



MRL CRG
Melbourne Regional Landfill
Community Reference Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

MELBOURNE REGIONAL LANDFILL COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP (MRLCRG)

1. Background

On 1 March 2015, Cleanaway became the owner and operator of the Melbourne Regional Landfill on Christies Road in Ravenhall.

The landfill disposes of residual waste from households and businesses across the metropolitan area, and produces enough renewable energy to power around 4,000 homes and businesses.

Cleanaway is re-establishing a new community forum called *Melbourne Regional Landfill Community Reference Group (MRLCRG)* to continue to share information about our operations with community members who represent the interests of the wider community.

Cleanaway wishes to interact with community representatives as key partners who are interested in Cleanaway facilities and operations and who can provide valued input on a wide range of resource recovery, sustainability and corporate citizenship topics.

The primary purpose of the CRG is to function as a reference body for Cleanaway, their stakeholders and the community. The CRG is an advisory group only and not a decision-making body and operates as a regular consultative forum where representatives of Cleanaway, the community, individual residents and other interested parties can discuss the operations of Cleanaway's Melbourne Regional Landfill.

Cleanaway will consider comments and suggestions made by the CRG and provide responses where warranted. The CRG will be asked to provide advice on a range of issues raised by Cleanaway and members of the CRG.

The CRG may make recommendations to Cleanaway, including communication of a negotiated position that reflects community members' views, for Cleanaway to consider and respond to as part of the CRG process. However, the CRG is not required to reach consensus or express unified views on matters discussed.

As Cleanaway is accountable for its own actions, final decisions regarding the Melbourne Regional Landfill will always rest with Cleanaway and relevant regulatory authorities. However, the CRG process will ensure that Cleanaway's decisions in relation to its facilities are robust.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the MRLCRG are to:

- Provide a genuine opportunity for community members to have a voice on relevant matters of concern.
- Foster community understanding and confidence in the operation of the landfill and its compliance with licence conditions through the provision of factual and unbiased information, monitoring data, presentations and site tours.
- Develop broad understanding of Cleanaway's current and future priorities regarding the ongoing operation of the site.
- Members are encouraged to ask questions at the meetings and to raise any matters of concern relating to the operations for open discussion. For further information or questions outside of the meetings, members can contact Cleanaway's Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager – Olga Ghiri on 0478316237 or olga.ghiri@cleanaway.com.au
- Cleanaway also offers a free **24/7 Community Hotline– 1800 213 753** for members and local residents to call anytime to speak directly with an operator to report any issues regarding our facilities. All calls are investigated and followed up within 24 hours.

3. Scope of Influence

Discussions will be focussed on matters that the CRG can influence, such as operational activities that include short-term and longer-term remediation controls used at the landfill to mitigate odour, litter and dust.

On these matters, Cleanaway commits to working with the CRG to ensure that community concerns and aspirations are considered in decisions made. Cleanaway will also provide feedback on how the group's input influenced operational decisions.

It is important to note the CRG will have limited influence on matters relating to the day to day operations of the site.

Cleanaway is genuinely committed to ensuring the operation remains environmentally compliant with no impact on the local community.

Cleanaway will also keep the CRG informed of its operational and monitoring regime, and will listen to and acknowledge concerns.

4. Membership

Members of the MRLCRG shall be selected following an expression of interest process. The CRG will comprise the following:

- Chairperson / Facilitator (appointed by Cleanaway); and
- Up to nine community members from a breadth of interests. It is expected that there will be a broad mix of residents and representatives from diverse community groups
- Two representatives from EPA Victoria
- Two representatives and/or Councillor from Melton Council
- One representative and/or Councillor from Brimbank Council
- Three Cleanaway staff: Regional Manager, Operations Manager and Stakeholder and Community Relations Manager.

Selection of members will be based on each individual's:

- Ability to represent a broad cross-section of community views through well-established networks within the local community.
- Ability to work collaboratively with stakeholders with different views.
- Sincere willingness to be informed of the facts about the landfill operations, environmental compliance and site remediation.
- A genuine desire to openly and unbiasedly share data, presentations and information with the broader community.
- Actively participate in discussions in a manner that is productive and in accordance with behaviours and conduct to be collectively agreed to by the group in preparing the final Terms of Reference.
- Commitment to ongoing and regular participation.

Community members will be appointed for up to 3 years. In 2020, Cleanaway will undergo another public advertising process to encourage new memberships and to provide other community members an opportunity to join the group.

Expressions of Interest for membership of the CRG is a public process that is managed by Cleanaway through the placement of advertisements in the local newspaper aimed at encouraging community awareness and participation.

Additional information regarding membership guidance is as follows:

- Prior to the expiration of the 3-year term, public nominations will be called for the next term.
- Existing MRLCRG members will be able to renominate. However, ongoing memberships will be dependent on the number of new applications received and their suitability as assessed through the review process.

- All nominees will be required to complete the Expression of Interest documentation.

Meetings will be facilitated by an independent Chair and notes will be prepared and distributed by an independent Secretariat who will also schedule meetings and compile meetings agendas with the Chair and in consultation with members. All meeting records will be publicly available on our website - www.cleanaway.com.au/mrl

5. Role of members

It is expected that all MRLCRG members will monitor and bring forward broader community and stakeholder views in respect to management of the landfill.

Members are expected to represent the range of opinions relating to their community, group or interest area without bias, and avoid promoting individual agendas or opinions.

6. Authority

MRLCRG is a reference group only and has no delegated decision making authority with respect to Cleanaway operations. It will only provide advice and recommendations to Cleanaway, which in turn reserves its right to make decisions about the landfill and its operations. Such decisions will generally be made by the Regional Manager, who will be a member of the group and authoritative representative of Cleanaway.

The Chair will aim to identify whether there is consensus regarding views that are expressed by members. Where consensus cannot be reached, minutes and reports will clearly outline differing points of view.

Recommendations, proposals, media releases and other advice must be directed through the Chair. Members are not permitted to speak individually as spokespersons for the Group. This means that members cannot represent MRLCRG in the media, however they may say that they are a member of MRLCRG or have been informed about an issue at a MRLCRG meeting.

7. Operating Procedures and Principles

Meeting frequency and organisation:

- Meetings will be held every 3 months initially (or as deemed necessary) to fulfil the objectives. A meeting schedule will be determined at the first meeting in consultation with members
- Meetings will be held at Cleanaway's *Community Information Centre* at the Melbourne Regional Landfill at a time to suit the majority of members and will generally not exceed two hours. Meetings will run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, every 3 months, on a Thursday evening.
- Special meetings may also be convened as needed to provide specific updates.
- A minimum of 5 members - comprised of at least three members of the community, and 1 senior representative from Cleanaway plus the Chair - constitutes a quorum.
- If at any meeting a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned.
- Formal written notification will be provided to members in the event the CRG is disbanded or a member is dismissed from the group for reasons determined by

Cleanaway or the independent Chairperson, and/or in breach of the Terms of Reference.

8. Meeting agenda and minutes:

- All meetings shall have an agenda and minutes to facilitate information flow to the broader community
- All minutes will be provided to members within 2 weeks of the completed meeting for their comment.
- Presenters will be given opportunity to check that their contribution has been correctly recorded and interpreted. Information provided after the meeting will be highlighted as such in the notes. The draft minutes will then be sent to the whole group for review for 21 days. If no further comments are received, the minutes will be published as final. Draft minutes can be discussed with others in the community, who should be advised of the draft status.
- Finalised minutes will be distributed to members and posted on Cleanaway's website (www.cleanaway.com.au) within 5 working days of finalisation. Members are encouraged to circulate the minutes within their networks.
- Items proposed for the Agenda need to be proposed to the Chair 7 working days before the next meeting.
- The Agenda and any relevant papers will be distributed to all members, 5 working days before the next meeting by the Chair or Secretariat. Hard copies of all meeting papers and presentations will be available at the start of each meeting, or beforehand if possible.
- Items not listed on the Agenda will not be discussed unless time permits and the group agrees that the item/s should be discussed.
- Meetings may be recorded for the purposes of minutes only. Audio files and transcripts will be held confidentially by the Chair and destroyed upon confirmation of the minutes by all members. Otherwise, meetings are not to be recorded (other than by minutes or hard copy transcript) without prior approval of all members.
- All agreed documentation including Minutes, Agendas and Supporting Documents will be uploaded to dedicated page on Cleanaway's website www.cleanaway.com.au/mrl

9. Code of Conduct

All members are expected to work together in a manner that fosters trust, honesty and communication, regardless of difference of opinions.

- Use information provided at the meetings with integrity and openly share the information with the broader community
- Provide accurate, forthright, trustworthy, relevant and specific information
- Answer questions fully and specifically – or if a question cannot be answered, explain why this is the case.
- Remain open and transparent
- Keep comments short and succinct, trying not to repeat
- Refrain from interrupting others
- Make space for all to contribute
- Disagree respectfully – focusing on the issues, not the person

10. Resourcing of the CRG

Cleanaway will fund the conduct of CRG meetings, including venue hire (where applicable) and provision of refreshments. Cleanaway will appoint the Chairperson of the CRG and provide reasonable remuneration in recognition of the time involved.

11. Other

All members are expected to note the following:

1. Contact details for MRLCRG members will only be made available to the group and will not be disclosed to third parties.
2. Majority and minority opinions will be presented in all minutes and reports.
3. A light meal will be provided for all members prior to the evening meetings.

12. Review and Amendments

These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing by the Chair, after consultation with MRLCRG members at the first meeting.

13. Breach of these Terms of Reference

If a CRG member breaches these Terms of Reference, particularly in regard to communication with the wider community, Cleanaway or the Chairperson may, exercising reasonable discretion, revoke the membership of the CRG member.