

Waste Strategy Steering Committee
Meeting 1
MINUTES

Meeting held 27 June 2017 at
Council Offices – Roberts Ave – Wimmera Room
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Present
Cr David Grimble (Chair), Kelvin Howe, Daryl Hobbs, John Martin, La Vergne Lehmann, David Bowe, Rhonda Coffey, Jared Hammond, Mick Morris, Wendy Lynch, David Pratt, Millie Spence, Steven Schultz
2. Apologies
Bernie Naylor, Heather Phillips
3. Introduction of Members
 - a. Brief introduction of self
Cr Grimble – HRCC representative on Regional Waste Forum
John Martin – Director Technical Services for Council.
La Vergne Lehmann – Acting Executive Officer Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group (GCWWRRG)
David Bowe – Interested in coming up with a great strategy
Rhonda Coffey – Keen gardener, and would like a green waste collection service
David Pratt – President of Horsham Urban Landcare Group, strong interest in waste
Wendy Lynch – Rural Access Worker – interested in aged care
Kelvin Howe – Waste Supervisor for Council
Jared Hammond – Plans landfill works for Council
Daryl Hobbs – WestonVic Waste – commercial waste operator
Millie Spence – Year 11 Student – keen on expanding recycling services in rural area
Mick Morris – Wastebusters – commercial recycling for many years
Steven Schultz – Farmer – set up machinery for shredding, baling and exporting waste
4. About This Project – John Martin
 - a. Council’s broad objectives for this strategy
 - As presented in the distributed notes.
 - b. Project outline
 - As presented in the distributed notes.
 - c. Meeting arrangements (day of week / time of day)

- Agreed that 4 pm is a suitable time for the group

5. Council's current waste operations

a. Services provided – Kelvin Howe

- Collection services – urban and rural
- Recycling (under contract)
- Delivery of bins
- Green waste is only accepted at transfer station
- Transfer stations, Kenny Rd and five rural locations.
- Public events – provision of bins
- Litter bins – cleaned once a fortnight and emptied 3 times a week
- Detox your home – specific program conducted every 2 years
- E-waste – goes to transfer station and then taken to Axis Worx
- 11 staff and relieving driver, including 4 staff at Dooen Landfill
- Street sweeper operations
- Collection of dumped rubbish – try to find out who dumped rubbish, then they are fined
- Transfer truck – pick up skips in Yarriambiack Council.
- Contractors from neighbouring Councils dispose of waste at Dooen Landfill
- Asbestos disposal at Dooen Landfill (though not at the moment)
- Chem Clear – typically every 12 months

b. Current issues – John Martin

- Low level of waste diverted from Landfill. Horsham is ranked 78th lowest out of 79 municipalities in Victoria.
- If people are only to have a small bin, then if that bin gets full, the rubbish sometimes gets put in a recycle bin.
- One other Council has gone to a fortnightly waste bin and weekly recycling bin.
- Community interested in green waste bin but at present we don't have a use for green waste.
 - Can't use wet green waste for energy – only dry. Could farmers use it?
 - Need to have the market for this. Closest is Bacchus Marsh.
- If Council was to get some strategies in place to reduce waste to landfill, could save some money in EPA fees
- The government is considering banning all E-waste (i.e. electronic waste) to landfill
- Stewardship schemes – for recycling products like E-waste
- Transfer Station contract about to be re-advertised

c. Financial aspects – John Martin

- As presented in the distributed notes. Some additional points through discussion were:
 - Small income from scrap steel
 - Illegal dumping cost – about six incidents each year

d. State policy issues – La Vergne Lehmann

- Government is currently preparing a new policy at the moment
- Government does not want to build more landfills – would like to reduce amount of waste that is going to landfills and recycling more.
- Region is well placed to look at using waste for energy.
- Ban on E-waste – not sure what that will look like or how it will work at this stage. This includes anything with a cord or battery.
- There are new technologies coming out all the time.
 - This government is keen on new opportunities in regional Victoria
 - A problem will be freight – due to distances
- State government is also interested in organics, and is going to be developing a strategy on this.
 - This isn't as easy as just instituting a third bin
 - No point in introducing this unless we know where the waste is going to go
- Looking at rolling out a recycling education program
- Regional plan just completed
- In Ballarat green waste service was first rolled out for some residents – a lot more are now wanting this.

6. Scope of Project

- a. Issues and options – The following issues were identified in the discussion with the Committee
 - What can be done with the bulk of green waste
 - Education is needed on what can be put in recycling bins?
 - New packaging – how does this fit into recycling? What does it mean to recycling?
 - Could you have different coloured bags for different items then put them in the bin.
 - Could be a separate bin for glass? Contractors picking up bins try to get as much on their trucks as possible and glass is breaking
 - More education on recycling. Need a new system rather than just calendars
 - New products – evaluating what can be done with them when they reach the end of their lives
 - Large portion of community who don't have transport for waste products. Need kerbside collection.
 - Options for green waste, including a kerbside collection service, which could be voluntary or compulsory, or a free drop off service at transfer stations.
 - Options for hard waste, including kerbside collection, vouchers for disposal at the transfer station, improved recovery options for these at transfer stations. There are other councils that have a phone in service for elderly and others who don't have access to a vehicle. There is a commercial service in town that does collect waste items.
 - A review of bin sizes and / or collection frequency.
 - Expansion of garbage and recycling collection services in rural areas.
 - Operation of Kenny Road and rural transfer stations at Jung, Pimpinio, Toolondo, Mt Zero and Quantong (e.g. opening hours/days).

- Whether there should be a transfer station at Natimuk.
- The annual garage sale trail event.
- Recycling at community and sporting events.
- Adaptation of services for people with limited abilities.
- Charges for commercial operators to create the right mix of incentives to improve recovery rates and landfill utilisation.
- How the range of waste and recoverable materials streams will be managed.
- Review of the design of the Kenny Road transfer station, including the ability for additional categories of materials to be recovered.
- Opportunities to reduce the cost of operation of Dooen Landfill.
- We should review a waste strategy from another Council to see what we ideas they have.
- Rural recycling and clean up around farms
- Use of plastic supermarket bags. Some states have tried to introduced bans but have still had problems. Horsham is trying to introduce boomerang bags.
- Food waste is biggest waste to landfill – something needs to be done about this. There are programs that supermarkets can be getting involved in
- Container deposit schemes – other states have these.
- Consider the introduction of tip vouchers.

7. Engagement

- a. Identification of stakeholders – All
 - The distributed notes included a list of the likely stakeholders who we need to engage through this project.
 - Let John or Danielle know if there is any stakeholder group who should be added to the list.
- b. Engagement methods
 - Some suggestions on additional engagement included:
 - School children should be involved
 - Something to go with rate notices
- c. Updates from each meeting
 - Agreed that information from this meeting would be made public via a media release. Names of people on the committee would be published on the website.
 - It was agreed that we would list the issues identified at this meeting, and seek the community's comments on that list, for consideration at the next meeting. This would then clarify the scope of this project.
 - Also agreed to publish information about Horsham's low diversion of material from landfill.

8. Next meeting

- a. Date (25 July – 4pm – 6pm)
- b. Main agenda items
 - i. Vision for Strategy

- ii. Develop options / issues
- iii. Education / awareness
- iv. Detailed Project and Engagement Plan
- v. Issue paper on recycling performance
- vi. Costs for garbage service – La Vergne to provide information from another council

9. Meeting closed at 6:02pm

John Martin
Director Technical Services