
MINUTES
of the
NELSON-TASMAN REGIONAL LANDFILL BUSINESS UNIT
MEETING
held
9.30 am, Tuesday, 16 July 2019
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillors S Walker (Chair) and I Barker, Nelson City Council
Councillor C M Maling, Tasman District Council
Iwi Adviser, Mr Andrew Stephens

In Attendance: Acting General Manager, D Clifford

Engineering Services Manager (R J Kirby), Team Leader, Stormwater and Solid Waste (D Stephenson) and Senior Executive Assistant (R L Scherer), Tasman District Council

Group Manager, Infrastructure (A Louverdis) and Management Accountant (A Bishop), Nelson City Council

1 OPENING, WELCOME

Cr Walker opened the meeting and welcomed Andrew Stephens the new iwi adviser to the Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit.

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Moved Cr Maling/Cr Barker

RLBU19-07-01

That apologies from Cr Stuart Bryant be accepted.

CARRIED

3 PUBLIC FORUM

Nil

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Cr Barker/Cr Maling

RLBU19-07-0222

That the minutes of the Nelson-Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit meeting held on Friday, 8 March 2019, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

7 REPORTS

7.1 General Manager's Update Report

Acting General Manager, Don Clifford presented the update report contained in the agenda which was taken as read. Mr Clifford noted that there had been no health and safety issues reported at the York Valley Landfill.

Mr Clifford said that the rubbish volumes at the York Valley landfill were higher than anticipated meaning an increase in income. He also spoke about the higher management costs which were trending down.

Nelson City Council Accountant, Andrew Bishop referred to the Emissions Trading Scheme liability and noted that the business unit had kept the trading units bought previously. He noted that the price for ETS units has since dropped to \$23 and the administering council purchased more units yesterday to meet the business unit's future liability. He said that the benefit of the lower priced units will be carried forward and that there is currently 120,000 units in the bank.

In response to a question, Mr Bishop agreed to provide a written explanation and overview of how the ETS units were managed by the business unit for Andrew Stephens.

Mr Clifford noted that maintenance costs at the Eves Valley landfill were higher than expected. This included some general tidy up work around stormwater drainage and the leachate system alarm sensor which was faulty. He agreed that staff need to assess the ongoing maintenance required at Eves Valley to ensure that budget is available to do the work. Mr Bishop said that some costs for holding the Eves Valley site for future development are not in the post-closure costs.

Mr Clifford also noted that staff need to investigate any future costs associated with the leachate pipeline from Eves Valley as this is not included in current budgets. Tasman District Council Team Leader, Stormwater and Solid Waste, David Stephenson said that staff were aware that the leachate pipeline is prone to blockage and this means that staff need to increase the maintenance and monitoring and look at improvements to the line over time. This may require an additional budget line in the Business Plan next year. Mr Clifford said that he will ensure this work and the budget is included in the revised asset management plan.

Mr Clifford advised the committee that the new contractor has formally taken over the Eves

Valley landfill site.

He also noted that the new compactor has arrived and is being fitted out on site at the York Valley landfill. It is anticipated that the compactor will be fully operational at the end of July. This will provide a media opportunity. Mr Clifford said that the new compactor will provide more information about density and height of fill received. It was agreed that Mr Clifford will arrange a site visit for the committee members in early August to view the new compactor in action.

Mr Clifford spoke about recent issues with the weighbridge at York Valley. It was found that load cells were missing and dirt had built up so the weighbridge was under-reading loads coming into the landfill. A regular maintenance programme has been introduced and this will include annual calibration of the weighbridge.

In response to a question about the stormwater issue related to York Stream, Mr Clifford confirmed that funding has been set aside in the business plan so that this issue can be addressed.

Mr Clifford noted that the annual monitoring reports for both the York Valley and Eves Valley landfills have been received. Both reports include a number of recommendations and Mr Clifford will report on these recommendations at the next committee meeting in September 2019.

Mr Clifford said that he had met with some of the customers regarding the new fees and charges which came into effect on 1 July 2019. While the customers were not happy with the price increases, they accepted that some costs such as the emissions trading scheme levy, are beyond the council's control.

It was suggested and agreed that the business unit staff should be proactive and provide the customer group with a link to the business unit meetings on the respective council websites so that they can keep up to date with discussions, including any proposed changes to the fees and charges. Senior Executive Assistant, Robyn Scherer was asked to action this item.

Nelson City Council, Group Manager, Infrastructure Alec Louverdis spoke about recent submissions to the Nelson City Council annual plan regarding HAIL disposal. One submitter believed that there was an inequity in charges for HAIL at the landfill and that HAIL material that meets the environmental standards should be received free of charge and used for cover material.

Mr Stephenson noted that this issue has been known for some time and there may be scope for some of this type of material to go elsewhere other than to landfill.

Mr Clifford suggested that the issue was related to the affordability of sections if contractors have added costs for disposing of HAIL. He said that he has spoken to the contractor and there is a suggestion that some HAIL material might be difficult to manage and therefore not acceptable at the landfill. Mr Clifford suggested that staff could do some further work on what HAIL material could be acceptable.

The meeting adjourned at 10.35 am and resumed at 10.55 am.

The resolution was discussed and it was suggested an amendment be included to consider the suitability of some HAIL to be accepted free of charge at the landfill. Mr Stephenson spoke about how waste material attracts both the waste levy and the emissions trading scheme levy and the resultant liability on the business unit for each tonne of material that is accepted at the landfill. He noted that material that comes from a HAIL site will be treated as waste and would attract the costs. However, it is a different matter with material which can be used for engineering purposes and which the contractor can accept free of charge to be used for clean cover. Such clean cover material would not attract the waste levy. Mr Stephenson noted that the

Ministry for the Environment is scrutinising the different ways HAIL and cover material are treated in terms of the levy.

Mr Clifford noted that the schedule of rates in the new operations and maintenance contract refers to cover material being bought in from off site. He suggested that the meaning of cover material needs to be clarified. It was agreed that the business unit needs to be very clear about what material can be received at landfill, the criteria and landfill charges.

The resolution was amended to reflect this discussion.

Mr Clifford referred to the finance report attached to the agenda. Mr Bishop noted that the draft June accounts show a loss for the month which will reduce the end of year surplus.

In response to a question regarding the current rubbish issue on the West Coast where flooding has exposed a landfill, Mr Clifford agreed that this could prompt the government to require more intense monitoring of landfills in response to climate change. Should this occur any extra monitoring would add further costs to the business unit. It was noted that Tasman District has 22 closed landfills, some of which are located near the coast and rivers. Nelson also has one closed landfill near the coastline and it was suggested that the business unit should consider any available technologies that could help the councils deal with this problem arising from the effects of climate change.

In response to a question regarding the format of the financial report, it was agreed that the expenses line should be expanded in future reports so that the committee members can see more detail of the expenses incurred by the business unit.

In response to a question regarding the surplus that both councils have agreed can be retained by the business unit at financial year end, Mr Bishop noted that the final 2017/2018 accounts will be in deficit and this together with the 2019 surplus will need to be considered at the September 2019 committee meeting.

The members discussed technologies that are available worldwide to convert waste to energy. Mr Clifford noted that an American company has developed a process that converts waste to energy where the ensuing waste product is an inert stone-like material. This technology is still in trials in USA and may be a few years from being considered in New Zealand.

Moved Cr Maling/Walker
RLBU19-07-23

That the Nelson-Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit Committee:

- 1. receives the Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit General Manager's Report, RLBU19-07-01; and**
- 2. notes approval of the Business Plan 2019/2020 by both Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council; and**
- 3. confirms, following deliberations of the Nelson City Council Annual Plan submissions:**
 - that the 2019-2020 fees and charges for York Valley landfill remain unchanged; and**
 - that the fees and charges and associated discounts for HAIL from both residential and commercial sites for 2019/2020 are still applicable; and**
 - that the Committee requests further work on the matter regarding receiving material from HAIL sites.**

CARRIED

8 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

8.1 Procedural motion to exclude the public

Moved Walker/Cr Maling

RLBU19-07-04

That Council staff, Mr Richard Kirby, Mr Alec Louverdis, Mr David Stephenson and Mr Andrew Bishop be invited to remain in the meeting for the confidential item.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit - General Manager and Operational Services

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(b)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would disclose a trade secret. s7(2)(b)(ii) - The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 11.54 am.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: