on a regular basis?

**Response, Alistair:** On the EPA web page there is a fact sheet on air monitoring from 2012.

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2012/august/1465>

Regular reports on air monitoring demonstrated relatively good air quality results. There is more information on the web page. <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/monitoring-victorias-air>

EPA's priority is moving to mobile monitoring of air particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) readings.



#### **Item 5. What has the TLCCG influenced?, Kieren McDermott**

These notes should be read in conjunction with Kieren's presentation which can be seen in full in [Attachment 1](#).

Kieren gave examples of where *he* felt the community and TLCCG had provided some influence in the decision making processes for the landfill including:

- Direction / Steering
- Best Practice cap
- Landfill gas management
- Groundwater monitoring
- Surface water monitoring/Creek water quality
- LNAPL Trial Design and assessment
- Improved Landfill Management outcomes

#### **Comments regarding the cap design included:**

- The community did not influence the final cap design.
- We don't believe it is best practice –it is worse than what the community argued for.
- The cap design is based on 2001 model and this cap is not as good as later designs. Best practice is what we wanted, not what we got. It lacks the biotic layer and the necessary extra monitoring systems.
- The US expert that the EPA used during the cap design said that the cap was not best practice but adequate
- The final report regarding the cap was not the same as the draft presented to the community and key elements had been removed which has undermined the trust between the community and TCL.

#### **Other comments:**

- The community input did stop the tank farm!
- There is no doubt there has been influence from the community although not all the points shown are accurate. There are still some issues where we have been not listened to. It is still worth continuing with TLCCG to discuss these.
- One achievement not listed was TCL's decision to appoint Jen Lilburn to chair the meetings and improve the process of communication.

**Comment, Alistair:** TLCCG is a particularly good forum for discussion around difficult issues. It provides transparency and dialogue which improves outcomes as nothing flies under the radar and TCL is made aware of the community concerns. It lifts the level of influence.

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#### **Item 5. Where to from here?? Jen Lilburn**

These notes should be read in conjunction with Jen's presentation which can be seen in full in [Attachment 2](#).

Jen provided the results from the survey to the TLCCG participants which asked the questions:

- Are TLCCG meetings worthwhile for you?
- Do you have opportunity to contribute to discussions during the meetings?
- Does Transpacific Cleanaway listen to community concerns and feedback about the landfill's rehabilitation?
- How satisfied are you with the information that is provided by Transpacific Cleanaway?
- Are you confident that Transpacific Cleanaway is managing the site appropriately?
- Concerns about the future impact of this site on community health?
- Who participated in the 2015 survey

Overall, the TLCCG meetings were considered very or extremely worthwhile although less so than a year ago. There appears to be ample opportunity to contribute to discussions. It was felt that TCL were listening to the community concerns and providing satisfactory information to the group when needed. There were still many concerned about the site management and its potential impact on the community health into the future.

Comments from the survey highlighted the need to make future improvements including enabling the community to make presentations and influence the agenda.

**Comments at the meeting regarding the agenda included:**

- There are two major items that need to be on the agenda to make it worthwhile – the contamination and use of groundwater and the air quality concerns regarding the potential toxic accumulation in the community.
- Technical reports are not delivered in a manner which allow the community members enough time to digest the information before the meetings.
- The community is currently only the receiver of the information.

**Action 251115\_5:** *The community members to put together a list and present the issues that are still of concern to the community and that have not yet been satisfactorily addressed and a point of frustration, for presentation at the next TLCCG meeting.*

**Action 251115\_6:** *Jen to call for agenda items from the community in future.*

**Question:** Is it possible to have an informal discussion with the technical experts in a manner more aligned with a partnership to help understand the reports and get answers to questions directly such as how does TCL choose the experts and what is their track record on community issues?

**Response, Mick B:** Perhaps there is a need to review goals and objectives for the year

**Response, Alistair:** The discussions are technically focused on the correctness of the data which can be very worrying for everyone and we lose sight of the objective of the testing.

**Comment:** The devil is in the detail!!

**Comments:**

- TCL has two sections – the business/real estate and the landfill management. This is a major issue for the success of the TLCCG as the bufferland rezoning and sale is overriding the community's concerns.
- The community, EPA and the whole of the TCL business have not agreed on the fundamentals that the group is trying to achieve.

**Response, Olga:** It is true that local TCL staff attending this forum can't always influence the greater business sector of TCL. Concerns regarding the sale of the bufferland must be directed via the council appeals process and are separate to this forum.

TCL can, within this forum, be responsive to community concerns and clarify the information provided; provide technical information in a more timely manner and more 'digestible' format; identify any information gaps; ask more questions; not make promises that we can't keep and respond to the actions as they keep coming up.

**Response, Mick B:** It might be better to set S.M.A.R.T. objectives for the complex issues such as groundwater management so we can see progress through milestones which can be reviewed annually.

**Comment:** There were objectives with timelines set at the end of last year but then we received so much information in the middle of the year that these objectives got lost. The community is still learning and still has some concerns. We ask questions when we don't know what is right because there have been flaws in the reports provided and irrelevant information which has resulted in a loss of trust. We need to continue to work hard within this forum.

**Comment: Helen** suggested a model based on another group elsewhere where the company involved funds the community group an allowance which is then used to pay their own experts (~\$20,000) to learn about the issues.

**After the meeting** Olga advised: *It has been decided that rather than pay for an additional consultant, we would rather have content-specific workshops where there is more opportunity for discussion about the work being undertaken. The workshops will allow far more opportunity to discuss work in greater detail without having the agenda or formalities of a scheduled community meeting.*

**Comment:** This always comes back to the issue that TCL has not convinced us that the landfill is safe. The community wants absolute proof of safety.

**Action 251115\_7:** *The community should supply a community check list which TCL can use for any material they present so that they are prepared for the questions that are likely to follow.*

### **Meeting frequency**

Discussion regarding the meeting frequency for 2016 resolved that at least 4 and possibly more were required to maintain the momentum of the discussions and so that the agendas were not over ambitious. Technical information needs to be sent out in a timely manner to allow community discussion and also considered the TTTDAG meetings which are the third Tuesday of the month. Some flexibility may be required.

Olga suggested three meetings to align with the key initiatives of the timeline.

**Action 251115\_8:** Jen and Olga to use the community agenda items at the next meeting to develop the meeting timetable for 2016.

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### **Item 6. EPA Risk Assessment, Alistair Nairn**

These notes should be read in conjunction with Alistair's presentation which can be seen in full in [Attachment 3](#).

Alistair gave an overview of the process used by EPA in developing a Risk Management Plan for EPA projects and how that relates to this Tullamarine site and the Audit system.

The objective of *risk management* is to reduce different risks related to a pre-selected domain to the level accepted by society. [For Tullamarine Landfill site]:

- 'Acceptable level of risk' e.g. the development of State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs), designed to protect 'beneficial uses' e.g. SEPP Groundwaters of Victoria
- 'Domain' e.g. SEPPs, National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) are relevant to particular segments of the environment.
- **Control** – e.g., buffer, bund, a cap, a flare, a filter
- **Risk Management Framework** – e.g. Assessors, Audit system, audit reviews.
- **Risk reduction** – assess risk, apply risk framework, identify measures and controls, statutory notices e.g. Post Closure Pollution Abatement Notice.
- **Risk sharing** – e.g. insurance, financial assurance
- **Stakeholders** – e.g. Local planning authority, Community

The Audit system is a key aspect of environmental risk management in Victoria.

- Auditors appointed by EPA under *Environment Protection Act 1970* EPA provides detailed guidance for conducting audits.
- EPA's role is to administer the environmental audit system in Victoria, which includes appointing environmental auditors and the review of audits undertaken, also ensuring good conduct, periodic review of auditors work and re-appointment.
- Environmental audits must deliver authoritative, independent and transparent advice and recommend measures to reduce identified risks to the environment from a site or industrial facility.

**Question: What if there are no standards or the standards are arbitrary and may not meet the real needs of the situation?**

**Response, Alistair:** Risk management is a constant cycle (see slide 9). Monitoring and review processes will enable the new policies and plans to be established. A systematic process is required.

**Comment: The risks borne by small numbers for the major population benefit is an environmental justice issue. Health costs need to be included in the risk assessment processes for the landfill.**

**Response, Alistair:** There are opportunities to make an allowance for other factors including the concerns of stakeholders in the risk assessment. TLCCG forums inform that process and community feedback can be fed into the risk matrix.

**Question: Can the Auditors present alternatives to the risks – can they be proactive and make suggestions, rather than just responding to processes put forward?**

**Response, Alistair:** The Auditors can recommend measures for alternative solutions and conditions according to the scope of the audit. Advice occurs within existing legal framework and recommendations will be outcome focused. The strategic considerations are more for the EPA itself such as how EPA might change policies to stop this risks occurring in a more proactive role. The Auditors are more analytic of the risks at a site but also provide feedback to EPA.

**Question: The EPA/Auditor reports are not conclusive or decisive and have lengthy disclaimers in them. How do you rate the risks in the audits when the reports are shown to the company before the EPA and changes are made to the document? Also there is an accumulation of errors in the Auditor's reports that the community are finding. The current risk assessment process is not rigorous enough.**

**Response, Alistair:** There is a process for the Auditor to undertake the risk assessment and then it is reviewed by the Environmental Audit Unit of EPA. However, there is a limit to the extent of this critique. Audits are reviewed selectively according to risk based quality assurance program. The EPA undertakes a governance role in assessing Audits rather than a technical assessment of the reports. There are processes in place to guide the choosing and monitoring of the Auditors. The EPA relies heavily on these audits for their risk assessments.

**Comment: The fundamental fault is that the desktop assessment doesn't scrutinise the voracity of the Auditor's reports and the data that has been submitted to make the decisions. No one is liable for any poor decisions made from the recommendations.**

**Response, Alistair:** The Environmental Audit unit in the EPA checks the report but not the data itself. There is lots of scrutiny of the data at different stages and it is important that the appropriately skilled Auditor is engaged in the first instance. EPA can request sections to be scrutinised further when needed. A lot of data is supplied by from other sources that also need to be included.

**Comment:** There are lots of problems with the risk assessments from the Auditors as the decisions are subjective and not always just or fair. Once these matrices are developed they are not challenged by the EPA. Past major flaws in the data were not recanted even after the community complained three times.

**Response, Alistair:** The recent audit reform process has introduced new measures to improve the robust nature of the system. The community can contact the EPA audit unit at any time.

**What are your concerns?**

**Comment:** It would be good to see an independent critique of the audit system undertaken. Worksafe has a different approach and uses a hierarchy of control for more prevention of the risk and to remove the risk.

**Response, Alistair:** EPA has been looking at the Worksafe model.

**Comment:** EPA needs to change the system so that the EPA appoints and pays for the Auditors - not the companies who have a vested interest.

**Comment:** Could we see more information on the audit reform process – what they found and what has been changed and actioned?

**Action 251115\_9:** Alistair to investigate the presentation of the audit reform process to TLCCG.

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Jen thanked everyone for their input.

**Meeting closed 9.40pm**

**ATTACHMENTS**

Att1\_151125 TCL Presentation to TLCCG

Att2\_Results of November 2015 Participant Survey

Att3\_EPA Risk Assessment Overview