

**WESTERN TREATMENT PLANT
Community Liaison Committee
MINUTES OF MEETING
17 November 2009**

Present	Apologies
John McElvaney (community member)	Harry van Moorst (Western Region Environment Centre)
Alex Christo (community member)	Ray Humphriss (Western Region Environment Centre)
Carney Doyle (community member)	David Hill (Melbourne Water)
Murray Brown (CSIRO)	Monika Schott (community member)
Marc Cassanet (EPA)	Linda Parkinson (community member)
Rob Morris (Southern Rural Water)	
Michael Naughton (Barwon Water)	
Mark Mason (City West Water)	Facilitator
Max Coster (DSE)	Michael Keough (Melbourne Water)
Brad McLean (Melbourne Water)	
George Judkins (Melbourne Water)	Minutes
Trevor Gulovsen (Melbourne Water)	Trevor Gulovsen / Michael Keough (Melbourne Water)

1. Welcomes and apologies

The committee expressed appreciation to Trevor Gulovsen, Warren Blyth and George Judkins as guides on the pre-meeting tour of the plant. Michael Keough welcomed members to the final meeting for the year. Apologies were received as above. The committee heard that Ray Humphriss had been admitted to hospital and requested that the Facilitator send him their best wishes.

2. Previous Minutes and Business Arising

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted. Updates were given on actions recorded in the August minutes:

- No further information had been found on salinity monitoring in the Werribee River.
- Recommendations in the committee survey conducted in July 2009 are being considered as part of the communications plan for the plant and will be progressively introduced.
- A note congratulating Clinton Rodda on his new role as Managing Director of Southern Rural Water was sent as requested.
- Regarding Alex Christo's comments about odour, it was noted that the Odour Control Plant at Hoppers Crossing was offline for programmed maintenance at the time the odour was observed. Alex was satisfied by the response to the observation. Brad McLean noted that the weather conditions also suggested that WTP was also a potential odour source at that time. Another observation was received in early November. Odours were being noticed about once per fortnight onsite near the WTP Odour Control Facility in low/calm wind conditions. It was noted that chemical dosing at the Hoppers Crossing Pump Station will assist in controlling these events.

Carney Doyle suggested that there are discrepancies in Melbourne Water's reporting of odour complaints. Carney Doyle disputed the accuracy of Melbourne Water's annual odour compliance reporting, referring to the 2008/09 Sustainability Report. In response George Judkins stated that Melbourne Water records and reports all complaints of offensive odours received and undertakes investigations provided the complaint is received in a timely manner. Weather data is also examined. In most cases when complaints are received operations at WTP are normal but weather conditions can influence odour transmission. All instances construed to be complaints are recorded and reported.

Marc Cassanet stated that the EPA only records odour complaints in its database when complaints are lodged with its Pollution Watch area. If Melbourne Water notifies its EPA Client Relationship Manager (Marc Cassanet), it will not necessarily be recorded in the database.

It was agreed that the odour observations made by Alex Christo and discussed at the meeting were "friendly observations" not complaints. Brad McLean said that it was important that Melbourne Water receive information about any odours direct from CLC members.

Carney Doyle requested responses to four questions he raised in an email sent to Michael Keough before the meeting. Michael read the questions and George Judkins and Marc Cassanet provided responses.

- Maintenance of the heritage-listed hangars. (Carney asked what was being done to maintain the hangars as there is an expectation that they be maintained as they are heritage listed. Carney expressed concern that trusses salvaged from demolished hangars are outside.) As reported in the Melbourne Water Report to the committee in August 2009, Melbourne Water and VicUrban are working closely with Heritage Victoria to determine the best outcomes for Hangars 1 and 2. VicUrban has engaged engineering firm Hyder Consulting to undertake a structural assessment of the hangars and its report is being considered.
- Possibility of the hangars collapsing. The hangars have been propped up to prevent them from collapsing whilst discussions with Heritage Victoria are being held.
- Reporting of odour complaints during the Panel Hearing for the Riverwalk rezoning application. (Carney expressed his concern that the EPA at the hearing indicated that no odour complaints had been received). At the hearing it was acknowledged that there are odour issues that Melbourne Water is currently addressing. Odour complaints received since about 2005 have been minimal and no complaints had been received since 20 April 2009.
- Environmental Management Plan for the Riverwalk subdivision. (Carney asserted that it is a legal requirement for there to be an EMP for the subdivision works.) Dalton Civil Engineering Pty Ltd will manage the EMP and it will be reviewed by VicUrban and Melbourne Water.

It was noted that WTP EPA compliance reports on Melbourne Water's website are not up to date. It was further noted that Melbourne Water now collates a number of reports into its annual Sustainability Report and the suggestion was made that a note on the appropriate web page could be added to explain this.

Action: Facilitator to arrange latest compliance reports for website and to suggest note regarding Sustainability Report to be added to web page on Melbourne Water's website.

3. Reports

EPA Report

- The EPA has begun a process for EPA licence reform, which will include streamlined standard licence conditions. WTP will receive a new licence.
- The EPA is trialling a web forum to receive community comments about the ETP Treatment Upgrade (regarding Melbourne Water's Works Approval Application to the EPA for the planned upgrade to tertiary treatment at ETP).

Action: Facilitator to suggest note regarding Sustainability Report be added to web page on Melbourne Water's website.

Barwon Water

- The biosolids management project has been delayed due to problems with the dryer plates. The plant is now expected to be completed in July 2010. This means biosolids will continue to be transported to WTP until July 2010. The committee had no objection to this extension.

Melbourne Water

- A chemical dosing plant at the Hoppers Crossing Pump Station is being constructed. (See item 2 above regarding expected improvement to odour from this work.)

4. General business

- WTP is currently not requesting any change in the raw sewage TDS (total dissolved solids) limit. Currently the median TDS result is 980 mg/l.
- It was requested that Melbourne Water arrange a guest speaker to talk about measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the plant.
- John McElvaney requested that a representative of MPH Agriculture attend the CLC to provide input to the committee.
- Brad McLean expressed his appreciation on behalf of the plant for CLC members attending meetings throughout the year.
- Michael Keough thanked Melbourne Water staff who have contributed behind the scenes to this year's meetings, including Antoinette Dimakis (who coordinates Melbourne Water's report to the committee each quarter) and Bambi Dodd (who arranges catering), and he thanked Marc Cassanet and Michael Naughton for their quarterly reports from the EPA and Barwon Water.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Actions from this meeting

Action	Responsible
Arrange presentation on greenhouse gas reduction at WTP and by the newly appointed farm management.	MK/B McL
Facilitator to follow up Action Item 1 (salinity monitoring).	MK
Melbourne Water to review and implement recommendations for further improvement to committee management.	GJ / MK
Arrange latest compliance reports for website and to suggest note regarding Sustainability Report be added to web page on Melbourne Water's website.	MK

Next meeting: Tuesday 16 February 2010