



MINUTES

Meeting No	16
Meeting	Regional Waste Management Group
Date	10 March 2017
Time	10:00 am
Venue	Cairns Regional Council, Committee Room, Level 3

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Darlene Irvine	FNQROC
Steve Cosatto	Cairns Regional Council
Robert Nutt	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Mark Allpress	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Morris Hamill	Mareeba Shire Council
Nigel Crumpton	Cairns Regional Council
Garry Pickering	Etheridge Shire Council
Julian Chan	Environment and Heritage Protection (via conference call)

2. Apologies

Name	Organisation
Abbey Belcher	Douglas Shire Council
Paul Hoye	Douglas Shire Council
Amy Yates	Mareeba Shire Council
Dawn Lake	Yarrabah
Kylie Hughes	Environment and Heritage Protection

3. FNQROC Adoption of Arcadis Report:

Darlene advised the committee that the FNQROC Board had a presentation from Dominic (Arcadis) on the FNQROC Waste Options and Prioritisation Report. The FNQROC Board resolved to adopt the report and comment was passed that it was an excellent report.

4. FNQROC Strategic Direction

Darlene advised that the FNQROC Board is still working on its strategic direction and is having a further day focussed on this on Monday 13th March. This workshop will hopefully give a clearer direction regarding their priorities.

Darlene also mentioned that Cabinet is meeting in Cairns on Monday and that this would provide some fantastic opportunities directly after the meeting.

5. Summary overview of process and actions to date

It was noted that there are 10 short term priorities identified within the Arcadis report and it was proposed to visit each of these to get a clear direction from the committee into the reality of delivering them.

1. Develop a Regionally consistent waste data management system. (high)

Develop and agree on a standard system to collect, store and analyse waste data for all council facilities in the region. Review existing practices to identify problem areas and any best practice templates that could be used as a basis for a shared approach.

Glossary of terms used in Qld Waste Data System Waste Reporting and General waste definitions for return data reporting has been distributed. It was identified that a gap analysis be undertaken however this proved difficult at the last meeting. Whilst we had the Glossary of terms and waste definitions the way these were interpreted was different and difficult.

A draft TOR for this had been developed. Discussion regarding need for a TOR when a project brief which includes a scope would be better.

Discussion regarding the key objectives:

- Development of a standard waste data collection and storage system - It's not a system that is required, it is the way it is recorded/reported that needs to be standard. Can't compare FNQ to NQ to CQ etc. This is all then different to the national classification system. It would be good to know where the State is looking to go.

Julian advised that EHP would be happy to work with the region to get some consistency.

Action 16.1: FNQROC to arrange an appropriate time for Col (EHP) to workshop definitions with the region. (May be able to combine with visit from EHP and Arcadis re stage 2 of Waste Infrastructure Report)

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

Comes into play 1 July 2018. It is noted that within the CRS Discussion paper item 2 – Accessibility and infrastructure is what might be of most interest to councils but there is little information. They talk about a container refund point (refund provided and these can be permanently located, co-located i.e transfer station, mobile collection facilities and reverse vending machine at supermarkets etc) and container return point (container return only – is schools, sporting clubs charities etc and they take them to a container refund point).

Discussion:

- Can't really progress until we are clear where the State is heading with this.
- UTube of Coffs Harbour Waste Conference - 1 hr panel discussion on the issue is a good listen.
- Julian urged submissions from FNQ councils on the discussion paper.
- Items for consideration in the submission:
 - Role councils will play – different options

- Should government mandate handling fees?
 - Handling for the more remote councils
 - Cost to transfer to collection points i.e. consumer to container refund point and container refund point to ultimate destination.
 - At what point are you handing? i.e. if Croydon collects (and maybe a refund point) are they handing? Or is it the 'handling' getting it from Croydon to another midway or ultimate point.
 - Different transport/handling costs dependant on where you are located.
 - Where glass bottles are collected and 'handled' can the council use that product in a crusher and on sell?
 - Should it be a government run process or privately run.
 - Can't have one set of rules which fits across the State.
 - Etc, etc
- Draft Bill and regulations due in a couple of months.

Current discussion paper will close Monday 20th March.

Essentially we cannot progress this until there are firmer details around the CRS.

3. Develop a regional organics recovery strategy.(high)

Work together to develop a regional organics recovery strategy. Part of the strategy should be consideration of a regional organics collection and processing contract. At a minimum a regional organics contract could provide for reliable and regular collection of green waste from sites.

It is noted Cairns is constrained for this due to current contract.

Julian advised that within the Waste Infrastructure Report no one does this well. Julian will send the report when released. They are now working on Stage 2 with a focus on waste to energy – bio-futures is the way to go. Stage 2 will look at project and capacity of regions - will have a long term view of FNQ (10, 20, 30yrs).

At this stage we are on a watching brief.

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

Feasibility of establishing a local plastics reprocessing facility which could address the problem waste stream of film plastic (as well as existing rigid plastics). Project should include an assessment of plastic waste generation across all sectors (domestic, commercial and agricultural).

FNQ Plastics are currently doing this. The market is driving this and it is perhaps best left with them. Issue in getting plastic from users (i.e. farms) to collection point.

Maybe dealt with in EHP Stage 2 project.

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

Opportunity to expand recycling services across the region and in the process improve the efficiency and viability of the Cairns MRF. Need to undertake an economic assessment to consider the costs and benefits of expanding recycling from a regional and local perspective.

What is the appetite to invest in an economic assessment which considers:

- a. Costs and benefits of expanding recycling from a regional and local perspective
- b. For councils with kerbside recycling, expansion could focus on commercial and MUD customers.
- c. For councils without kerbside recycling, the assessment could provide a basis for a decision for inducing kerbside recycling and perhaps inclusion of commercial and MUD customers.

Noting the assessment will need to consider direct costs and savings and indirect benefits to the regional economy.

Answer: Dependant on CRS; impossible to do any analysis before this is settled.

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

Councils with significant commercial waste and or high commercial waste disposal gate fees could consider working together to develop a common strategy for improving commercial waste recovery. Noted particular focus on commingled recyclables that can be processed in the Cairns MRF.

What is council's appetite for this?

- Dependant on State policies/directions i.e. waste refund scheme
- Northern sands example – market led processes.

Not a priority and cannot compete with industry.

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

This is a medium priority action and it was questioned our ability to pull this together with other regions to make it viable or even considerable. Part of State Infrastructure report consideration. It was noted that Mourilyan could also be an option – lots of options available for bulk storage.

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

Identified as medium however it is apparently crucial to the long term performance and viability for the Cairns MRF.

- Is influenced by CRS – can the bottles be used by crusher, may reduce product to crusher
- Not competitive with the cost of sand

- Use as a bedding material is low level reuse as it terminates. Sending to Brisbane costs more but it is made into bottles and continually reused (high level reuse). How do you keep it in the higher level and reduce the costs.

Medium priority but impacted by CRS.

9. Support the recovery of secondary aggregates. (Med)

- Construction and demolition waste - Linked to priority 6.
- Commercial guys generally putting it in the ground; not turning it into low level gravel etc.
- Needs State legislative push to fix.

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

CRC has resources for education; education plan in Waste Strategy. CCRC is revamping school education program.

There are limited common issues, may not be able to use the same material but can share what strategies (processes used) have worked well and not so well. (Standing agenda item in the future)

There are a lot of differences between the councils but there may be an opportunity for consistent models for the CRS in future

Action 16.2: FNQROC to add Waste Education strategies used to the standing agenda for future meetings.

6. Summary of Direction Forward

- 6.1. Can commence "Develop a Regionally consistent waste data management system (work towards clearly defined definitions) – progress with regional workshop to be held with EHP.
- 6.2. Develop a regional CRS strategy and collection network – wait until CRS has more detail to it.
- 6.3. Develop a regional organics recovery strategy – watching brief – linked to EHP Stage 2 project.
- 6.4. Regional Plastic film collection and reprocessing solution – Sit for now, industry is driving.
- 6.5. Regional economic assessment of recycling expansion options – wait until CRS has more detail to it.
- 6.6. Develop a sub-regional strategy to increase recovery of commercial waste – not a priority, cannot compete with industry.
- 6.7. Examine direct export options for recyclables from Port of Townsville – Part of EHP State infrastructure report considerations – noting that Mourilyan should also be seen as an option.

- 6.8. Support development of regional markets for recovered glass sand – not ready for action but also dependant on CRS.
- 6.9. Support the recovery of secondary aggregates – not a priority, cannot compete with industry.
- 6.10. Cooperate regionally on waste education campaigns for common issues – Progress – Standing agenda item.

7. Acceptance of previous minutes – Meeting No. 15 (9 December 2016)

It was noted that the previous minutes was not recorded in our data management system however, the discussions today have capped off what was discussed.

8. Actions from Previous Meeting No. 15

No.	ACTION	OWNER	COMPLETED?
14.1	Nigel Crumpton to forward Waste Stream definitions to group for review	Nigel Crumpton	Completed
14.2	Member councils to review definitions provided by Nigel against existing council's definitions (interpretations) – conduct gap analysis and provide comment at next meeting (Friday 9 December)	All Councils	Completed
14.3	FNQROC to facilitate meeting with Cairns and Mareeba representatives to develop a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for Data project. Draft ToR to be distributed for review prior to December 9 meeting.		No longer needed

9. Update from LGAQ Advisory Committee Representative – Mark Alpress

Mark advised discussions included:

- CRS – as already discussed today
- Waste Management Service and Utility Charges – LGAQ has this as a high priority, there are significant consequences to councils and industry has been actively pushing for the removal of designated waste collection areas.
- ERA's – Kylie is aware of what the issues are.

10. Update from Dept. Environment and Heritage Protection

Julian provided an update from EHP:

- Regional Waste and ERA review about to go to Treasury and Premiers for approval prior to release – in holding pattern and unsure with it being an election year.
- Please comment on CRS Discussion paper
- Coming up with Dominic from Arcadis for Stage 2 discussions mid April and would like to talk to the region. It would be good to get all councils involved.

Action 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.

11. Council Updates

- 11.1. Cairns
 - JJ Richards awarded contract and focussed on that.
 - Strategic planning for Waste Strategy – hopefully by the end of the year.
 - Tender out for Hazardous waste contract
- 11.2. Cassowary
 - Stage 1 capping project of Tully, applied for Building our Regions for stage 2 & 3
 - Need to work on Stotters. Need a trade waste licence to discharge to sewer. Both Stotter and Tully have issues.
- 11.3. Cook
 - Not in attendance.
- 11.4. Croydon
 - Life is good, no problems.
- 11.5. Douglas
 - Not in attendance
- 11.6. Etheridge
 - Not in attendance
- 11.7. Hinchinbrook
 - Not in attendance
- 11.8. Mareeba
 - Same as Cairns. Need to feed a lot of data to JJ Richards
 - Portal for the 3 councils for waste collection – if customer calls and complains about bin not being collected can see if the truck has broken down or a picture to show their bin was not out.
 - First Euro6 waste trucks in Australia.
- 11.9. Tablelands
 - Not in Attendance
- 11.10. TSIRC
 - Not in Attendance
- 11.11. Yarrabah
 - Not in attendance
- 11.12. Wujal Wujal
 - Not in attendance

12. General Business

12.1. Waste Management Service and Utility Charges

Already discussed within the meeting

13. Points for noting to the FNQROC Board

- Progressing with regional data and consistent definitions
- Progressing with education opportunities
- Remaining 8 short term priorities are divided into:
 - Waiting on CRS
 - EHP driving through State infrastructure report and or Stage 2, and
 - Industry already driving.

14. Next meeting

The next meeting date will be dependent on EHP and Arcadis visit in April.

15. Meeting Closed: 12.40pm

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16.1	FNQROC to arrange an appropriate time for Col (EHP) to workshop definitions with the region. (May be able to combine with visit from EHP and Arcadis re stage 2 of Waste Infrastructure Report)	FNQROC	
16.2	FNQROC to add Waste Education strategies used to the standing agenda for future meetings.	FNQROC	
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 and Darlene	