

MINUTES

Wednesday, 7 September 2022 at 5:30pm

Facilitated By: Susan McNair (Currie)

Online – Zoom

Note Taker: Jenny Tran (Currie)

ATTENDEES

	12/08/20	14/10/20	10/02/21	14/04/21	09/06/21	11/08/21	13/10/21	09/02/22	13/04/22	15/06/22	07/09/22
David Banner (DB)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Robin Dzedins (RD)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Tony O'Hara (TOH)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Halina Gwizdzil (HG)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Vernadette Dickson(VD)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Vandana Rama (VR)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shannon Lynch (SL)											Yes

GUESTS AND STAFF

Veolia: Steven Marshall (SM), Chris Watkins (CW), Lachlan James (LJ), Nial Stock (NS)
EPA: Bianca Sigismundi (BS), Adele Shalevski (AS), Trish Brice (TB), Sibel Ali (SA), Steve Pugh (SP)
City of Casey: Jason Pullman (JP)

APOLOGIES

Miles Wiederman

FACILITATOR

Susan McNair (SMc)

Background materials:

220615_HRL_CRG Minutes

Veolia Hallam Road CRG TOR_Draft

5:30pm WELCOME AND AGENDA (Facilitator)

- SMc welcomed everyone to the meeting
- SMc advised everyone on the change to the agenda
 1. Hampton Park Hill Development
 2. Site update
 3. Governance
 4. Compliance update
 5. EPA update
- Each member of the CRG provided a brief introduction of themselves to the group

5:40pm HAMPTON PARK HILL DEVELOPMENT (Jason Pullman, City of Casey, Nial Stock, Director of Strategic Projects, Veolia)

- JP provided an update on the Hampton Park Hill Development Plan (HPHDP) ([see Casey Conversations: Strategic Planning for Hampton Park Hill](#))
- The current Development Plan was amended about three years ago to reflect the State government policy around waste and resource recovery.
- The Council has proposed a new HPHDP to consider the impacts of changed State strategy on local strategy and policy.
- The Council has received around 1100 submissions to the proposal during the public consultation period [6 July to 14 August].
- The Council is going through all of these submissions with engagement consultants to capture all the key themes and comments.
- The revised Development Plan puts forward a number of broad proposals around waste and resource recovery, some open space, employment opportunities and better reflection of existing buffers that are already in place.
- TOH commented that the change to the Development Plan is rather a reinvention of the whole Plan with a lot more additions to the previous plan.
- VD asked for elaboration on the council meeting to put the revised plan forward, what it means and how that would impact the community.
- JP explained the normal process of reviewing submissions, noting that the Council is still forming a position as an organisation and workshoping these matters.
- VD asked for the timeline of the review process.
- JP recommended checking the Casey Conversation webpage and noted that a council meeting date has not been confirmed.
- SL asked if the Council could contact the Lynbrook Resident Association or some of the community groups when the council meeting happens so the community can get engaged.
- JP explained that if community members have made a submission, have followed the Casey Conversations page or have left an email with the project, they would get early notification of the council meeting to consider the Plan.

5:50pm SITE UPDATE (Nial Stock, Director of Strategic Projects, Veolia) – see ‘Hampton Park Transfer Station - Overview for Community Reference Group’ slide pack below

- The proposed transfer station will consolidate and transfer waste for Maryvale energy from waste, increase recycling from waste.
- Other sites (at Taylors Road and Ordish Road) were considered but cannot support the transfer station due to ownership and other growing conditions.

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- A layout of the transfer station was displayed showing different sections of the transfer station. There is a separate entry and exit for vehicles (slide 4).
 - A significant upgrade of the plan is a public drop-off area with a café and better public facilities.
 - The planning permit will seek up to 550k tonnes of waste per annum.
 - Refer to slides 6 and 7 for environmental compliance – air quality and water quality
 - Golder have assisted Veolia in writing the air quality report and doing the tests.
 - Refer to slide 8 for the benefits of the transfer station development including a better place for recycling, better traffic and local employment.
 - SL asked if Veolia has any of these sites currently running in Australia.
 - NS mentioned similar sites in Sydney and Clyde in Banksmeadow. There're also 3 in Perth.
 - SL was concerned about fire safety due to the facility's proximity to residential houses and some recent fires in these indoor facilities across Australia and internationally.
 - NS said that it's a potential issue that Veolia is aware of and will comply with the fire regulations.
 - SM added that Veolia recently built a transfer station in Shepparton where there are solid fire safety and management requirements. So there is a lot of governance around fire controls in these facilities.
 - NS further added that waste is straight away packed into containers so the fire risk will be minimal.
 - TOH commented that Veolia should reconsider the plan with respect for the local people:
 - The land on the south side of Taylors Road should be considered a serious option as it's close to the inland rail loop that could take the waste down to Maryvale.
 - TOH voiced concern over the number of trucks going in and out affecting local residents, especially regarding noise level, and as the transfer station is very close to residential properties, if there is any odour concentrated, this will cause air pollution to the local residents.
 - NS explained that Veolia has done a lot of work on rail and the rail option is not realistically possible.

NS said the truck numbers are a net. The A Doubles don't start until later in the morning but the transfer station will be open at midnight. Hence, the traffic will be light until the A Doubles start turning up at about 6 am.
 - NS commented on odours and advised that odours are subject to modelling and will be further examined based on their best experience with these facilities.
 - VR noted that there were two children hit by trucks 10 years ago and Veolia should be thinking about the safety of the community.
 - VR believed that the facility is not appropriately placed and wanted to know the thought process that went into designing the transfer station.
 - VR asked if the Casey Council has considered any compensation to local residents for the building of this facility.
 - JP acknowledged that applying retrospective amenity buffer or safety buffer in this instance is extremely difficult and upsetting to the community.
 - JP explained that the Council is looking at the community interests around safety and amenity.
 - VR acknowledged that transparency is important. VR noted that many community members are upset because they have lost property values and there is potentially class action.
 - JP reiterated that there are limited, if any, opportunities for compensation when dealing with land use planning policy.
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6:20pm GOVERNANCE (SMc)

Previous meeting minutes were confirmed, and outstanding action items were held over (see Action Tracker).

Item 1 - Veolia to invite Casey Council to present RE: the Hub and Development Plans at a future meeting.

- Actioned for this meeting

Item 2 – Veolia to notify the CRG when refilling of pond 1 or 2 commences.

- Adhoc requirement. Ponds are probably a couple of months away from being ready for discharge

Item 4 – Veolia to provide education session on odours when CRG back in person.

- Next meeting is likely to be in person. Veolia will reach out to EPA to bring in an odour specialist to provide an education session on odours.

Item 5 – LJ to report on Hampton Park C&D Recycling Facility processes and compliance around trucks and road impact.

- LJ reached out to Damian Midrow – Site Manager. The recycling facility has got a road wash system that has been operating all winter. They inspected daily and also hourly during wet weather. Not much truck movement on unsealed roads. No complaints from VicRoads in the last two years. Veolia has controls around making sure that these roads are acceptable and not posing risks.
- TOH noted that the Casey Council's map of the area shows the other side of the road in sandy colour.
- SM commented that there's a lot of residues on that road from the construction. The barriers were pulled up not long ago.

Item 3a – Terms of Reference (TOR) to be distributed for CRG member feedback.

- The draft TOR were provided to the group and attached to the meeting invite.
- The TOR is part of a commitment from Veolia to refresh its community engagement around the site and provide a more structured and transparent approach.
- Feedback was received.
 - Some was around the details of the document. The draft TOR is a simplified version of the previous TOR based on other examples and guidance around it.
 - Second concern is around the requirement that community members must be current residents or within the site locale. This requirement is around ensuring participants in the CRG are representative of residents and local community, and to get as many relevant people to join the CRG as possible. There is no intention to exclude anyone. The existing members have expressed interest, commitment and support to have Tony with the group and will put an exemption in place around that requirement for Tony.
- VR commented that the TOR feels like an employment contract because of the requirement to report back to the community they represent.
- SMc explained that it'll not just be one person but all 12 CRG members sharing the information as best they can to their networks.
- Recruitment to the CRG will be undertaken between now and the next meeting. Currie/Veolia will be talking with the council and various other stakeholders to mobilise and activate people. Current members are to provide contact details for additional members who may be interested.

- SM confirmed that the CRG meeting happens every 2 months.

ACTION 1: Currie to provide nomination forms and copy to Council for newsletter and website promotion.

ACTION 2: Update the TOR with an exemption for Tony to be a CRG member

6:35pm COMPLIANCE UPDATE (Lachlan James, Infrastructure Compliance Manager – Victoria, Veolia)
– see 'Veolia HRL Operations Update' slide pack below

ODOUR COMPLAINTS

- Since March, there have been consistently 60 – 70 odour complaints per month.
- LJ asked the community groups for feedback and if the cell's odour profile has changed over the last 2 months.
- VR confirmed that they could smell it at night. The direct hit is on SL's end [Narre South] and the odour tends to flow towards Lynbrook.
- LJ asked if it was gas or waste.
- VR reckoned that it would be methane gas filtering through the night.
- LS has lived in Narre South for 6 years and noted that the smell gets worse around March. It got better for a couple of weeks then has been getting worse again in the last 2 weeks. It was always happening on a Sunday night, Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning/afternoon and then it seemed to get better throughout the week.
- LJ said that LS's comment on the occurrence of the smell is consistent with the complaint data. Veolia had a noticeable amount of complaints from last Sunday, and they called the site to find out the source. The point source is where the vertical gas wells are in Cell 13, which collect the gas and are under a vacuum. There were condensates building up in the flow lines which contributed to the odour. This has been repaired.
- Veolia will work with the gas contractor to make sure that they're looking at those wells more frequently.
- Around March, a new cell (Cell 14B) was constructed and experienced significant weather delay. To build cells, Veolia had to expose drainage layers and that may have also contributed to odour.
- Veolia has increased odour rounds to twice a day.
- CW commented that it would be very valuable to see a log or some records of when the gas happened from a local member.
- SL added that the smell often came late at night, around 10pm/11pm/midnight.
- SM suggested that local members put specific data (days and times of the odour) in the complaints for odour tracing.

LEACHATE MANAGEMENT

- Refer to slide 4 for a summary of leachate discharge across all years.
- Last leachate discharge was in June 2022.
- Veolia is currently trucking leachate to a licensed liquid waste facility, however, is limited by market capacity.
- Veolia intends to submit an application to EPA to transfer leachate to Taylors Road Landfill for treatment and discharge to the sewer via the facility.
- VR asked when the transfer would happen.
- LJ said that it would be likely to occur next week during business hours.
- CW added that there should not be any impact from the transfer. The only reason why Veolia needed permission was that Taylors Road, as a licensed landfill, doesn't have leachate liquid waste as an acceptable waste type. The emergency approval is a request for Veolia to do that and manage the leachate in accordance with the existing trade waste agreement.

LANDFILL GAS

- Refer to slide 5 for the landfill gas map.
- Veolia has been doing daily inspections and controls, including odour surveillance, to make sure it's compliant with its license.

NOTIFIABLE INCIDENT

- One of these inspections has identified that groundwater being discharged from the site was impacted by leachate. Refer to slide 6 for more details of the incident.
- Veolia immediately stopped all discharges until the cause of the incident was identified. EPA was notified of the incident via the hotline. Veolia has co-operated with EA investigations to date. Veolia has been issued an improvement notice from EPA (previously known as the pollution abatement notices).
- The notice requires Veolia to engage a suitably qualified environmental consultant to conduct a risk assessment of harm to human health from the discharge of groundwater off site. If harm is confirmed, Veolia will prepare a plan or proposal for EPA to demonstrate that it will prevent or reduce the harm so far as reasonably practicable.
- BS clarified that the issue of the leachate being discharged off site with the groundwater has stopped and is not going to happen again. What EPA issued in the notice is just in relation to groundwater.
- VR asked for a clarification of how it works.
- LJ explained the two systems on site and how the groundwater being discharged offsite was mixed with the leachate due to the clamp failure. This caused the leachate leaving the site for a short period of time.
- VR asked how long the issue went for.
- LJ replied that it wasn't occurring for a long time as Veolia inspects daily.
- The process is still ongoing and Veolia will share the findings of that assessment with the CRG.
- VR asked if this water would get into their drinking water.
- LJ said that the process is also looking at what the water uses are and whether it has changed the water quality.
- SL noticed that there seemed to have water runoff along those black mats. It seems that there is water running down the sides whenever there's rain or at the start of the week.
- LJ explained that the black plastic is there as an odour control mechanism. Veolia is having a discussion with EPA about this and has been requested some additional controls.
- Veolia now pumps the water that falls in the bund into the leachate management system. The water is captured and treated as leachate.
- SL mentioned that there are people fishing in the wetlands behind the Hampton Park landfill site.
- TOH said that it was in the River Gum Creek Reserve running through from the back of the landfill right through past Hallam Road.
- SL added that it was on the Ormond Road side as well and people seemed to fish there for eels.
- There are the types of water at the site: groundwater, surface water (which hasn't come in contact with waste) and leachate water. The leachate is treated, captured and goes through their ponds. Recreational uses of water would be revisited under the assessment.
- BS said that EPA has investigated recently, and that water potentially was contaminated with sediment (soil from the sides of the landfill going off-site). EPA is still investigating it and considering whether to issue another improvement notice to manage that.

CELL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- Cell 14B construction has continued despite constant rain.
- Veolia is exploring contingencies

- Cell 13 is almost done. As soon as the air space is captured, Veolia will install an intermediate cap over the top.

ACTION 3: LJ to provide more details about the landfill gas management plan and fill-in plan at the next meeting

7:15 pm EPA UPDATE

- Key updates (audit reports, leachate groundwater issue, and investigation into surface water management) have been covered in previous discussions.
- VR suggested that EPA provides statistics on the complaints to see if they align with Veolia's stats.
- EPA will bring these reports/stats to future meetings.

ACTION 4: EPA to provide statistics on complaints in future meetings.

7:25pm Other business

- VR asked if there is a way for EPA or to Veolia to set up formal communication around leachate and fishing in wetlands impacted by the leachate incident.
- LJ will take the request to Veolia and get back to the group.
- SM advised that the next meeting will be in person and coincide with the Christmas catch-up.

ACTION 5: Veolia/EPA to advise on the key messages/communications around the leachate groundwater issue that CRG members can relay to their residents.

ACTION TRACKER			
Item	Action	Who	Due
1	Currie to provide nomination forms and copy to Council for newsletter and website promotion.	Currie	October
2	TOR to be updated with an exemption for Tony to be an honorary CRG member	Currie	October
3	LJ to provide more details about the landfill gas management plan and fill-in plan at the next meeting	Veolia	Next meeting
4	EPA to provide statistics on complaints in future meetings.	EPA	Next meeting
5	Veolia/EPA to advise on the key messages/communications around the leachate groundwater issue that CRG members can relay to their residents.	Veolia/EPA	September 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: 1800 368 737
EPA ENVIRONMENT LINE: 1300 372 842

APPENDIX: VEOLIA PRESENTATION

Hampton Park Transfer Station - Overview for Community Reference Group

*CRG Meeting
7 September 2022*





Content

01 | Need for a Transfer Station at Hampton Park

02 | What happens at the Transfer Station

03 | Environmental compliance

04 | Benefits

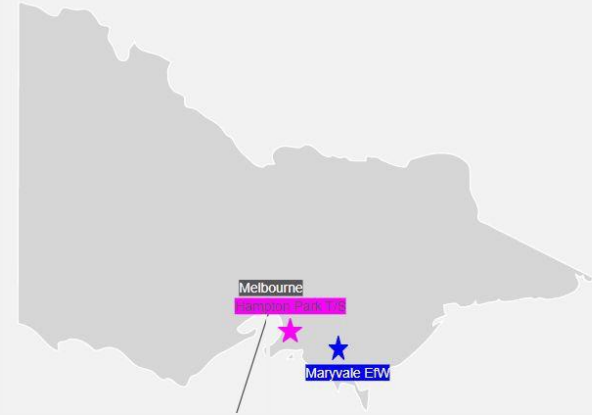


Hampton Park Transfer Station

Why is it needed here?

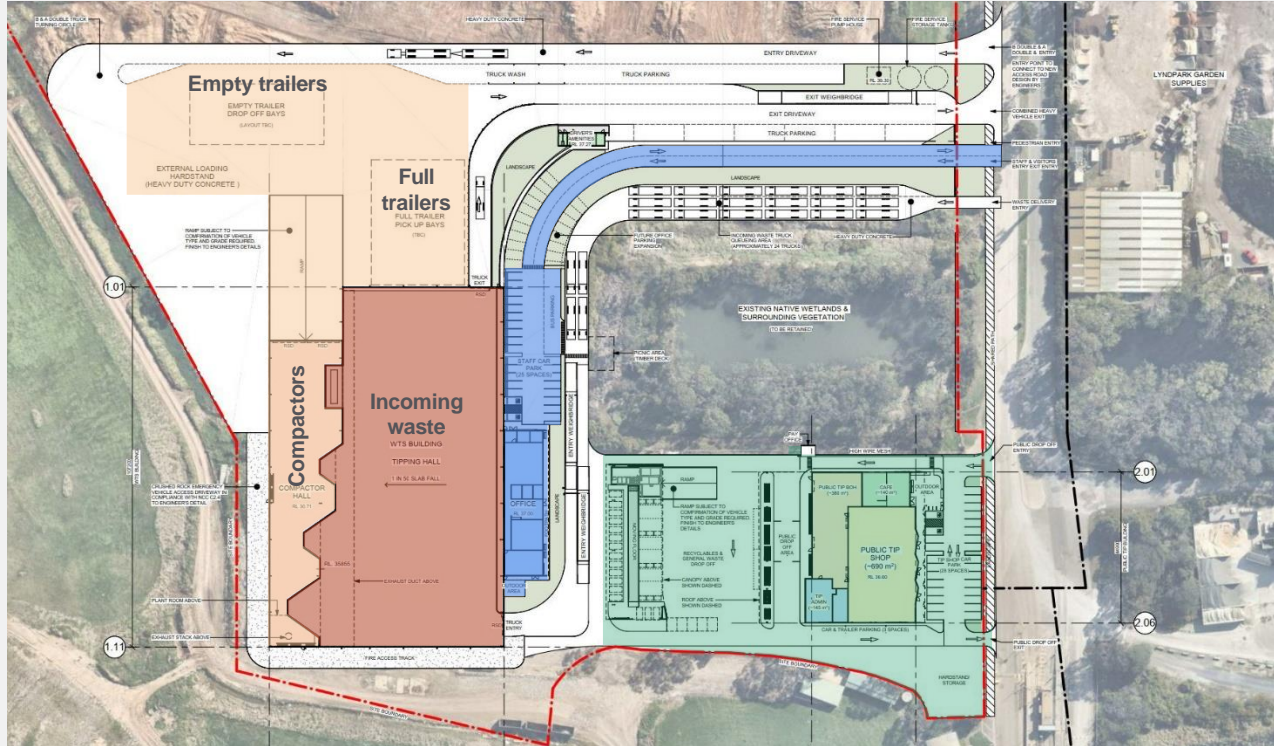
Hampton Park is located at the heart of South East Melbourne and is a critical element in our future logistics strategy for improved resource recovery

- Hallam Rd landfill will close in the next few years
- State, Metropolitan and local strategies do not support new landfills and require resource recovery from waste
- Transfer Station is required to consolidate and transfer waste initially for Maryvale EfW and potentially for other EfWs
- Extended sorting of waste in the public and commercial areas of the Transfer Station will achieve more recycling
- Other Veolia sites locally (at Taylors Rd and Ordish Rd) cannot support the transfer station due to ownership, ground conditions and current use issues
- Existing efficient location for waste collection trucks - more remote consolidation requires more trucks on road



Transfer Station Layout

Comprises five areas for tipping, compaction, trucks, public, and staff



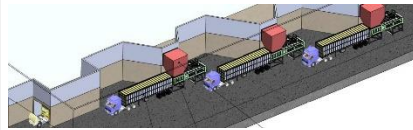
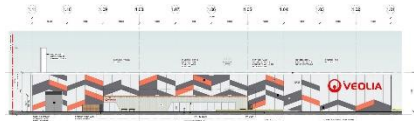
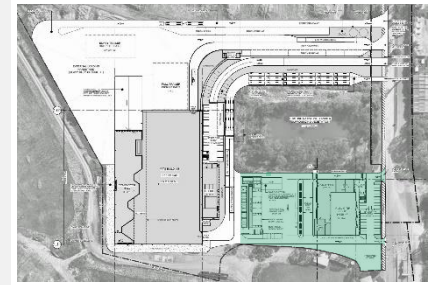
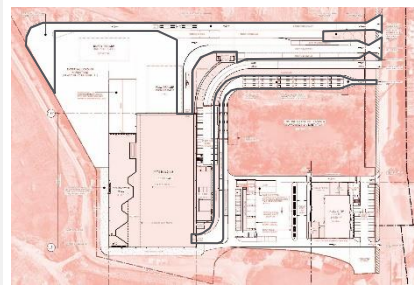
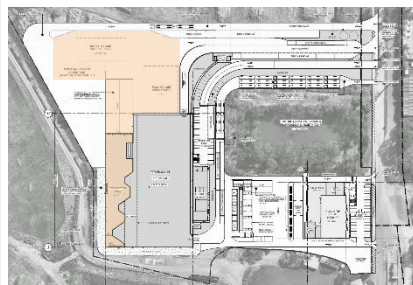
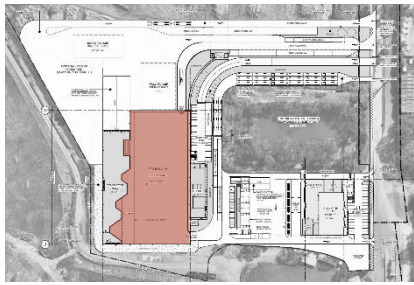
Tipping hall

Compactor and containers area

Truck / logistics

Leased area / public drop-off

Office/staff area



Tipping Hall

- One-way circulation, four penetrations to lower compactor hall
- Waste types: 50% MSW; 50% C&I; resource recovery salvage
- Total 550 ktpa; max 300tph
- Floor area 5,560m²

Compactor Hall

- Three compactors
- One top-load chute

Container areas

- Truck coupling/uncoupling
- Storage

Truck / Logistics

- Separate entry and exit for A-doubles, and for deliveries
- Queueing area
- Driver amenities
- Weighbridges

Community Facility

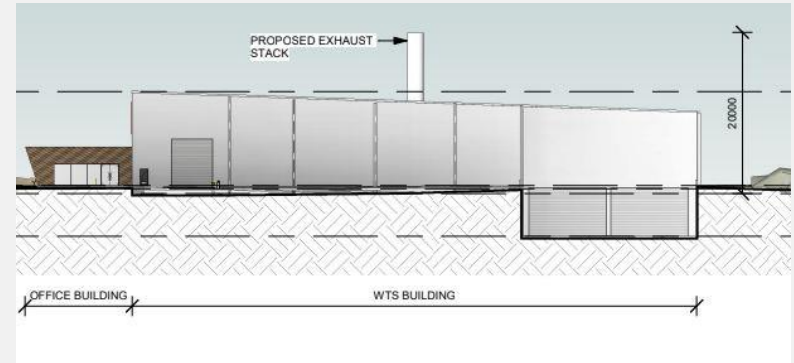
- Upgrade on existing, popular public-facing leased area
- Residential drop-off (reuse items, recycling, hazardous)
- Small commercial drop-off



Design Consideration

Environmental compliance - Air quality

- Air extraction and stack release to **achieve odour dispersion**
- Wall, roof and fan room insulated materials **attenuate noise**
- Compactor area is enclosed to **contain noise and odour**
- Rapid/synchronised doors to Tipping Hall and Compactor area **contain noise and odour**
- Operating plan to **minimise noise**

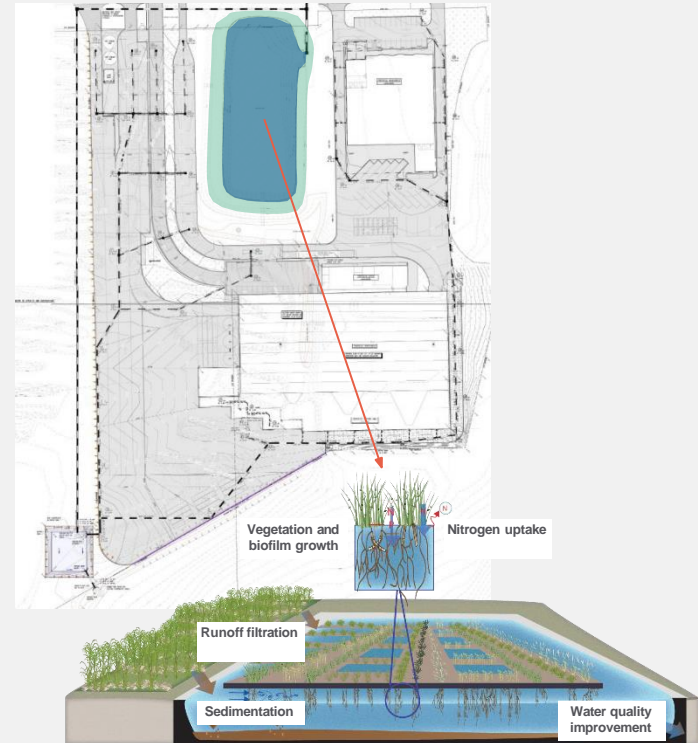


Waste Transfer Station Building Side View

Design Consideration

Environmental compliance - Water quality

- Pavement, pits and drains design for stormwater flows
- Wetland design:
 - Pre-existing dam on-site from historical excavation (quarrying, farming)
 - Civil and architectural utilisation for floating wetland
 - Purpose for stormwater flow control, and to support planning application landscape and green area requirements
 - Site benefits for pollution abatement, heat-island mitigation, preservation of natural character and native trees, visual amenity
- Tipping area leachate collection (treatment at existing LF plant for sewer discharge).



Benefits of Transfer Station development

- Local Amenity
 - Agreement in principle to provide land that Veolia would otherwise own to become playing fields and public open space
 - Plan to retain and upgrade social enterprise at recycling centre
- Traffic
 - Reduction from 800k tpa to Landfill in 2015 to 550k tpa limit for TS is about less 100 trucks daily into site
 - Road layout locally and at site is improved and compliant
 - Transfer Station trucks only travel on sealed surfaces
- Local Employment:
 - Continues and may be expanded after landfill closure



Veolia HRL Operations Update

HRL Community Reference Group

7 September 2022



Outstanding Actions

Item 01 - Veolia to invite Casey Council to present RE: the Hub and Development Plans at a future meeting.

Comment: Actioned for this meeting.

Item 02 - VEOLIA to notify the CRG when refilling of pond 1 or 2 commences.

Comment: Adhoc requirement. Ponds are a probably a couple of months away from being ready for discharge.

Item 04 - Veolia to provide education session on odours when CRG back in person.

Comment: Next meeting is proposed to be in person. Veolia will also request if EPA can provide some technical assistance.

Item 05 - LJ to report on Hampton Park C&D Recycling Facility processes and compliance around trucks and road impact at next meeting.

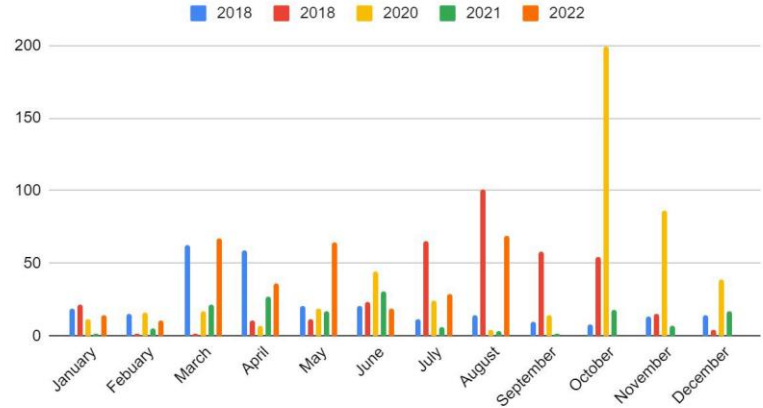
Comment: Wheel wash and road wash system operational all winter. Inspected hourly during wet weather. The site hasn't accepted Fill Material (clean soil) this winter, so reduced vehicle movement on unsealed surfaces. No complaints received from Vic Roads for the last 2 years.



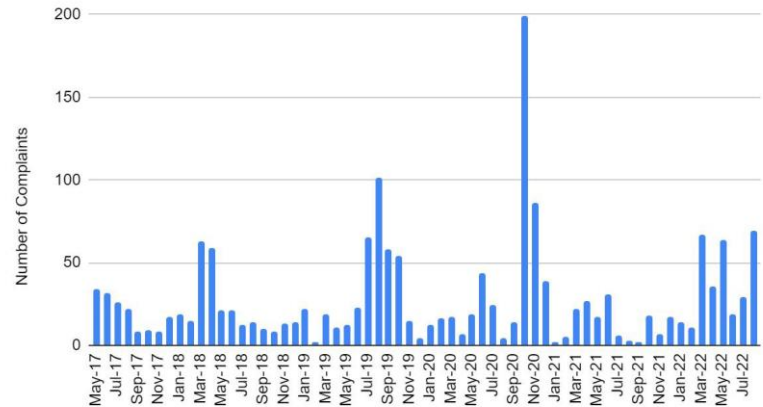
Odour Complaints

- We have had isolated occurrences of landfill gas infrastructure (flow lines) becoming damaged due to settlement, which may have been an odour source. Repairs actioned as soon as they were identified.
- Construction of Cell 14B has meant that we have had to periodically expose cell drainage layers, this may of also contributed to odour. We are working as hard as possible to complete cell construction, but have experience significant weather delays.
- Still noticing unusual odour descriptions, not usually associated with our operations. We are also receiving a handful of complaints where we are upwind of the complaint address.
- We have increased odour rounds to twice a day. As always, we are keen on feedback about what the CRG has experienced?

Complaint by Month

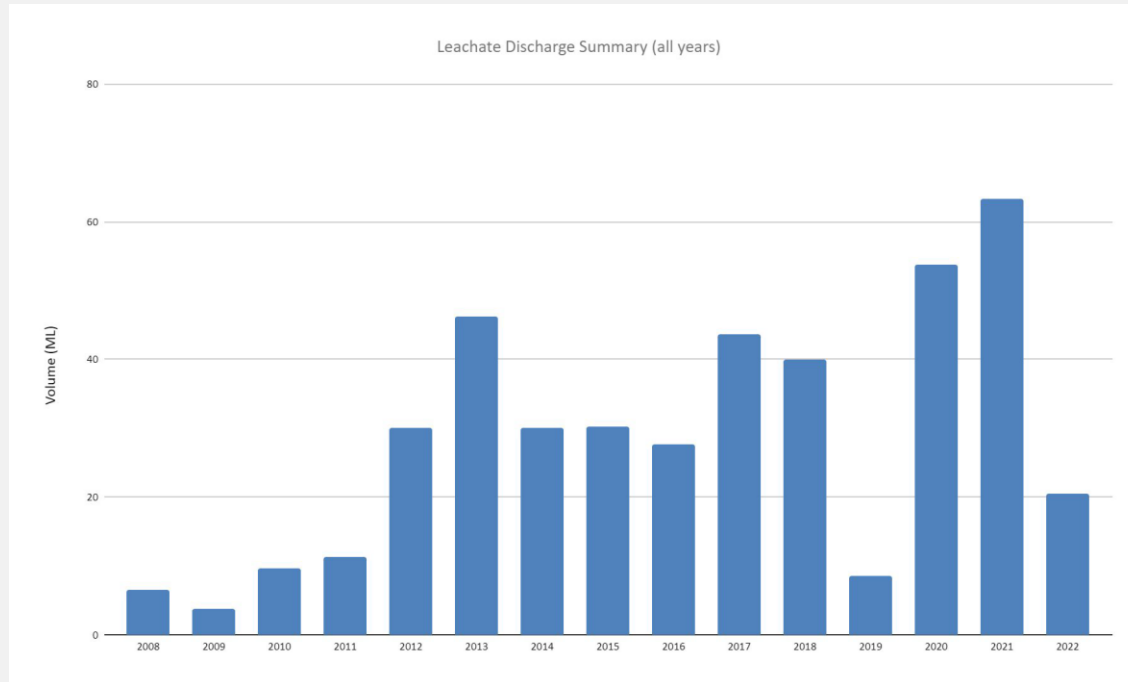


Total Complaints

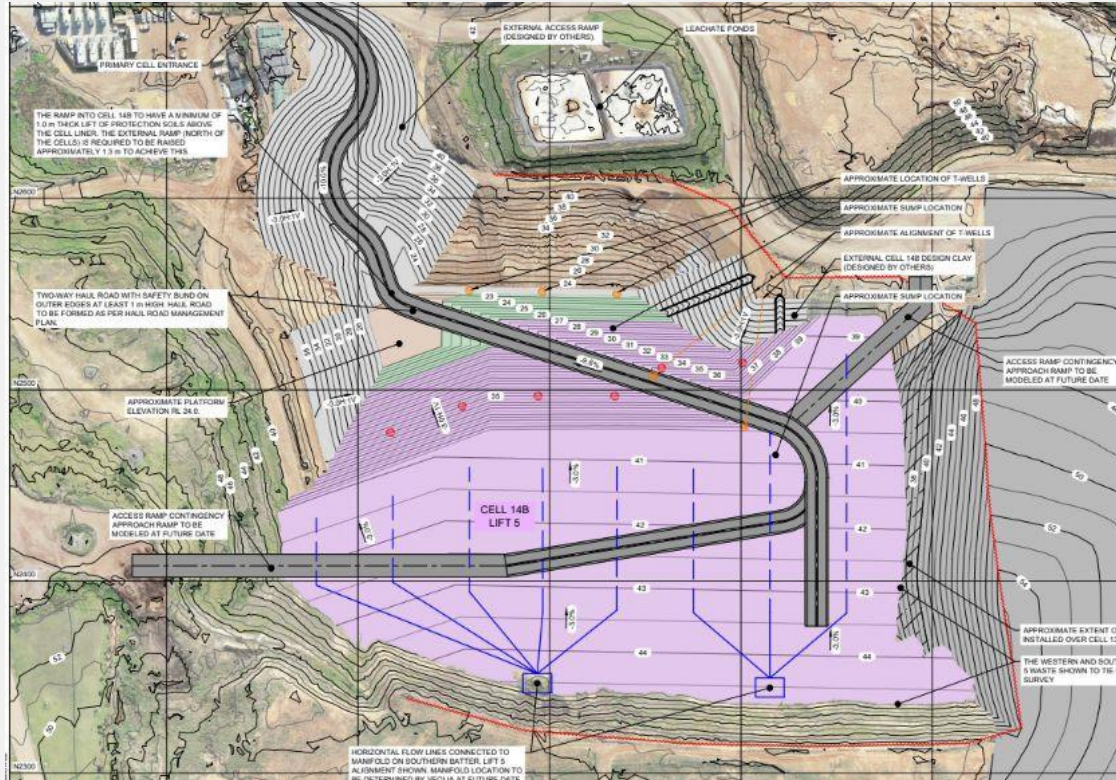


Leachate Management

- Last discharge (7.2 ML) was in June 2022. We are currently trucking leachate a liquid waste facility, however are being severely limited by 'market capacity'. We intend to submit an application to EPA to transfer leachate to Taylors Road Landfill for treatment and discharge to sewer through the infrastructure at that site which has significant capacity.



Landfill Gas



Notifiable Incident

Incident Description: On 3 August 2022, a routine daily site inspection at the Hallam Road Landfill (HRL) identified that the groundwater system was possibly impacted by leachate. At that time, all discharges of groundwater from the HRL were immediately stopped until the cause of this was identified.

Preliminary investigations have identified that the cause of the incident was that a clamp which separated the leachate management system and groundwater management system (which had been put in place in approximately mid-June 2022 in order to treat the surface water that collected in leachate sump 14B East as leachate) became loose. Once this was identified, the line connecting the leachate sump 14B East to the groundwater system was cut and capped, removing reliance on the separation clamp.

Immediate Actions Undertaken by Veolia: All discharges were immediately stopped until the cause of the incident was identified. EPA were notified of the incident via the 1300 EPA VIC hotline. Veolia have co-operated with EPA investigations to date.

Further Actions Implemented by EPA: EPA have issued an Improvement Notice. The Notice requires that:
“By 03/10/22 you (Veolia) must engage a suitably qualified person to conduct an assessment of risk of harm to human health or the environment from the discharge of groundwater off site. If harm is confirmed, you must demonstrate how you are going to prevent the harm or reduce the harm so far as reasonably practicable.”



Cell 14B Construction Update

Cell construction has continued despite constant rain.

Programme has been delayed as a result and this is now extremely tight.

Veolia is exploring contingencies.



Cell 13 Filling Update

