
Horowhenua District Council & Hokio Environmental Kaitiaki Alliance Inc. Landfill Agreement Project Management Group

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Horowhenua District Council & Hokio Environmental Kaitiaki Alliance Inc. Landfill Agreement Project Management Group held in Tararua Room, Horowhenua District Council, Oxford Street Levin on 3 December 2019 at 3.30pm.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson/s	Jenny Rowan
Members	David Moore David Clapperton Lisa Slade
Project Manager	Greg Carlyon
Meeting Secretary	Natasha Breen

Welcome and Karakia

David M opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Apologies

None

Confirmation of Workshop Minutes 29 October 2019

Moved: Greg Carlyon

Seconded: David Moore

“THAT the Minutes of the Workshop held on Tuesday 29 October be accepted as true and correct”

CARRIED

Matters Arising

To date the new Council have received a high level briefing work programme, Jenny expressed the importance of the Hokio Landfill PMG briefing the Council and meeting the Mayor. A meeting with the Mayor has been confirmed for Monday 9 December at 3.30pm.

A briefing paper will be prepared to take to the Council.

Response to The Court Update

Greg provided a copy of the Joint Memorandum in Support of Draft Consent Order dated 29 November 2019 which he spoke to and the following was noted:

- Council and The Community have requested that the Environment Court grant an extension to 24 April 2020
- Both parties are in agreement and support each other
- A response is expected within a few weeks
- There are quite a number of items in the Landfill Agreement that if actioned and delivered make the proceedings less relevant
- As the Landfill closure approaches the existing Consent Conditions may need to be amended
- David C clarified that by 20 April 2020 there will be a recommendation from the PMG with the ultimate decision resting with Council
- Council cannot make a decision until they have consulted through the Annual Plan process
- There was group discussion of timelines and the process that will need to be followed for a decision by Council
- Greg advised that there will be an audit of odour, review of complaints and a further report to the Court, this might make taking an action against Council problematic.
- It was agreed that through this process the PMG needs to provide the Community with options
- Jenny advised that she would like to see some hard figures very soon as it will ultimately drive the decision of the Council. Greg replied that Chris has advised that the figures given at the Workshop are as certain as they can be and David M said that there are other issues such as social and environmental issues for consideration which must also be costed.
- It was agreed that a key role of the PMG is to work with Council to structure a proposal

Greg handed out two reports *Work to Date and Proposed Work Programme 2019-20* and *Proposed Option for Addressing Leachate*. He spoke to the reports

Work to Date and Proposed Work Programme 2019-2020 Memo 3 December 2019

The PMG is formed at the direction of the Levin Landfill Agreement, 13 March 2019. Its functions are clearly specified at section 5 of the agreement. The key functions are to:

- *build and maintain relationships between the parties,*
- *establish and direct the Project Manager,*
- *appoint experts as required,*
- *address leachate discharging from the closed landfill,*
- *remediate land impacted by landfill activities,*
- *develop recommendations for early landfill closure,*
- *support consents and amendments to consents to deliver on the above matters,*
- *develop and recommend a reconciliation process,*
- *recommend changes to the operation and management of the landfill,*
- *to support waste minimisation programmes,*
- *to support external funding opportunities which assist the above outcomes.*

At this time, following establishment of the PMG in March 2019, the team has completed the following tasks:

- *regularly met to ensure the positions of the representatives to the PMG are understood, and where possible, consistent,*
- *briefed the community stakeholders through formal and informal channels,*
- *commissioned technical advisers to assist the PMG,*
- *received the advice of the technical advisers in relation to leachate, early closure and remediation,*
- *briefed Councillors on progress to date and explained the function of the PMG,*

- provided advice in relation to ongoing Environment Court proceedings.

a number of key actions are required to ensure the outcomes specified in the Levin Landfill Agreement are provided for. These include:

Task	Recommended for completion
Determination from PMG regarding leachate management.	December 2019
Provisional recommendation from PMG regarding early closure date.	December 2019
Development of a recommendation to council from the PMG, for early closure of the Levin Landfill.	February 2020
A programme of work with Councillors and the community to socialise the issues associated with early closure, including a social impact assessment.	March-May 2020
A programme of community engagement and restorative justice, culminating with a public apology from HDC. I note this apology will only have status when it sits alongside a council agreement for early closure.	Ongoing, delivery date to match closure decision
Following agreement to early closure, development of a closure remediation plan and associated resource consents.	January-May 2020
Engagement and involvement with HRC representatives in the PMG.	Immediate
Receipt and review of all monitoring reports associated with the consents' operation.	Ongoing

HDC's requirement to engage regarding odour impacts and mitigation where present	December 2019
Complete an independent assessment of air quality associated with landfill operations	March 2020
Cultural Impact Assessment – Ngati Pareraukawa and Muaupoko	Completed March 2020

Recommendations

- 1. Engagement with community stakeholders, 9 December 2019. This engagement needs to be completely transparent with all documentation and finalised reports available to attendees. An agenda needs to be developed which addresses matters of interest brought forward by the community.**

There was discussion on how wide the invitation for the Community Meeting (Monday 9 December) should go and it was agreed to send another email restating the purpose of the meeting being for the Hokio Landfill Project Management Group to provide a progress update and that there will be another NLG meeting in the New Year.

- 2. A determination in relation to leachate. My recommendation is contained in the memo prepared for this matter.**

- 3. A provisional determination is required in relation to early closure. The material provided by Tonkin & Taylor gives the PMG a complete position for our determination. On the basis that the contract with the current landfill operator will terminate and the existing cell will close in or about 2021, it is my opinion that this is an appropriate date for closure of the existing landfill. The rationale for closure at this time was well articulated by Chris Purchase (T&T). The down-side economic impact of closure and transfer of waste to an alternate site is acknowledged. Equally, the costs associated with closure are not fully generated by early closure. It is appropriate to make a determination in principle at this time, as we have a significant number of matters to address in the lead-up to formal recommendation to council.**

When Greg refers to a closing date of 2021 he does not mean closing the gates and it may be a staged closure but the next cell would not be commissioned.

A key matter I have spoken about with all PMG members is the need to fully engage with Councillors and the Horowhenua community, in relation to landfill closure. The closure will be a significant decision for Councillors to make, and it is important that we provide the information and support to best assist that decision. It is my understanding that this will take some months and will overlap the Annual Plan process. The ramification of this is that a special consultative procedure, or council delegation, will be required for a 2021 closure.

Jenny advised that if the PMG Meetings have the need to go into committee that it will be recorded in the minutes that the group went into committee for transparency purposes, Jenny's preference is to not go into committee.

Proposed Option for Addressing Leachate Memo 3 December 2019

Based on an assessment of the material provided by Tonkin & Taylor and discussions with PMG members, I recommend the following approach to address leachate, associated with the closed landfill.

- 1. That remote expert caucusing involving Olivier Ausseil for HDC, Logan Brown for HRC, Kate McArthur for the community and the water quality expert for Tonkin & Taylor be undertaken in January, for the purposes of confirming the position reflected by Tonkin & Taylor to the PMG (that there is no material impact of the discharge to the Tatana Drain downstream in the Hokio Stream). Where there are differences of opinion, they will be documented.**
- 2. That Pareraukawa undertake a Cultural Impact Assessment for the purpose of detailing the effects of the current discharge on their values. This work is to utilise existing positions advanced in public forums, as a foundation. Their work should be completed by 1 March 2020.**
- 3. That the PMG make a further determination on the option chosen for leachate management following feedback from the independent experts, and review of the Cultural Impact Assessment.**
- 4. That design and documentation should be initiated to deliver the following:**
 - improvements in capping and storm water management at the closed landfill,**
 - development of a shallow surface-flow wetland system adjacent to the Tatana Drain,**
 - exclude all stock from the site,**
 - ensure key community stakeholders are involved in the design and implementation of the wetland project,**
 - ensure a monitoring programme is in place to determine state and trends for water quality associated with the Tatana site and discharges to the Hokio Stream**

(the existing consent requires this, however modification of the site may dictate changes),

5. That this option is costed and advanced through the Annual Plan process for adoption and delivery in the 2020 calendar year.

The Restorative Process Update

David C advised that Bronwyn may have broadened the scope (Landfill catchment only) and is engaging with Councillors.

Lisa is meeting with Bronwyn on Thursday 5 December 2019.

There was discussion around the timeframe and the process going forward.

Lisa will ask Bronwyn to prepare a timeline that fits in with the dates of the PMG and invite her to the meeting on Monday 9 December.

Jenny advised she has met with Bronwyn and that Bronwyn has met with a number of people and agrees that it should fit within the timeline of the PMG.

Preliminary Determination from The PMG on Landfill Closure

Moved: David Moore Seconded: Lisa Slade

“THAT the PMG agrees to a provisional determination for early closure of the Levin Landfill at or about 2021. The issues in relation to closure at this time need to be fully explored including operational details associated with cell closure and economic implications.

The Project Management Group will consider this material in February 2020 in order to prepare a recommendation to Councillor through workshops and formal Council Meetings in the lead up to the Annual Plan process”

CARRIED

Moved: David Moore Seconded: Lisa Slade

“THAT the option set out in Carlyon’s paper on page 2 for management of the existing profile for the closed landfill and wetland treatment of leachate discharged to the Tatana Drain be advanced for adoption and delivery in 2020 subject to funding and workforce resource”

CARRIED

Greg asked to now take responsibility for the tasks and see them actioned and report back in February.

HEKA Payment

The Invoice is being processed urgently for payment.

Jenny expressed her gratitude for this being paid.

Meeting Dates

- Monday 9 December, 4.30pm, Jenny, David M and Greg to meet with HEKA prior to Community Meeting. David M to advise HEKA.

- Tuesday 4 February, 3.00pm, PMG Meeting
- Tuesday 3 March, 3.00pm, PMG Meeting

General Business

Jenny has spoken to Rachel Keedwell Chair of Horizons Regional Council who has advised she will have a councillor to join the PMG.

Next Meeting Date

David M closed the meeting with a Karakia