

MINUTES

Meeting No	17
Meeting	Regional Waste Management Group
Date	5 September 2017
Time	10:00 am
Venue	Cairns Regional Council, Civic Reception Room, Level 1

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Lachlan Rankine	FNQROC
Steve Cosatto	Cairns Regional Council
Robert Nutt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mark Allpress	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Amy Yates	Mareeba Shire Council
Garry Pickering	Etheridge Shire Council
Jon Turner	Tablelands Regional Council
Gavin Rowan	Tablelands Regional Council
Kristina Davidson	Cook Shire Council

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Abbey Belcher	Douglas Shire Council
Paul Hoyer	Douglas Shire Council
Amy Yates	Mareeba Shire Council
Andrew Healey	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Dawn Lake	Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
Mark Wuth	Cairns Regional Council
Tracey Crouch	Douglas Shire Council
Tom Day	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mark Sexton	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Mathew Brodbeck	Torres Strait Island Regional Council
Kylie Hughes	Environment and Heritage Protection

3. Guests

Name	Organisation
Dominic Schliebs	Arcadis
Julian Chan	Environment and Heritage Protection
Col Tucker	Environment and Heritage Protection (via conference call)

4. Acceptance of Previous Minutes – Meeting 16 (10 March 2017)

No commentary or items raised.

5. Actions arising from Previous Minutes – Meeting 16 (10 March 2017)

ITEM	ACTION	ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETE
16.1	FNQROC to arrange an appropriate time for Col (EHP) to workshop definitions with the region.	FNQROC	Consolidated into 17.1
16.2	FNQROC to add Waste Education strategies used to the standing agenda for future meetings.	FNQROC	(Ongoing)
16.3	Julian to advise Darlene the date in April they are coming up to try and arrange a regional meeting. Darlene to see if we can tick tack this meeting with Col to workshop definitions.	Julian(EHP) and Darlene (FNQROC)	Addressed

6. Project Specific Items (ARCADIS report outcomes)

17.1 Develop a Regionally consistent waste data management system.

Develop and agree on a standard process by which to categorise report waste. Primary issue appears to be gate categorisation of waste loads.

17.1 Outcome:

LR to develop a draft set of regional guidelines, aligned with state reporting requirements, with details on interpretation to allow operators across the region to consistently report waste materials. Draft to be presented/refined by councils at LAWMAC Conference (November).

Councils to provide pain points/areas of concern prior to November, to allow further detail to be placed in these areas.

17.2 Develop a regional CDS (CRS) strategy and collection network.

Scheme to be enacted July 1st 2018. Legislation submitted to parliament, final debate undertaken in August. Determination to be made prior to End Of Year. Governance will be via a framework within legislation (referred above). Board to be appointed to oversee organisations selected to implementation of the scheme. EHP involvement to be limited to an oversight role

17.2 Outcome:

No Further Action at this time. CRS update (Julian Chan) identified CRS collection to be conducted by Not for Profit (NFP) organisations, utilizing these as collection points (refund acting as a charitable donation to the NFP). Cost of running collection is borne by NFP, and up to the NFP to determine if profitable. Cost of refunds built into product (user pays).

17.3 Develop a regional organics recovery strategy.(high)

Work together to develop a regional organics recovery strategy. Previous discussion has been around the development of a regional contract for the ongoing collection of green waste from sites.

17.3 Outcome:

No further action at this point.

Currently, Cairns, Douglas & Mareeba are constrained by existing contractual arrangements. Any regional development dictated by current (Suez – Cairns/Douglas/Mareeba) contractual opportunities being waived by contractor or, the completion of contract. Generally, this is indicative of the regional solution post Bedminster/Springmount.

State high level strategy (post 2026) to be provided by Ariane Chris Hambling (EHP).

17.4 Regional plastic film collection and reprocessing solution.(high)

Previous discussions raised the feasibility of establishing a local plastics reprocessing facility to process film plastic (as well as existing rigid plastics). Plastic waste generation across domestic, commercial and agricultural sectors should be considered as part of this solution.

17.4 Outcome:

Currently undertaken by private enterprise (FNQ Plastics). LR to follow up with FNQ Plastics in regards to their intentions around local reprocessing, and ultimate disposal of the plastic associated with this

17.5 Regional economic assessment of recycling expansion options. (high)

Opportunities are available to improve the efficiency and viability of the Cairns MRF by supplementing feed from other councils. First stage being Cairns MRF identifying whether there is a commercial opportunity for them to do so. Historically, issues surrounding contamination rates prevented a formalised arrangement being reached. TRC nominated that there is some improvement in their contamination rate/feed quality that needs to occur prior to moving this forward. Cairns also identified the need to develop the Cairns to a stage of being a standalone business, then subsequently building a business case to support the expansion and capacity of the Cairns MRF in which to receive this prior to this developing further.

17.5 Outcome:

On hold, pending CRC advice on (internal) MRF business review and future expansion.

17.6 Develop a sub-regional strategy to increase recovery of commercial waste. (High)

Opportunity for regions with high gate fees/significant commercial waste to develop alternatives and strategies to improve recovery rates, specifically those that are available to be used as feedstock for the Cairns MRF.

17.6 Outcome:

No Further action – Not viable to compete with private enterprise.

17.7 Examine direct export options for recyclables from Port of Townsville. (Med)

Previous meetings indicated that viability and practicality of this was low, given the complexity of administering this across multiple regions. Given more consideration as part of State Infrastructure report.

17.7 Outcome:

Likely improvement in tonnage rates to be shipped as a result of CRS (plastics/aluminium), however, current volumes are unlikely to be viable. Waste infrastructure report (stage 2) – to consider on a regional viability basis (i.e. Cairns/Townsville etc.). Cairns currently contractually obliged to supply to specific (Brisbane based) purchasers until June 2018. LR to follow up with current approved purchasers as to their minimum required tonnages to accept seaborne freight to allow us to determine realistic timeframes as to if/when this can be considered.

17.8 Support development of regional markets for recovered glass sand. (Med)

Last meeting noted the critical importance of this market and its association with the viability of the Cairns MRF. This meeting also noted the feedstock will be affected by the introduction of the CRS and the limited competitiveness against traditional materials (sand).

17.8 Outcome:

Cairns currently producing re-glass, however, not cost competitive with sand.

Cairns identified the point that, in introducing a policy such as this, it detracts from the underlying principles of a circular economy (i.e. continual re-use), however, it does provide a use for the product.

Consideration was given to including within council environmental policy/procurement policy (i.e. self-developed market) for the product. Current production capacity of the MRF is approximately 5000t/annum. Concern was raised that supply may be the limiting factor to the introduction of region wide policy. It was noted that Cairns is currently undertaking internal initiatives and projects to sustainably utilize the material, however, current supply is unable to fully fulfil internal demand. Cairns advised that there will need to be a business case considered prior to expansion/investment into expansion.

17.9 Support the recovery of secondary aggregates. (Med)

Relates to the development of a market for secondary aggregates, recycled from Construction and demolition waste. Historically, the group was indicated that this needed to be driven by legislative change, to require the use (in whole/part) in construction projects.

17.9 Outcome:

Private sector (Northern Sands) currently producing this (Currently have an excess of supply). The low volumes processed by local governments would be better utilized in supporting these private enterprises though feed supply and introduction of use through procurement policy.

LR to distribute wording for inclusion in tender documentation.

17.10 Cooperate regionally on waste education campaigns for common issues. (Med)

Whilst each local government has its own area challenges, opportunity is available to utilize strategies, processes and experiences for the benefit of all councils. This knowledge share is currently being undertaken through FNQROC meetings.

17.10 Outcome:

Ongoing agenda item.

7. Actions arising from this meeting

No.	ACTION	OWNER
17.1	LR to develop a draft set of regional guidelines, aligned with state reporting requirements, with details on interpretation to allow operators across the region to consistently report waste materials. Draft to be presented/refined by councils at LAWMAC Conference (November).	Lachlan Rankine
	Councils to provide pain points/areas of concern prior to November, to allow further detail to be placed in these areas.	All Councils
17.3	State high level strategy (post 2026) update to be provided by Ariane (Chris Hambling) (EHP).	Lachlan Rankine (Chris Hambling - EHP).
17.4	LR to follow up with FNQ Plastics in regards to their intentions around local reprocessing, and ultimate disposal of the plastic associated with this	Lachlan Rankine
17.7	LR to follow up with current approved purchasers as to their minimum required tonnages to accept seaborne freight to allow us to determine realistic timeframes as to if/when this can be considered.	Lachlan Rankine
17.9	LR to distribute wording for inclusion of the use of recycled aggregates in tender documentation.	Lachlan Rankine

8. Update from Dept. Environment and Heritage Protection**8.1 Container Refund Scheme Update (Julian Chan):**

Container Refund Scheme bill (Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017) submitted to parliament, scheduled for final debate for the 5th September 2017, with a determination prior to EOY. To be enacted by 1 July 2018. Oriented toward NFP's. Structured around charities as collection points (as a charitable donation to the NFP). This is then administrated by the NFP. Up to the NFP to determine if profitable. User pays model (built into cost of product.)

Post Script: An update on the further development Container Refund Scheme (20 September 2017) can be found in Attachment A

8.2 Waste Infrastructure Report –Stage 2 Update (Dominic Schliebs)

Waste Infrastructure Report – Stage 2 currently being written. Stage 2 to include:

- Preparing two detailed Regional Plans – FNQ and NQ
- To serve as a template for other regions
- Primarily an infrastructure plan and associated factors
- Not a regional strategy – but will link in with local and regional strategies / plans
- Seeking to identify, plan for and protect existing & future waste infrastructure
- Focus on regional networks, precincts and hubs
- Exploring efficiencies at a regional level
- Transport logistics – constraints / opportunities
- Precincts / hubs
- Regional facilities
- CRS infrastructure / networks
- Economic & environmental factors
- Contingency / disaster planning
- Indigenous / remote communities

Post Script: An update on the further development Waste Infrastructure Report –Stage 2 can be found in Attachment A

9. Waste education

Presentation made by Scott Paterson-CRC- Current Education Strategies employed by Cairns Regional Council. Copy available from FNQROC on request.

10. General Business

None

11. Points for noting to the FNQROC Board

None

12. Next meeting

To be advised

13. Meeting Closed: 2.40pm

Attachment A

(As subsequently provided by EHP)

Container Refund Scheme

The *Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017* was debated and passed unopposed on 5 September 2017. This paves the way for the container refund scheme (CRS) to commence on 1 July 2018. The same Bill also included a ban on the supply of single use plastic bags and amendments to the beneficial use approvals.

The next step for the CRS will be to finalise the regulation and then before the end of the year appoint the Product Responsibility Organisation (PRO) who will operate the CRS.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) has conducted some preliminary analysis in relation to the refund and collection points which shows that approximately 310 refund points may be required across the State. In addition to the 310 refund points there is likely to be at least twice as many collection points expected to be operated by charities and community organisations. The refund points will allow for a 10 cent refund for each eligible container, whilst collection points will accept the containers as a donation and keep the refund as a donation.

In addition to the refund fee, the CRS allows for a transport, handling and processing fee. The financial benefit from being a collection point under the CRS is likely to be obtained from these fees and the financial proceeds from the sale of the refunded beverage containers. Further information in relation to the amount of these fees and about the operation of the CRS is expected to be released once the PRO has been appointed.

Queensland Waste Infrastructure Project – Stage 2 – Regional Waste Infrastructure Plans

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection recently commenced work on regional waste infrastructure plans for North Queensland and Far North Queensland. Using available data on the waste generated and collected in each of the regions and also the capacity of waste infrastructure to manage the composition and volume of these wastes, the plans aim to provide regional solutions to improved waste management. The Queensland Waste Infrastructure Project and more specifically the Regional Waste Infrastructure Plans are a priority in the current Queensland Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy (2014-2024) which identifies infrastructure and planning as key priorities to achieve the objectives, principles and the vision of the strategy.

Secondary markets also play an important part in achieving the strategy targets and in assisting new government initiatives such as the container refund scheme. The plans will consider a range of public and private waste infrastructure including local government material recovery facilities and private landfills. The primary wastes being considered include municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction and demolition waste.

The plans will link with other plans and strategies such as the Statutory Regional Plan being prepared for NQ and also local government waste strategies. The plans will focus on regional networks and encourage efficiencies such as waste precincts and co-location where these opportunities exist. They will also take into consideration government initiatives and provide evidence based support for funding opportunities such as State Government grants.

Development of the plans commenced with a series of local government meetings and will be followed up by a round of data collection prior to a workshop with regional waste managers. The plans are due for release later in 2017 or early in 2018.