



SHIRE OF YORK

Minutes of the Special Electors Meeting
Held in the York Town Hall, York on
Monday, 11th February, 2013 at 6.35pm

1. ATTENDANCE

Cr Boyle, Shire President; Cr Scott, Deputy Shire President;
Cr Hooper, Cr Smythe, Cr Lawrence, Cr Duperouzel

STAFF

R Hooper, G Maziuk

APOLOGIES

Nil Recorded

2. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

136 recorded from the Attendance Register

3. PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL ELECTORS MEETING

- Landfill Development in the Wheatbelt

4. OPENING

The Shire President, Cr Boyle, declared the meeting open and advised of the speakers and the format of the meeting.

5. AVON VALLEY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC

The Co-Chair, Denis Hill, outlined the actions and achievements of the York Landfill Action Coalition (now incorporated as the Avon Valley Residents & Ratepayers Association) to date.

6. Department of Environment & Conservation

- Mr A Sands, Director, Environmental Regulation Division outlined the provisions of Part V of the Environmental Protection Act and the role of the DEC in the process.
- Ms C Angel, Licensing Section, advised of the requirements and processes under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act which are the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Authority and the role of the DEC under Part V.

The processes to be followed are:

- Environmental assessment – EPA
- Planning Development Application – Local Government or Development Assessment Panel
- Licensing/Works Approval – DEC

No application has been lodged to date and answers cannot be given until this happens.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CONSULTANT

Ms S Shepherd outlined the procedures if an application is lodged for a landfill development – Environmental Assessment → Planning Process → Works Approval/Operating Licence

Ms Shepherd outlined the assessment and appeals processes and timeframes and the grounds for submissions.

In the environmental assessment processes only environmental issues will be considered and all other issues will be ignored.

Ms Shepherd detailed the planning processes for a land use application and the various provisions and clauses in the York Town Planning Scheme. Noxious industry e.g. landfill is a special approvals provision under the Scheme and not a prohibited use.

Mandatory advice processes must be followed to notify the community of any development applications and to call for public submissions.

Planning processes are only undertaken after the environmental assessment process.

If a development application is for a value over \$7 million in rural areas it must be referred to a Development Assessment Panel. For a project between \$3 - \$7 million a Local Government can opt to refer it to a Development Assessment Panel or determine it itself.

Under the DAP process public submissions are called for and the Panel can be requested to invite an in person presentation to a hearing.

DAP Minutes must be posted on the website within 5 days of a meeting.

Only the applicant for a development can appeal to the State Administration Tribunal against the decision made or the conditions imposed and there are no third party rights of appeal.

8. QUESTIONS TO SPEAKERS

J Ferro – Are other sites and operations checked in the assessment process?

A Sands - Yes. The primary assessment is based on the application made and the information provided however a secondary check is made on the applicants history, industry standards and trends, rules and regulations in other States and other factors.

D Hill - If there is a Government level presumption of no further landfill development on the Swan Coastal Plan why won't the same standard be applied to the Wheatbelt?

A Sands - Coastal sands are porous and overlay the Perth aquifer while the heavier soils of the Wheatbelt are better suited to prevent leakage and containing it if it occurs.

Current design standards are based on meeting potential risk which did not occur in the past.

Technology and licence conditions are better now than in the past.

A Kopke - Why not follow the Victorian Policy of waste to landfill as a last resort?

A Sands - The State Government promotes recycling, it is looking for new markets in recyclables e.g. road base and has introduced a waste landfill levy and minimal waste to landfill is an objective however this must be embraced and acted on by the community to be effective.

9. MOTIONS FROM THE MEETING

(a) Moved - K Hack; Seconded: J Mossop

“That the York Shire Council, on behalf of the residents, opposes the establishment of a noxious industry catering for metropolitan landfill within the York Shire boundaries.”

CARRIED

(b) Moved - H Green; Seconded – P Green

“That the York Shire Council fully supports the ‘York Proposition’.

The York Proposition states:

That within the first 100 days of the opening of the new parliament, the next government of Western Australia, with cross-party support, will carry out the following actions:

A. Commission a feasibility study into the establishment of one or more waste disposal plants in the metropolitan area. These plants will process and/or recycle the total metropolitan waste stream not already treated and thus alleviate the need for any landfill sites in country areas.

B. In tandem with section A, the government will commission a study designed to identify a single landfill site to cater for all metropolitan waste that needs to go to landfill, subject to the following conditions:

1. The site should be in a low rainfall area.
2. It should be away from a population centre.
3. It should be on land already cleared.
4. Choice of a site must take into account local seismic activity.
5. The site should be large enough to provide sufficient waste disposal facilities for the next century.
6. All organic waste should be processed and used as a soil improver.
7. Metropolitan waste should be transported to the site exclusively by rail.”

CARRIED

(c) Moved – K Davies; Seconded – G Davies

“That when the York Shire Councillors receive the proposal for the landfill they hold a concerned citizens meeting to discuss the public concerns before making a decision and taking a vote on the proposal.”

CARRIED

(d) Moved – F Ranger; Seconded – Y Dols

“That when a proposal is received Council consult with the Mundaring Shire Council before making a decision.”

CARRIED

10, MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm.