



**WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT
Community Liaison Committee
MINUTES OF MEETING
16 August 2011**

Present	Apologies
Brad McLean (Melbourne Water)	Peter McKinnon (Wyndham City Council)
George Judkins (Melbourne Water)	Tamsin Olejnik (EPA Victoria)
Trevor Gulovsen (Melbourne Water)	Linda Parkinson (Community member)
Mark Mason (City West Water)	Monika Schott (Community member)
Michael Naughton (Barwon Water)	Simon White (Community member)
Max Coster (DSE)	John McElvaney (Community member)
Murray Brown (CSIRO)	
Carney Doyle (Community member)	Facilitor
Alex Christo (Community member)	Wes Turnbull
Guests	Minute Taker
Ben Pratt (Melbourne Water)	Rebecca Clancy

1. Welcome and apologies

Wes Turnbull welcomed committee members and the above apologies were received.

An email from Simon White was read indicating he would be unable to attend this meeting and that he had decided not to continue as a committee member due to work commitments.

Monika Schott was also an apology for this meeting and had indicated her intention to resign from the committee due to study commitments.

Wes Turnbull introduced Ben Pratt, a Process Engineer with Melbourne Water, and welcomed him to the meeting as a guest. Ben stated that he was interested to know how his role interacts with the community and was pleased to be part of the meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the May 2011 meeting were confirmed as an accurate record. Moved Murray Brown, Seconded Trevor Gulovsen.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Reports - Questions and discussion

Time was given for committee members to read reports that had not been circulated prior to the meeting. The reports from Melbourne Water, including the EIP Action Plan, Barwon Water and EPA Victoria were then received.

Discussion took place on the following matters arising from the reports:

MW Report

Max Coster noted the increase in the nitrogen discharge and asked about the likely cause. Brad McLean said wet weather had been a major impact as well as the reduction in demand for recycled water both on and off site.

George Judkins elaborated on a number of aspects of the Melbourne Water Report.

- Lagoon Treatment Discharge
 - Increases in sewage flows to WTP from the previous year have contributed to the increase in nitrogen discharge to the bay
 - A decrease in demand for recycled water has also attributed to the increase in nitrogen discharge

Max Coster questioned why the discharge volume has doubled, however flows to WTP have not. Brad Mclean explained that wet weather had reduced the efficiency of the ponds by not allowing natural processes to be as effective. This had also resulted in higher nitrogen levels in the ponds.

Murray Brown asked if this would mean target limits for nitrogen discharge for the financial year will be exceeded. George Judkins advised the target is measured across the whole financial year and will not be exceeded.

Mark Mason asked about discharge management. Brad McLean explained how reductions in nutrient discharges at Lake Borrie had impacted on wader bird food (worms) and the subsequent risk to the bird populations. He explained the mixing zone studies and proposed works which aim to direct nutrient to the nearshore area to sustain the worm populations whilst at the same time the broader bay will remain protected from excessive nutrient.

- Water Recycling
 - Offsite demand has decreased

Murray Brown asked if Werribee South farmers are taking their allocation of shandied water. Brad McLean said that farmers have been provided with increased river water allocations, which reduce their need for recycled water.

- Water Salinity
 - Despite a cooperative effort between the retail water companies and Melbourne Water, no significant reduction in salt loads entering the sewers had been achieved.
 - Melbourne Water continues to work with City West Water (CWW) on the planning and design of its West Werribee Salt Reduction Plant (WWSRP) to supply residents of the West Werribee Dual Water Supply Scheme area.
 - Melbourne Water will provide Class A water and CWW will desalinate a portion of it. The finished product will be Class A quality water with a lower salt content. This will make it suitable for third pipe and public space watering.
 - The WWSRP will begin construction in late 2011 and is due for completion at the end of 2012. It is expected to supply desalinated Class A water in the first half of 2013.
 - Melbourne Water is also supporting CWW to investigate options for the development of a second SRP to supply recycled water to the proposed second stage of the Altona Industrial Precinct project.

Trevor Gulovsen provided the following update on capital works at WTP:

- Wet Weather Capacity Upgrade
 - Construction of the new sewer at the trifurcation area is nearing completion and is moving towards commissioning of the new control gates and PLC's.
 - Commissioning of the channel's automated control program is progressing through to the end of September.
 - Diversion of effluent through the new trifurcation structure is scheduled for 25 August.
 - Reinstatement of paddocks is complete and farmers are preparing the land for cropping.
 - Flootation covers have started to go on.
 - A specification issue has arisen over cover material and is expected to cause a minor delay.
 - The new gas flare has not yet been commissioned due to a faulty gas flow meter. The flare has two burner stages for high and low. The faulty flow meter has meant it has not been possible to select the correct burner configuration.

Murray Brown asked if the section of cover already installed will need to be replaced. Trevor Gulovsen stated that the cover will remain in place while tests are conducted to see if it meets requirements. It is possible that the issue may be resolved by adding another skin. He also explained that this cover was intentionally installed at the non-critical end of the process to guide the installation of other covers.

- Water Recycling
 - A second pipeline is being installed in parallel to the existing one that supplies the HORS. This will allow the on-site Class C supply system to be separated from supply to the Class A recycled water plant. In turn, this will allow effective and efficient management of available recycled water for on-site and off-site use.

EPA Report

- Statutory Activities
 - EPA will now discuss final amendments in relation to the Corporate Licence internally, following the community consultation phase.
 - Discussion of the Corporate Licence by the Melbourne Water Board is scheduled for its October meeting. Following approval it will be authorised by the EPA and will replace the current licences.

Barwon Water Report

- The long term biosolids management project continues. The first of two thermal dryers is operating with biosolids now being processed by the plant.
- A greater volume of biosolids are being processed now that problems encountered during commissioning have been overcome.
- Within the next few weeks it is expected that the drying plant will be able to take all of the biosolids produced by Barwon Water.

6. Survey Results

Results of the recent independent committee survey were presented by George Judkins.

The results showed a high level of satisfaction among members of three of Melbourne Water's largest community liaison committees, including WTP CLC.

The survey indicated a rate of effectiveness among the committees of 95% and included a number of comments from members about various aspects of the committees' operation.

One committee member said they were generally satisfied, but sometimes heard information about the Plant from other residents or businesses in the area. It was acknowledged that information is sometimes not provided to committee members until after the event, particularly matters that arise between meetings.

Max Coster felt that key issues were sometimes not clear and suggested committee members identify one or more issues for discussion prior to each meeting. George Judkins stated that key issues were not always easy to determine, but committee members were welcome to raise issues they were aware of or picked up from the reports. Committee members asked that reports be circulated further in advance of meetings to allow more time for review.

5. Information Update and Terms of Reference Review

The Committee's Terms of Reference require that they should be reviewed every two years and it is now three years since they were adopted. A review discussion was held and the following comments were made:

Some committee members did not feel they were kept sufficiently informed about matters such as the sale of land at WTP, as outlined in Section 3 of the Terms of Reference.

The committee asked for a greater level of input from the WTP Biodiversity Committee be provided. The Terms of Reference state that a representative of the WTP Biodiversity Committee be invited to present a report about their meetings and activities to the CLC at least once a year. At other times, the actions of the Biodiversity Committee are recorded and circulated to the CLC.

Wes Turnbull reminded the committee that the minutes of Biodiversity Committee meetings are available on the Melbourne Water website. A link will be circulated to CLC members to ensure they have ready access. A representative of the Biodiversity Committee will also be invited to present to one of the next meetings of the CLC.

Following discussion, it was suggested that updates may be required for the following items:

- The Background section needs to reflect the actual boundaries of the WTP
- Aims & Objectives should reflect all boundaries that are impacted by WTP operations and activities (i.e. not just within the City of Wyndham)

7. Other business

- Wes Turnbull informed the committee that Melbourne Water is finalising a policy for the future selection of committee members. Consistent with the terms of reference, the policy will be designed to maintain a balance between community and agency representatives.
- The committee noted the time and contribution made by Simon White during his time as a member of the WTP CLC. Appreciation was also expressed for the perspective Simon has offered on matters relating to WTP. A letter of thanks will be sent by Brad McLean.
- A tour of the Plant will be arranged for the next meeting. Details will be advised.

8. Close

Wes Turnbull thanked Ben Pratt on behalf of the committee for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15 November 2011 and will be held at the Western Treatment Plant, unless otherwise notified.