

WAMBOIN/BYWONG/SUTTON EAST WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

Palerang Council Offices

Tuesday 23 March 2010

1. Meeting opened 5:45 pm
2. Attendance: Bill Ellison, Cr. Terry Bransdon, Cr. Anne Goonan, Jim Greethead, Pete Harrison, John van der Straaten
3. 2010/2011 Management Plan

The details of the proposed WTS, to be presented in the 2010/2011 Management Plan and Budget, were discussed. It was noted that:

- a) Descriptive information, to appear with the discussion of the future waste management arrangements within the LGA, would include:
 - The proposal for a WTS at the Macs Reef Road landfill site;
 - The size of the proposed WTS and what it would and would not accept;
 - The implementation strategy;
 - The schedule of fees to be levied (GWC & Gate Fees);
 - Hours of operation;
- b) The budget would include, in the first year (2010/2011) an allocation to cover the planning phase of the implementation, and in subsequent years to cover the capital and ongoing operational costs.

Note: These allocations will come from the General Waste Charge and, since this is an independent fund, will have no impact on any budget deficit.

ACTION: Bill Ellison to prepare documentation for inclusion in the 2010/2011 Management Plan and Budget.

4. Project Budget Control

There was discussion relating to control of the project budget, and measures that may be employed to minimise the potential for escalating project costs. In particular, it was noted that:

- The requirement for an EIS would be determined during the planning phase of the project. While the current budget includes funding for an EIS, preliminary indications are that it may not be required, in which case the project will benefit from the associated cost saving;
- Earthworks would most likely be undertaken by council, providing a degree of stability with respect to the expenses associated with this element of the project;
- General construction works would be let to contractors, and subject to standard project cost control measures.

5. Financial Impact Analysis

Following concerns raised at the March General Meeting of Council, over the cost of a facility that would service around 25% of the shire's population, the WMWG undertook an exercise to compare the cost of the new Waste Transfer Station with that of operating the existing landfill.

It was noted that the forecast operational costs for the proposed WTS are roughly the same as those for the existing landfill.

Further, based on the vehicle movement estimates provided in the Concept Options Report, and the proposed Gate Fees, the cost of servicing the loan used to fund the capital works associated with the new facility will be met mostly by those using and benefiting from the facility (i.e. Gate Fees collected from users of the new facility may well cover loan repayments for the entire cost of the capital works).

The result is that the provision of a Waste Transfer Station on Macs Reef Road will have little financial impact on current costs, as the cost of operating the WTS will be roughly equal to the cost of operation of the existing landfill.

It was also suggested by some members of the Working Group that, while they cannot be quantified, there will also be savings in capital expenditure at the Bungendore WTS due to the increased life expectancy of the existing infrastructure, now that Wamboin/Bywong/Sutton waste is being handled locally.

6. Other Business

There were no other items of business presented to the meeting.

7. Next Meeting

To be scheduled before the April General Meeting of Council

8. Meeting Closed 7:07 pm