



Meeting 7
Friday 18 August 2006, 9.30 am – 12.15 pm

Attendees

Ron Smith	Sutherland Shire Council
Daniel Lovett	Warringah Council
Matthew Taylor	Keep Australia Beautiful NSW
Tony Mohr	Total Environment Centre
Emily Albert	St James Ethics Centre
Ken Kanofski	WSN Environmental Solutions (WSN)
Anita Mitchell	WSN
Anna Mitchell	WSN
Mohan Selvaraj	WSN (item 7 only)

Apologies

Simon Longstaff	St James Ethics Centre
Liz Jeremy	Blacktown City Council
Jenny Kent	
Bob Verhey	Local Government Association

1. Welcome and Agenda

Ken Kanofski welcomed the group.

2. Adoption of minutes from Meeting 6 and business arising

The minutes of Meeting 6 were adopted as a true and accurate record and will be posted on the WSN website.

Actions from Meeting 6:

- WSN will circulate sustainability benchmarking information to the SRG following receipt of the results of the Sustainability Reporters Benchmarking Program run by URS.
- The updated greenhouse gas emissions and management indicators paper was circulated with the minutes of the May meeting, and included additional information about calculation of greenhouse gas emissions from compost.
- Comments from the SRG have been incorporated into the draft Sustainability Policy.

All other actions are addressed as part of the relevant meeting discussions.

3. SRG Evaluation – feedback on final report and WSN response

Anita Mitchell talked through WSN's response to recommendations in the report.

Strategic contribution

Anita Mitchell encouraged SRG members to propose items to be included on future meeting agendas. Positive feedback was received from SRG members in relation to Anna Mitchell contacting the SRG members one month prior to the meeting to seek their input for the meeting agenda.

Anita Mitchell advised that a discussion about targets and objectives for WSN's future sustainability performance will be included on the February 2006 meeting agenda.

In relation to Recommendation (e), Tony Mohr noted that he had actually requested information about performance benchmarking rather than sustainability reporting benchmarking. Tony commented that it would be beneficial to compare WSN's environmental performance with data from other waste industry players if possible. Anita Mitchell advised that it is very difficult to benchmark performance against other Australian waste companies, as they do not publicly report on comparable data in most instances. Anita agreed to investigate whether any comparable data is available. **Action:** *Anna Mitchell to provide any environmental performance benchmarking information to the SRG.*

Organisational dynamics

Anita Mitchell asked SRG members if they would like to trial rotating chairmanship in future SRG meetings. Tony Mohr agreed to chair the November meeting. Tony emphasised that when a non-WSN member is chairing the meeting, contributing and chairing should be clearly differentiated, and a speakers list could be utilised.

Emily Albert said that she will ask Simon Longstaff if he would be interested in chairing the February 2007 meeting.

4. Review of SRG Terms of Reference

Ken Kanofski proposed holding over the review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) the November meeting, as some of SRG members did not receive a copy prior to the meeting.

Action: *Anna Mitchell to circulate the Terms of Reference prior to November meeting.*

Relationship between the SRG and other advisory bodies

Ken Kanofski advised that another WSN advisory body; the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) currently has representation from North Sydney, Manly, Campbelltown, Blacktown and Hurstville Councils. Ken noted that now that WSN operates in a competitive environment, Council waste disposal pricing cannot be discussed, which was the original purpose of the committee. Current standing agendas are small vehicle pricing and household hazardous waste pricing.

Ken Kanofski said that the SRG and Community Advisory Committees (CACs) have different roles. The principal purpose of the CACs is to deal with local, site-related issues. Tony Mohr suggested that the CACs should be able to refer items such as policy decisions to the SRG. Daniel Lovett said that it is important that the corporate values around sustainability expressed by WSN in the SRG forum are reflected in the CAC forum.

In terms of the SRG's relationship to the Board, Ken Kanofski emphasised that the SRG is not a decision making body. However, SRG feedback on relevant issues is communicated to the Board without editing from WSN. It was agreed that the SRG ToR revised to better clarify the relationship between the SRG and the Board. **Action:** *Anna Mitchell to revise ToR to address relationships, following SRG's complete review of the ToR.*

Tony Mohr suggested it may be appropriate to invite a WSN Board member to the SRG's discussion on target setting. Ken agreed with Tony's suggestion. **Action:** *Ken Kanofski to invite a representative from the WSN Board to the February 2007 SRG meeting.*

SRG Membership

Anna Mitchell reminded the group that the first two-year membership term will be complete at the end of 2006. Therefore, the SRG needs to decide how to turn over the membership.

The group agreed that a formal turnover process was not required, as organically occurring turnover would probably be sufficient. Anna Mitchell will contact each SRG member individually to see if they would like to continue for a second membership term. It is likely that through this process several places will become vacant and new members will need to be found. If Anna does not receive a response from any members as to continuation of their membership, this will be taken as the member declining the invitation to continue.

The SRG generated a list of potential new members. It was agreed to circulate this list to the SRG out of session for their feedback on which of these potential members they would prefer to be invited to join the SRG. **Action:** *Anna Mitchell to circulate list of potential members.*

5 SRG work plan

Anna Mitchell tabled the draft SRG work plan.

Ken Kanofski proposed a discussion on policy issues surrounding nuclear energy and nuclear waste to be added to the November meeting agenda as a general discussion item, as it is a topical public policy issue.

It was agreed to conduct the May meeting at the Eastern Creek WRC, combined with a site tour.

Tony Mohr suggested that any discussion of the Productivity Commission report be future-focussed, as the inquiry will be finalised by the time of the SRG's discussion. **Action:** *Anita Mitchell to circulate WSN's Productivity Commission Inquiry submission.*

Some other minor adjustments were made to the draft work plan. **Action:** *Anna Mitchell to circulate final work plan.*

6. Kerbside recycling

A discussion with regard to kerbside recycling was held. Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this discussion it was not minuted.

Tony Mohr asked whether WSN advocates the use of a single domestic bin for all waste and recyclables when the water is going to an AWT facility? Ken advised that the appropriate number of bins depends upon which technology is used at the AWT facility. The UR-3R could in theory accept fully mixed waste from one bin and separate out the recyclables. However the current design is based on two bins. The ArrowBio system requires at least paper and garden waste to be collected separately as it cannot be separated out once the waste has entered the AWT facility. The number of bins depends upon how compliant residents are with sorting waste. WSN will accommodate Councils' preferences for number of bins.

The idea of separating household hazardous waste was also discussed, with WSN being supportive of reducing the amount of hazardous waste going into AWT facilities and landfills.

Ken advised that WSN would soon be conducting a technical forum to discuss the potential for combined food/greenwaste collection and processing.

7. Alternative Waste Technology

Update on Ecolibrium Facilities and recommissioning of UR-3R

Ken Kanofski advised that recommissioning of the UR-3R is progressing, and that the facility is currently at approximately 40% capacity, capable of receiving Fairfield Council waste alone. It will be back to full capacity by the end of 2006/early 2007.

Ken advised that the contract with the four South-West Sydney Councils had now been signed. The Department of Planning is yet to issue development consent, but WSN has seen draft Conditions of Consent and is satisfied with these.

Civil works will commence in November 2006 and the facilities should be completed by the end of 2007, followed by a commissioning period of about six months. WSN will cease landfilling putrescible waste at Jacks Gully by 30 June 2008.

Greenhouse gas emissions technology comparison

Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this discussion, it was not minuted.

8. General Business

Daniel Lovett advised that Warringah Council are currently preparing a new waste strategy. Daniel would like to invite WSN representatives to discuss sustainability-related issues with Council staff. Anita Mitchell agreed to meet with the Council staff.

Matthew Taylor advised that Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has started measuring environment performance of Councils. Ken Kanofski advised that this is related to WSN's Grass Roots Program and that he would like to have a further discussion with Mathew.

9. Next meeting date and agenda items

The next meeting date scheduled for 29 November 2006 at 9.30am. Proposed agenda items are contained in the final SRG work plan.

Action list

- Anna Mitchell to provide any environmental performance benchmarking information to the SRG.
- Anna Mitchell to circulate the Terms of Reference prior to November meeting.
- Anna Mitchell to revise ToR to address relationships, following SRG's complete review of the ToR.
- Ken Kanofski to invite a representative from the WSN Board to the February 2007 SRG meeting.
- Anna Mitchell to circulate list of potential SRG members.
- Anita Mitchell to circulate WSN's Productivity Commission Inquiry submission.
- Anna Mitchell to circulate final work plan.