

MEETING NOTES (DRAFT – FOR APPROVAL 01/03/2016)

Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 10:30am	Chair: Gareth Jones
Naamaroo Conference Centre – Lady Game Drive, Chatswood	Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SUEZ environnement

- (DM) – Ryde RRC Site Manager
- (GJ) – Stakeholder Engagement Manager

City of Ryde

- (JP) – Environmental Engineer

Community

- (CM) – Killara
- (JOT) – Killara
- (MF) – Lindfield
- (DT) – Killara

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1 WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
1.1	GJ welcomed all present to the meeting. No apologies were received.		

2 ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
2.1	Notes from the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.		

3 OPERATIONS UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
3.1	DM announced that he has returned to Ryde RRC following management changes, and is currently also taking care of Artarmon and Belrose. Artarmon is due to open again very shortly. DM has been spending a lot of time at Artarmon while floor repair works are being finalised. As soon as engineers' approval is received for the site to reopen, SUEZ will be moving all of the temporary freight currently going to Ryde back to Artarmon which is closer for customers. The site is expected to reopen at 10pm on Wednesday 11 November.		
3.2	DM reported that recent changes to the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act) had led to more stringent reporting requirements on the waste industry which necessitated upgrades to weighbridge systems and procedures. Staff must now ask customers where waste has come from, and this has to be noted along with where it will be stored on site. Waste companies need to report to the EPA each month on tonnes in and out. This change is part of an effort to combat illegal landfill operators. There will be some changes coming		

up in next two weeks, and customers may notice slightly longer processing times at the weighbridge.

DT asked what will happen to illegally landfilled garbage.

DM replied that operators of illegal landfills will now have to pay the levy and need to have compliant weighbridge systems in place. This only applies to the Sydney metro area, but 60% of existing waste management facilities are included. Asbestos and tyres will also now be tracked from pickup to disposal.

CM asked about illegal dumping on roadsides.

DM replied that laws had changed about 2 years ago giving the EPA power to take away trucks used for illegal dumping. However the cost to clean up illegal dumping is still the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the waste is dumped.

CM asked if the same rules apply to metals and other wastes.

DM replied that the new rules apply to everything arriving on site. There are also new prescribed limits on certain waste materials, where previously there was no limit on storage (apart from greenwaste). The Environment Levy is payable immediately if storage limits are exceeded. This change is aimed at discouraging stockpiling.

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- 3.3 DM reported that risk-based licensing has also recently been introduced by the EPA. EPA officers survey sites against a number of criteria and determine the cost of licences in accordance with specific risk factors. Low licence fees apply for well-managed and controlled facilities. Many sites which were previously not required to have licences are now also required to be licensed. EPA officers can visit and inspect at any time.

JP noted that EPA officers were usually fairly happy if operators were clearly trying to do the right thing.

DM added that if you can show you have the right processes in place and that you are trying to make improvements all the time, then EPA officers are normally happy with you.

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- 3.4 CM asked if Belrose floor works would follow completion of floor works at Artarmon.

DM replied that floor works were not planned for Belrose at the moment, as the condition of the facility is OK for now. Floor works at Auburn RRC had been completed before Artarmon commenced. When work started at Artarmon, the structure turned out to be in much better condition than had been expected after 30 years of heavy freight and wear. Once Artarmon returns to normal operations, Ryde's operations and hours will return to normal.

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- 3.5 CM asked how greenwaste operations were progressing.

DM replied that greenwaste tonnages had been very slow. The size of the stockpile has diminished significantly. SUEZ has lost a few contracts and chosen not to tender for some others which would not have been particularly profitable. There have been no decisions made on the future of the greenwaste platform as yet. The lease and royalty charges are quite expensive, but the nature of greenwaste customers (mostly arriving with trailers) mean upstairs handling will be difficult in terms of traffic management and safety.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE			
Item	Discussion	Action	Due
4.1	<p><i>PM was not present to provide the Environmental Update.</i></p> <p>DM reported that many staff have recently moved from Artarmon to Ryde, and on arrival had been made aware of on-site procedures which take neighbours into consideration, for example only moving metal stockpiles within specified times, etc. A few EPA inspections have taken place in the last few months but nothing of concern has been noted. No complaints have been received recently.</p>		
	Action	Contact PM to obtain Environmental Update.	GJ ASAP
5 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK			
Item	Discussion	Action	Due
5.1	<p>CM reported that some community members have recently observed reversing beepers in the small hours of the morning, and CM has been trying to identify the source. Some others in the neighbourhood suspect SUEZ, but CM knows SUEZ only have quacker alarms now, and suspects that works near the railway station could be to blame.</p> <p>DM confirmed that SUEZ changed to quackers a long time ago, however in terms of transport, trucks on roads will have beepers and there's nothing SUEZ can do about other operators. Much development activity has been happening in the local area in recent times.</p>		
5.2	<p>JOT reported that he had delivered some e-waste recently after assisting some neighbours with clean-ups. JOT couldn't lift a large TV into the e-waste skip bin, and a staff member had advised JOT to simply leave it on the ground next to the bin.</p> <p>DM explained that large or heavy e-waste items are lifted into the skip at a quiet and safe time with a front-end loader. The e-waste program has been much more popular than expected. SUEZ are still accepting all of the same materials – TVs and computer equipment.</p>		
5.3	<p>DT asked if electronic items are being received in the main building again yet.</p> <p>DM replied that these items are still being handled outside until other waste tonnages drop when Artarmon reopens.</p> <p>DT reported that he had also arrived with a very heavy TV recently and staff had assisted him with unloading the item.</p> <p>DM noted this and said that staff need to be careful if assisting customers as injuries could occur resulting from incorrect handling techniques.</p>		
5.4	<p>DM added that the number of mattresses arriving in mixed waste loads had recently risen significantly, with more than 100 per week being recovered from trucks and skip bins. These are being sent to Soft Landing (part of Mission Australia) for processing and recycling of recoverable materials.</p>		

JOT has seen many mattresses illegally dumped lately outside units on the Pacific Highway after people move out.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
6.1	GJ announced that the proposed meeting dates for 2016 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 1 March Tuesday 5 July Tuesday 1 November 		
6.2	DM reported that a new CEO has been appointed to SUEZ. Mark Venhoek previously managed SUEZ operations in China.		
6.3	DT asked the significance of the SUEZ name. DM explained that the parent company had built the SUEZ canal. All SUEZ companies worldwide are now known under the same name.		

MEETING CLOSED 11:20 AM

NEXT MEETING

Date:	Tuesday 1 March 2016, 10:30am
Venue:	Naamaroo Conference Centre – Lady Game Drive, Chatswood

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Description	Action	Due
4.1	Contact PM to obtain Environmental Update.	GJ	ASAP

APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Related Item
1	Environment Update – Ryde Resource Recovery Centre	4