



**EASTERN TREATMENT PLANT  
Community Liaison Committee  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
25 June 2009**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
Desiree Lovell (City of Kingston)	Colin Addison (Gunnamatta Surf Life Saving Club)
Anton Vigenser (Clean Ocean Foundation)	Hieu Dang (Yarra Valley Water)
Jacque Salter (Clean Ocean Foundation)	Susanna Young (EPA Victoria)
Les Williams (Edithvale-Seaford Community Member)	Marc Cassanet (EPA Victoria)
Alan Hood (Bangholme Rural Land Holders' association)	Gidja Walker (Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association)
Jon Theobald (South East Water)	Darren Wilson (City of Greater Dandenong)
Naren Narenthiran (EPA Victoria)	Phil Pearmain (Melbourne Water)
Anne Martin (Carrum Indigenous Nursery)	Sam Harbert (Melbourne Water)
Mark Upton (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council)	
Pat King (Patterson Lakes/Carrum Village Committee)	<b>CHAIR</b>
Mike Smith (Melbourne Water)	Michael Keough (Melbourne Water)
David Hill (Melbourne Water)	<b>MINUTES</b>
Ron O'Toole (Clean Ocean Foundation, guest of Anton Vigenser)	Mike Smith / Michael Keough (Melbourne Water)

**1. Welcome by the chair/apologies**

Joni Tuck was welcomed as guest presenter. Ron O'Toole was introduced (Administration Officer for the Clean Ocean Foundation and guest of Anton Vigenser).

Apologies were received as above.

**2. Sugarloaf Pipeline Project**

Joni Tuck presented to the committee on the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project, providing detail on the purpose, timing, engineering works (including challenges and solutions) and reinstatement works. At the time of the meeting, approximately 60% of pipes had been laid, the tunnel under Toolangi Forest had just been completed and the expected completion date for laying and covering all pipes was in August 2009. The project was expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2010.

Discussion followed focusing on engineering aspects of the project including measures to prevent surge and ensure good water quality in the pipeline system,

dealings with landowners about easements and reinstatement, community sentiment along the pipe corridor, measures to protect biodiversity in the corridor and offset losses, and the relationship between the pipeline project and the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (involving modernisation of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District).

Members of the committee expressed their appreciation for the presentation. An observation was made that the presentation had helped to show the project in a positive light, in contrast with the negative sentiment expressed in the media about the project. Observations were also made about the technical difficulty of these types of projects and how the presentation had showed how the project had addressed some of these difficulties.

### 3. Previous Minutes and Business Arising

The minutes from the April 2009 meeting were accepted. The following actions were still outstanding:

<b>Melbourne Water to provide information about weed management at ETP.</b>	<b>MS</b>
<b>Information to be made available to committee members on how to get a copy of the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy Addendum.</b>	<b>MK</b>
<b>Mark Upton to be provided with information on Melbourne Water's approach to fuel reduction.</b>	<b>MK/DH</b>
<b>South East Water to provide information on the purple pipes being installed along Boneo Road</b>	<b>JT</b>
<b>Presentation on biodiversity and environment and water projects to be organised for the June 2009 meeting.</b>	<b>MK/PP</b>
<b>Metropolitan Sewerage Strategy team to be approached for an update.</b>	<b>MK</b>

The Chair explained that the project manager of the 2009 Melbourne Metropolitan Sewerage Strategy had been approached to give a presentation and had offered to provide an update at a later meeting, in line with project timing; and that a presentation about biodiversity is being arranged but for a later time.

**ACTION: The Chair to follow up on outstanding actions.**

### 5. Melbourne Water Report

- a) Construction of the four additional aeration tanks is continuing without incident. Completion of the project is expected by the end of November 2009. The additional tanks are required to meet a 90th percentile ammonia target of <10 mg/L that applies from 1 July 2010.
- b) The preliminary treatment area is considered to be the highest odour source in the Plant. Construction and commissioning of a new odour control facility to treat all of the foul air from this area has been completed and the system is working well.
- c) In early June we had an incident where two sludge stockpiles began smouldering due to heat generated from the sludge composting. This is the first time we've experienced this issue as previously the harvested sludge contained a lot of clay material from the sludge drying pan floors. Now that the pan floors have been refurbished with a hard layer of recycled crushed concrete the sludge is being harvested without any clay

mixed in. Sludge harvesting practices have now been modified to ensure the biosolids are a minimum of 75% dry solids prior to removing from the pans and are placed on the stockpiles in layers no more than one metre thick. Melbourne Water is about to issue an expression of interest for the reuse of sludge.

The committee asked for further information on:

Odour control facility: The function of the new odour control facility is not affected by weeds growing in the compost medium provided weed numbers are not excessive. Melbourne Water has a weed control regime for the facility.

Sludge digesters: The sludge digesters are working as expected with 16 to 18 day detention times and 45% destruction of volatile solids which is considered to be very good performance for anaerobic digesters.

ETP Upgrade: The trials were completed and the results are informing the preferred treatment process to be recommended in a Works Approval application to EPA Victoria. It is expected that the application will be submitted in coming weeks. The upgrade is still on target to be completed by the end of 2012. While approvals for the upgrade are yet to be received, Melbourne Water is ensuring that it can complete the project in the required time, and advertised recently for expressions of interest from constructors with the required skills for the types of works involved in this type of project. (The notice of advertisement was distributed to committee members in April.)

## **6. Communications Ideas**

The committee was invited by Mike Smith to discuss and propose ideas about how Melbourne Water can communicate effectively about ETP. Ideas focused on identifying who to communicate with, the purposes of communicating and methods of communication.

Councils, school students ("get them early") and residents featured among people and organisations to communicate with. Discussion included identifying different information needs for different areas (for example Mornington Peninsula is not interested in odour from the plant. differentiating between Helping people know what happens at the plant, reputation in the local community ("money in the bank") and highlighting recent achievements such as new facilities featured among purposes suggested. Local newspapers, newsletters (similar to Kingston Our City), radio and website were frequently mentioned methods of communication, together with tours of the plant for schools and other audiences. The potential for arranging media coverage of new facilities in newspapers appropriate to the topic was suggested (for example the new odour control facility in papers covering Patterson Lakes area).

Separate notes were kept of ideas proposed.

**ACTION: Notes of discussion on communications planning to Mike Smith.**

## **7. General Business and Reports by CLC Members**

There was no general business.

**8. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 25 August 2009.**  
It will be held at the Eastern Treatment Plant unless otherwise notified.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

**ACTIONS THIS MEETING**

<b>ACTION: The Chair to follow up on outstanding actions.</b>	<b>MK</b>
<b>ACTION: Notes of discussion on communications planning to Mike Smith.</b>	<b>MK</b>