

Mindarie Regional Council
Odour Management Key Stakeholder
Working Group

23 Aug 2024 Meeting – **Minutes**

Released 17.9.2024



Date: 23 August 2024, 1 pm

Location: Mindarie Regional Council

Attendance:

Acting Chief Executive Officer (A/CEO)

Projects and Procurement Manager

Environmental Supervisor (ES)

Odour Consultant (OC)

Odour Data Assistant (ODA)

Operations Supervisor (OS)

Communications Specialist (CS)

Apologies:

Nil

ELO: D-24-0008402

1. MRC – OMKS – Previous Meeting – completed actions

1. Odour Management Plan

- Update on deliverable timeline – Mid-July 2024.
- Draft document has arrived, MRC to review

2. Landfill Gas Emission Investigation

- Provider is connecting into the leachate and extracting any landfill gas present – completed.

- Landfill operators' technique for burying leachate pipe has been amended to reduce the 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
 - Discuss the quotes and requirements of the site
- 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
 - Providers are delayed in providing draft drilling/well installation due to the current capping redesign requirements
 - New Action: MRC to meet and discuss the drilling/ well program
- Raised the issue of landfill gas odour in the staff toolbox talks - completed
- Questionnaire
 - Outcomes of the questionnaire
 - Questionnaire questions/answers discussed in the last meeting were approved by the leadership team and placed on the website. Plus the questions/ answers are sent as an attachment to each complainant's replied email.
 - The MRC's newly appointed Communications Specialist, has revisited the information and provided an improved document to be placed on the website
- Community Engagement
 - 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 difficult to contemplate. The group agreed that this would be a good step to take.
 - The CEO committed to moving this forward.

Update:

Currently, individual councillors are organising community sessions, MRC CEO will attend as a guest to:

 - Cr Hutton CoJ, Community Forum on the 4th of October 2024
 - Cr Bedworth CoW is holding a Community Forum on the 30th of September 2024
- 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

Update: Critical Infrastructure plan presented to Council on 27.6.2024, detailed reports on individual items to be brought back to Council for endorsement.

- 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.
 - Completed
- 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

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

Update: Completed

2. MRC – OMKS – Working Group

Open discussion:

- **Community Engagement –**
 - Updated the automated response to the on-line complaint form
 - When did you first experience the problem smell
 - Updated the online complaint form
 - Updated the MRC's website automated response to the community odour complaint to provide more information to residents in the first instance. More detailed response follows this
 - MRC staff who take telephone calls now have a 'problem smells' guide to help them better answer calls/complaints from residents
 - City of Joondalup Councillor– Lewis Hutton – organised a meeting
 - City of Wanneroo Councillor – Phil Bedworth - organised a meeting
 - Access to MRC/ DWER Licence link
 - https://www.der.wa.gov.au/component/k2/itemlist/filter?fitem_all=Mindarie&moduleId=94&ItemId=175
 - DWER website link with the MRC website
 - Action: CS to place on MRC website
 - Potential for additional information to be added to the website
 - Discussions/ suggestions:
 - rainy season messages;

- weekly information;
- changes to operations; as appropriate.

- **Budget Discussion:**

- 2024/25 Budget
- Investigation of Leachate Treatment Plant options
- Preliminary investigations underway
- Update: The pilot study is being discussed
- Capping on the Western side of the landfill
- Update: cut and fill has been completed, which was adding to the problem smells. The formation layer is currently being installed.

- **DWER – Engagement**

- **Community Website update**
- **DWER community odour complaints registered**
- MRC requested Community Odour Complaint numbers registered with the DWER. They have sent one email.
- Action: Sent an email requesting information 23.8.2024 AM.
- Question: can the MRC website address be placed on the DWER community website
- Action: CS to contact DWER with request to link to new MRC information and complaints form

4. Mitigation – 8-week Misters

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

- Update
 - Misters (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 Misters. Due to be completed by the end of the 5 July 2024

Update: The mister trial is ongoing.

5. Data collection and recording

- MRC is aware of Facebook campaigns regarding odours, however, organisation is not on any Facebook groups
- DWER licence, condition 33, pg 14/15

- 33.** The Licence Holder must:
- (a) implement a complaints management system that shall record the following information (if known or provided) about complaints received at the Premises concerning any environmental impact of the activities undertaken at the Premises:
 - (i) name and address of the complainants (if consented);
 - (ii) date and time of complaint;
 - (iii) date and time of alleged incident;
 - (iv) alleged source of the incident;
 - (v) general description of the alleged incident, including any environmental or health impacts reported by the complainant;
 - (vi) wind direction, wind speed and temperature at time of alleged incident;
 - (vii) likely source of the alleged incident; and

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

- (viii) actions taken by the Licence Holder to address the complaint, including the outcome of any investigation(s) and action(s) to verify any impacts.
- (b) complete an annual analysis and review of complaints recorded under 35(a) to identify any common factors and root cause of complaints and proposals to address these.

6. Recent Odour Survey on site

- Outcome:
 - Report due by the end of month
 - Preliminary findings
 - Three main smells – gassy, dirty gassy, leachate
 - Two minor smells – landfilling of rubbish, old rubbish

- Heat generated from landfill processes might create its own microclimate (like a fire does by drawing in air, raising and then being pushed along with breeze).
 - Action – hire heat gun/ drone sensors (to follow the plume)

7. Comment problem smells – recorded

	June	July	August (22.8.2024)
Garbage / Rubbish	7	30	21
Sour / Acid / Milk	1	0	2
Chemical / Gassy	17	20	9
Paint thinners	0	0	0
Medical	0	0	0
Burnt / Smoking	0	1	1
Sewerage/septic	6	6	7
Rotten Eggs	2	2	5
Smells	81	71	43
Putrid/rancid	77	80	79
No description in the complaint	3	0	0
Other / listed in comments	0	0	4
Toxic	12	6	5
Landfill	0	0	2
Dead	1	0	0

New complaints

Month	No.
June	89
July	63
August (so far)	55
Total complaints year to date	431

8. Tarps – re-instate discussions

- Re-instating the use of tarps as potential mitigation for odour
- DWER Licence Conditions
- Landfilling operations
Tarps specifications/ service/ maintenance
- D-23-0006786 – under interim solutions, point 3

“3) MRC will cover the tip face with cover material promptly. As a consequence, the Tarpomatic system will be indefinitely discontinued from service and no longer utilised. “

Table 3: Cover requirements

Waste Type	Cover requirements
Inert Waste Type 1	No cover required
Inert Waste Type 2	To be covered by the end of the working day in which the waste was deposited with sufficient quantities (at least 150 mm) of inert waste type 1, or clean fill, or other appropriate cover material to control odour, reduce fire-risk and prevent the spread and harbouring of disease vectors.
Putrescible wastes	
Contaminated Solid Waste	
Special Waste Type 1	To be covered with a 1000 mm of inert waste type 1, clean fill, or putrescible waste as soon as practicable after deposit and before being compacted to prevent the release of asbestos fibres as a result of compaction and other landfilling activities.
Special Waste Type 2	To be covered with 1000 mm of inert waste type 1 or clean fill as soon as practicable and before compaction.

Action:

Further discussion with operations on the logistics/effectiveness, if implemented

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 the ponding area
	Odorous Loads/ Special Burials/	Odorous loads are no longer accepted on site.
	Covering the waste	150mm limestone

	Landfilling bench	5m reduced to 3.5m
	New Vibrating Roller	Arrived and used periodically
Power Station	Generated Kwh	TBP
	Efficiencies – Tonnes CO _{2-e} Abated	TBP
Landfill gas	Landfill Gas Monitoring	Within Licence Condition parameters
	Efficiencies	July 2024 Wellfield adjustment Program – completed, August due to be completed by end of the month
Leachate	Leachate pond	BioWish added once a week. Ecosorb as required during trial

4. Special Investigations/ Events

Nil

5. Community Odour Complaints Register for June and July 2024

June 2024

During June 2024, two hundred and nine (209) community odour complaints were registered. 22 days during June, odour complaints were registered.

July 2024

During July 2024, one hundred and eight-two (182) community odour complaints were registered. 29 days during July, odour complaints were registered.

6. External Correspondence

MRC Community Meeting:

See comments above

7. Key Meetings/ Events Ahead

See comments above

8. Next Meeting

Sept 2024