



**WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT
Community Liaison Committee
MINUTES OF MEETING
15 February 2011**

Present	Apologies
Peter McKinnon (Wyndham City Council)	Monika Schott (Community member)
David Barkley (Barwon Water)	Simon White (Community member)
Murray Brown (CSIRO)	Tamsin Olejnik (EPA Victoria)
Linda Parkinson (Community member)	Max Coster (DSE)
Brad McLean (Melbourne Water)	Mark Mason (City West Water)
George Judkins (Melbourne Water)	Harry van Moorst (Western Region Environment Centre)
Trevor Gulovsen (Melbourne Water)	Facilitator
Alex Christo (Community member)	Michael Keough (Melbourne Water)
John McElvaney (Community member)	Wes Turnbull (Melbourne Water)
Carney Doyle (Community member)	
Bart Keogh (Southern Rural Water)	Minutes
Rob Morris (Southern Rural Water)	Rebecca Clancy (Melbourne Water)
Michael Naughton (Barwon Water)	
Lindsay Swinden (Western Region Environment Centre)	Guests
Vivian Amenta (DSE)	Tony Robinson (EPA Victoria – Statutory Facilitation Manager)
	Andrew Oliver (EPA Victoria - Statutory Facilitation)

1. Welcomes and apologies

Michael Keough welcomed Wes Turnbull and Rebecca Clancy (Melbourne Water) and Vivian Amenta (DSE), who was stepping in for Max Coster (DSE).

Apologies were received as above.

2. Melbourne Water Report

George Judkins provided a presentation on the effects of the 4 – 5 February wet weather event at WTP. George's presentation featured

- Images of flooding at the treatment plant
- Damage which occurred as a result of the wet weather
- Impacts on processes
- Compromise to recycled water
- Impact on biosolids
- Compromise to the quality of discharge
- Operational impacts

George talked in detail about the effects of road blockages due to flooding and impact on attending to operational matters and possible issues arising from heavy rainfall.

Discussion followed the presentation on the effects on current upgrades to the treatment plant. Works are still expected to be fully completed in August 2011.

The committee commented on the successful operation of the plant resulting in no spills.

3. Handover to new Facilitator

Michael Keough introduced new facilitator Wes Turnbull and minute taker Rebecca Clancy.

The committee expressed its appreciation to Michael for facilitating meetings in recent years.

Committee members took part in an exercise to better get to know at least one other person.

The meeting was adjourned for refreshments. It resumed with Wes Turnbull as facilitator.

4. Previous Minutes and Reports

The minutes of the December 2010 meeting were accepted with those amendments received and circulated prior to the meeting.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no arising business matters from previous minutes.

4. Questions for Clarification of current reports

Time was given for the committee to read the report from EPA Victoria, as there had not been an opportunity for it to be circulated prior to the meeting. Reports were then received from Melbourne Water, Barwon Water and EPA Victoria.

EPA Report

- EPA Pollution Incidents and Reports
 - Nil reports from WTP
- A question was asked about why the report mentioned Bangholme and Frankston. It was thought this was because the report included all incidents relating to Melbourne Water

Barwon Water Report

- Commissioning of the biosolids drying facility has commenced with biosolids expected to be introduced from April 2011
- Site was to be vacated by June 2012. That date may now need to be extended.
- Due to wet weather event Barwon Water have experienced delays to drying. It has been determined that no further biosolids should be distributed on the drying pad at present.
- Odour from the facility has remained at a low level and continues to be monitored.

MW Report

- No active breach of EPA licence from wet weather event at WTP
- There were discussions around greenhouse and energy:
 - WTP is energy neutral, i.e. meeting own energy requirements

- Carbon emissions plan by 2018
- Due to wet weather event there were increased flows into bay
- Recycling diminished due to wet weather event
- There were questions about salinity:
 - In response to a question about whether there was anything being done to assist farmers, Brad McLean explained an exercise with City West Water on planning and design of its Salt Reduction Plant (SRP). Melbourne Water continues to work with retail businesses and end user customers on longer term strategies that consider salinity management as part of a holistic approach. Southern Rural Water’s Western Irrigation Futures Study is one example.

5. Address by EPA Victoria Statutory Facilitation

Tony Robinson and Andrew Oliver were invited to address the meeting. They began by explaining that the EPA need to improve the current licensing system to increase efficiency and effectiveness and make sure licence holders clearly understand their obligations and take responsibility for both meeting those and demonstrating performance. EPA need to more easily take action where obligations are not met. EPA expects companies to ensure they meet compliance and go beyond. EPA will take a strong position on companies that seek to avoid compliance so that there is a more level playing field. For those that do the right thing, EPA want to help companies deliver better outcomes.

A licensing reform program aims to deliver all of these things. Overall the reformed licences are significantly streamlined and simplified. They focus on the outcomes that are required, not on how a licence holder will achieve them – companies will need to decide how to meet their requirements.

EPA is currently in the process of reforming Melbourne Water’s licence. This will be a two step process which will involve an extensive transcription step, review by EPA staff and by the licence holder. Before finalising the licence, EPA wants to give Melbourne Water the opportunity to view the draft version and have discussions around key items.

Environmental Risk	Points on reforms discussed
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ New annual performance standards ◦ Licence to be available on website ◦ Broader monitoring reflected ◦ Context of conditions available on website
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ‘Mixing zone’ signage and communication showing extent of zone, operators name, licence number and discharge point
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A clearer definition will be required on the effects to groundwater
Waste Acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Review of the definition of sewage
Sustainability Commitments	<p>Improvements on sustainability commitments to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Water Industry Principles and Projects ◦ Knowledge and data sharing framework ◦ Waterways monitoring, management and improvement strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Reducing the disposal to sewer of priority contaminants ◦ Increasing effluent recycling and biosolids reuse ◦ Reducing operational emissions and waste ◦ Monitoring and improvement programmes for licensed sites ◦ Community Openness and Engagement
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6. Close

We thanked Tony Robinson and Andrew Oliver on behalf of the committee for attending and reminded committee members to put some thought around the sustainability commitments for discussion at the next meeting.

The committee again thanked and acknowledged the significant contribution Michael Keough (Melbourne Water) had made during his years as facilitator.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Actions from this meeting

EPA – “Interpreting a Reformed Licence - Sustainability Commitments” points to be discussed next meeting:

- Water Industry Principles and Projects
- Knowledge and data sharing framework
- Waterways monitoring, management and improvement strategy
- Reducing the disposal to sewer of priority contaminants
- Increasing effluent recycling and biosolids reuse
- Reducing operational emissions and waste
- Monitoring and improvement programmes for licensed sites
- Community Openness and Engagement

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 May 2011.

It will be held at the Western Treatment Plant unless otherwise notified.