

Mindarie Regional Council
Odour Management Key Stakeholder
Working Group

28 June 2024 Meeting – **Minutes**

Released 04/07/2024



Date: 28 June 2024, 11 pm

Location: Mindarie Regional Council

Attendance:

Executive Manager Operations (EMO)

Environmental Supervisor (ES)

Odour Consultant (OC)

Odour Data Assistant (ODA)

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Landfill Leading Hand (LLH)

Apologies:

Waste Management Coordinator (WMC)

ELO: D-24-0005898

1. MRC – OMKS – Previous Meeting – completed actions

- DWER Community Update website
 - **Proposed Action:** MRC to request from the DWER if any community residences have requested added information –
 - **Update:** awaiting their reply,
 - **Action:** reach out to the DWER for a reply on 17.4.2024
 - **Action:** have not heard, seek DO advice for action

Hi Kathrine

I have been provided with the following page view data for DWER's Community Update page. The figures are a total since the page went live on the WA.gov.au website on 20th September 2023.

| Page | Views | Users | Avg Engagement Time |
|--|-------|-------|---------------------|
| /service/environment/environment-information-services/tamala-park-landfill | 690 | 517 | 45 seconds |

The updated wording for the page is with our Director to approve so I am hopeful it will go live in the next week or so.

Kind Regards

- Community Engagement Plan – Questionnaire
 - **Questionnaire - completed results in open discussions below.**
- Odour Management Plan
 - **Update on deliverable timeline – Mid-July 2024.**
- Budget - Council outcomes
 - **DWER and OC informed of council outcomes. EMO held an independent meeting regarding odours.**
- Landfill Gas Emission Investigation
 - **EDL is connecting into the leachate and extracting any landfill gas present – completed.**

- Landfill operators' technique for burying leachate pipe has been amended to reduce likelihood of landfill gas being emitted from the slotted pipe - completed
- Canister testing Source quotes for landfill gas odour testing – matching landfill gas (from landfill) to landfill gas (from power station). – requesting quotes
- ES investigating the last time the landfill gas wells were installed in the landfill and the gas capture of the gas wells previously installed. – completed, discussion with EDL to provide a draft drilling/well installation plan mid July 2024
- Raised the issue of landfill gas odour in the staff toolbox talks - completed

2. MRC – OMKS – Working Group

Open discussion:

1. Community Engagement Plan –

1. Questionnaire

- Outcomes of the questionnaire

Results:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Sent /Emailed | 231 | Questionnaire sent to 231 people - was at the time the number of listed complainants | |
| Replies | 102 | 3 | Complained about the form and didn't fill out |
| | | 98 | Questionnaire responses |
| Suburb | | 47 | Kinross |
| | | 35 | Catalina/Clarkson |
| | | 13 | Mindarie |
| | | 3 | Other/ or no response |
| | | 98 | |
| Number of years in property | | 16 | 1-2 years |
| | | 17 | 2-5 years |
| | | 31 | 6-10 years |
| | | 33 | 10 years + |
| | | 1 | no data |
| | | 98 | |
| Odour description | Mostly reported | | Rubbish/garbage, sour or acid, gassy/chemical, sewerage |
| Time | 30 | | 3-6pm |
| | 55 | | 6-9pm |

From the summary sheet within the spreadsheet, the following key questions were raised, see below,

1. Is the smell affecting my health?

Group discussion:

OC: this is a really difficult one to explain. A person exposed to odour may feel physically ill, I mean physically, (can't breath, trying not to take in any more of the odour) however this reaction, is not the odour concentration (parts per million/

billion, in the air) that is making them physically ill (direct exposure) but rather the body's reaction to the discomfort the odour brings.

The concentration levels of odours within the community are not high enough to cause direct exposure symptoms, however, the symptoms are from the discomfort of odour and how it impacts on your way of life are real and being experienced. Thus impacting on your health and wellbeing (indirect impact).

2. What tests are undertaken to show health effects?

ES: Routine testing of ambient exposure (summer and winter). Results are assessed against Work Safe standards for exposure triggers. No exposure levels have triggered the standard.

EMO: 30+ staff work outside, routinely 6 in the landfill itself. Yes, it does smell and sometimes really bad. Working in open air means that the levels of odour concentrations are significantly lower than if you worked in an enclosed waste sorting facility.

3. When will Tamala Park be closed?

EMO: There are two scenarios to this:

✓ *Business as usual – all waste from the residents that live in Wanneroo, Joondalup, Stirling, Victoria Park, Cambridge, Perth and Vincent (750,000 residents) continue to be delivered at Tamala Park.*

• ***In 2 years, the landfill will close to accepting rubbish.***

✓ *Waste to Energy – some councils move to Waste to Energy (rubbish is taken to an incinerator and processed to produce electricity).*

• ***In 4 years, the landfill will close to accepting rubbish.***

Suggestion: a count down clock to closing on the website?

4. What steps are taken to prevent odours?

- *No night loads being delivered on site*
- *No odorous loads delivered after 3pm*
- *Increase charges to discourage odorous loads*
- *Zeolite being spread on landfill*
- *BioWish being sprayed into leachate ponds*
- *EcoSorb being sprayed daily on the afternoon cell*
- *Daily cover of limestone*

5. What has changed that the odour is now noticed more regularly?

The landfill is filling up. Meaning that the rubbish being delivered to the landfill is being placed at a point higher than the ground level. Weather/ breeze can blow odours more easily into neighbouring suburbs.

Around 2 years ago the organic content within the waste being delivered increased.

6. Is Tamala Park at capacity?

The landfill has <1,390,000 cubic meters of landfill airspace remaining. This equates to approximately 1,251,000 million tonnes of waste material still to arrive on site.

When Tamala Park first opened, it had the capacity to receive 10 million tonnes of waste.

7. What are the future plans for rubbish disposal?

- *The WtE contract would result in Tamala Park redirecting nearly 50% of its incoming waste streams to a processing facility down South.*
- *Should member councils resolve to implement FOGO collection services following the tender which MRC is currently evaluating, then it is estimated*

that another 14% of organic waste matter would transfer from their residential kerbside Red bin to the Green bin. The Green bin contents would then be delivered to the FOGO processing facility, resulting in a reduction in organic matter being landfilled at Tamala Park.

- *As this stage the Landfill Cells are expected to reach capacity by 2028. However, this only stops waste coming to the landfill site. The wider site will still accept residential waste at the onsite transfer station and recycling facility, at much reduced rates. These sites are intended to stay operational post landfill closure. The waste material accepted from these sites is not odorous and will continue to need to be transferred off site for processing.*

Action: the leadership team will discuss the answers to the questions and decide if the answers are included in the reply to all odour complaints that are registered on the system.

2. Community Interviews

- OC reaching out to individual community members, long-standing community members, and regular shares of odour experiences.
- 2 – Mindarie, 2 – Kinross, 2 – Clarkson

Discussion: The group, upon advice from the OC, discussed that the questionnaire is a far better way to hear the concerns of the community than one on one interviews/discussions with key community members.

On hold until further notice

3. The group discussed the possibility of holding a 'Town Hall' meeting for the community and councillors to attend, to give the community a greater 'voice' and allow the opportunity for the MRC to provide clarity on the current situation and future mitigation measures.

Given the MRC's lack of outward-facing staff, up to now, this has been something which has been difficult to contemplate. The group agreed that this would be a good step to take.

The CEO committed to move this forward.

2. Budget Discussion:

- 2024/25 Budget
 - Investigation of Leachate Treatment Plant options
 - Preliminary investigations underway

EMO – council meeting held on 27th June – outcomes of the CIP pending

- Capping of the Western side of the landfill
 - August 2024 mobilising to the site

3. Weather Station:

- RFQ – Awarded to Raich and Associates for a 3-year (1 +1) contract to upgrade the weather station, service, maintenance and annual subscription to Envirodata.

4. Mitigation – 8-week Misting Cannon

The Misting Cannons are expected to be operational by the 8th of July and will run for 8 weeks at a cost of \$145,000. The cannons will be run at nighttime when most odours are experienced.

- Update
 - ✓ Cannons (4) have arrived on site
 - ✓ Two will be located to the north and two to the south.
 - ✓ Currently, MRC is finalising the infrastructure that accompanies the cannons. With it due to be completed by the end of the 5 July 2024

3. Operations Optimisation Programs to reduce odours

Operational activity to reduce odours on-site during February and March 2024

| Item | Activities on-site to reduce odour issues | Comments |
|---------------|--|--|
| Landfill | Zeolite | Spread onto ponding area |
| | Odorous Loads/ Special Burials/ | Restricted hours applied to Biosolid deliveries, covered straightaway by the next incoming load. |
| | Covering the waste | 150mm limestone |
| | Landfilling bench | 5m reduced to 3.5m |
| | New Vibrating Roller arriving to site | Due 10 June 2024 |
| Power Station | Generated Kwh | TBP |
| | Efficiencies – Tonnes CO _{2-e} Abated | TBP |
| Landfill gas | Landfill Gas Monitoring | Within Licence Condition parameters |
| | Efficiencies | May 2024 Wellfield adjustment Program - completed |
| Leachate | Leachate pond | BioWish added once a week. Ecosorb daily |

4. Special Investigations/ Events

Landfill Gas Emission Investigation

Update:

A local drill company's name has been provided to EDL where both parties can discuss the possibility of shallow / horizontal / sacrificial wells on the landfill

5. Community Odour Complaints Register for May 2024

May 2024

During May 2024, one hundred and seventy-five (175) community odour complaints were registered. However, 44 registered complaints were blowing in the wrong direction.

Graphs of the May 2024 – Community Odour Complaints –

1. 25 days of 31 for May 2024 – odours were lodged, 6 days where zero odours experiences were lodged;
2. 116 odour complaints were identified.
3. 44 odour complaints were blowing in the wrong direction; and
4. 15 odour complaints did not provide enough data to investigate. They are lodged in the register as – No Data Provided (NDP).

Of the odour complaints registered

- 32 odours lodged from Clarkson/Catalina, 66 odours lodged from Mindarie, 75 from Kinross and 1 from Ridgewood
- Majority of odour reports were lodged outside of working hours
- Majority of odours reported as occurring outside of business hours

Odour Register Group

- 118 new residents registered odours complaints/76 existing

| Month of May 2024 | | | | | | | Confirmed Odour Impact | not investigated/ no impact | Different Complaints for that week | New Complaints for that week | Existing Complaints | | |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----|----|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | | | | | | | |
| Date of the month | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Confirmed (+ possible) Odour events | | | | | | | 34 | 6 | 33 | 20 | 13 | | |
| Operational Information | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of the month | | | | | | | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Total Confirmed Odour events | | | | | | | 26 | 6 | 28 | 9 | 19 | | |
| Operational Information | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of the month | | | | | | | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Total Confirmed Odour events | | | | | | | 27 | 14 | 13 | 0 | 13 | | |
| Operational Information | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of the month | | | | | | | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Total Confirmed Odour events | | | | | | | 18 | 23 | 30 | 11 | 19 | | |
| Operational Information | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date of the month | | | | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| Total Confirmed Odour events | | | | | | | 9 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 12 | | |
| Operational Information | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| External Agencies Notified (By Odour Complaint (BOC), MRC) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Confirmed Odour Impact | | | | | | | 114 | | | | | | |
| Total for Month | | | | | | | 114 | 55 | 118 | 42 | 76 | | |

| Total Confirmed Odour Events: The Year to date May 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Nov | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| Monday | 3 | 11 | 12 | 30 | 14 | | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | 3 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 11 | | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | 3 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 7 | | | | | | | | |
| Thursday | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 44 | | | | | | | | |
| Friday | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 27 | | | | | | | | |
| Saturday | 4 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | 3 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Total Confirmed Odour Events | 41 | 52 | 53 | 87 | 114 | | | | | | | | |
| Year to Date - Confirmed Odour Events | 41 | 93 | 146 | 233 | 347 | | | | | | | | |

6. External Correspondence

Letter from the DWER requesting information on:.

1. Detailed strategies of the odour management and changes proposed on premises
2. A detailed timeframe for when these actions will be undertaken
3. Details of the method of treatment and how any risks and emission will be managed and minimised during these proposed actions
4. Details of monitoring to be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the actions undertaken on the premise

The MRC will provide a letter to the DWER by COB 1 July 2024 regarding the questions raised above.

7. Key Meetings/ Events Ahead

Nil

8. Next Meeting

July 2024

