



**WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT  
Community Liaison Committee  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
17 May 2011**

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

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

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

Andrew Oliver was also welcomed as a guest when he joined the meeting.

### **2. Previous Minutes**

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 matters arising from the previous minutes.

### **4. Reports - Questions and discussion**

Time was given for committee members to read reports not circulated prior to the meeting. The reports from Melbourne Water, Barwon Water and EPA Victoria were then received. They included the following highlights:

#### **EPA Report**

- Statutory Activities

- Corporate Licence – Part 1 Draft Sustainability Commitments complete; Part 2 Licence Conditions in final stages. Scheduled to be approved by MW and EPA by 30 June 2011.
- A copy of the licence will be circulated to the committee for comment. A response will be required two weeks from when the copy is sent.
- EIP – EPA is reviewing the Irrigation Management Plan associated with the recycled water Environmental Improvement Plan.
- EPA Pollution Incidents and Reports
  - Nil reports from WTP
  - Discussion took place about recent releases of sewage into waterways. Brad McLean explained the cost considerations associated with upgrading sewer infrastructure from the current 1:5 year capacity. There was also discussion about major projects currently being undertaken by Melbourne Water to upgrade the system.
- Other
  - An EPA review has identified that Victorian industry needs clarity about what constitutes current best practice in the management of contaminated soils. The EPA is proposing to issue a classification of Category A, B and C contaminated soil with associated management options. The draft classification is available on the EPA website.

### **Barwon Water Report**

- Short term biosolids project continues to operate at WTP.
- Odour from the facility has remained at a low level and continues to be monitored.
- No biosolids have been distributed onto the drying pad since the end of winter 2010 in order to decrease the volume of sludge being dried and reduce the risk of odours being generated during wet conditions.
- Long term biosolids management project continues. Commercial Acceptance of the facility is now programmed for 31 August 2011.

### **MW Report**

Trevor Gulovsen provided an update on the Wet Weather Capacity Upgrade and Lagoon Cover Replacement projects at WTP.

- Wet Weather Capacity Upgrade
  - This project involves duplicating the Main Southern Carrier between the bifurcation at Boundary Road and 160S Road. It is reconnected to the original sewer at this location and splits three ways at a trifurcation to the existing sewer and new inlets to the 55E and 25W lagoons. The works also include an upgrade of the 15East main drain outlet.
  - A significant milestone was achieved in April when sewage was diverted into the new channel.
  - Demolition of the existing channel at the trifurcation area has commenced.
  - A new inlet to the 25W lagoon has been completed. Concrete lining of the new 25W inlet sewer branch is also complete.
  - Reinstatement of the paddocks and the borrow pits is well underway.

- 55E Lagoon Cover Replacement
  - Two new blowers for the biogas plant upgrade have been commissioned and the new flare is undergoing testing.
  - Plastic floats that form the first section of the gas cover have been installed.
  - A segmented cover will minimise odour when dredging works are done.
- Works on High Voltage Supplies
  - Duplicate lines along 15E Road are being installed to allow for more reliable power supply.
- EIP & Action Plan
  - A summary report of progress against the EIP actions was circulated.
  - The new corporate licence will have some effect on the need for an EIP. EPA reviewing.
- Odour Management
  - Achieved compliance, no complaints were received for the period.
- Water Recycling
  - Recent wet weather has impacted recycled water output.
  - A new pipeline will allow the onsite Class C supply system to be separated from the supply to the Class A plant.
  - Melbourne Water has awarded construction of the new pipeline to the Pipelines Alliance.
  - Construction is planned for May 2011 and is scheduled for completion in December 2011.
- Nitrogen Discharge
  - Heavy rain and excess flows into the system contributed to an increase in nitrogen discharge.
  - The discharge is still within target.
  - The increase of nitrogen discharge into the mixing zone and near shore environment in comparison to recent years is expected to be of benefit to the infauna, the food source for the migratory wader birds.
- Agriculture
  - WTP agriculture business outsourcing is a two stage strategy.
  - MPH Agriculture was chosen to assist in developing and implementing the strategy. They will operate primary production activities under a lease/concession agreement (Stage 2).
  - The collaborative agreement for transitioning from the WAG operation to MPH Agriculture has now moved to the operation phase.
  - The first twelve months of operation have been focused on establishing plans that will allow a successful transition to the final lease arrangement and enable MPH to establish a suitable team to carry out the day to day operation activities.
  - Crop yield was successful however rain prevented a successful crop harvest.

A question was asked about issues with harvest quality. Brad McLean advised the harvested crop was in the testing phase.

## **5. Information Update and Terms of Reference Review**

Wes Turnbull advised the committee that the annual survey of the CLCs effectiveness would take place in the coming month. Committee members were asked to confirm or update their contact information to ensure they could be reached by the company undertaking the survey.

He also reminded members that information about WTP and the CLC is available on the Melbourne Water website, and that this information may assist them when responding to community enquiries.

The CLC Terms of Reference are also available on the website and provide an outline of the committee's objectives and role of committee members.

Wes Turnbull also advised the CLC Terms of Reference is due for review and would be discussed at the next meeting.

## **6. Address by EPA Victoria Statutory Facilitation**

Tamsin Olejnik and Andrew Oliver were invited to address the meeting and provide an update on the Environmental Licence review process. Improvements to the current licensing system are being developed to increase efficiency and effectiveness. They are also intended to ensure licence holders clearly understand their obligations and take responsibility for meeting them and demonstrating performance. The process for EPA to take action where obligations are not met will also be simplified.

There will be an expectation that companies will not only meet compliance requirements, but exceed them. A strong stand will be taken against companies that seek to avoid compliance, providing a more level playing field. Better outcomes will be available for those that do the right thing.

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 has developed a draft licence which will apply to all of the water authorities in Victoria and provide other necessary reforms. Its adoption will be a two step process involving a detailed transition step, review by EPA staff and by the licence holder. Before finalising the licence, EPA wants to give Melbourne Water and the CLC an opportunity to view the draft and provide feedback on the sustainability commitment. The licence sign off is expected to take place at the end of June.

There was also discussion about extreme wet weather events, such as the one that took place on 4-5 February this year, and how best to inform the community of their environmental impact. Tamsin indicated that EPA will work with the relevant authorities to find the right balance for such extreme events. Melbourne Water and EPA will continue to work closely together at these times to provide effective communication.

This year's extreme events have generated an even higher level of community awareness because they were not seen during the last 10 years due to the drought.

## **7. Other business**

Staff tree planting activities are scheduled along Little River on Friday 20 May and Friday 24 June 2011.

## **8. Close**

Wes Turnbull thanked guest, Andrew Oliver on behalf of the committee for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

**The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 August 2011.**

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

NOTE: Committee Members are asked to review the CLC Terms of Reference, noting areas for discussion at the next meeting.