

Supermarket Soft Plastics Taskforce Meeting 8 Minutes

07 February 2023, 12:30pm-1:00pm

Attendees

Coles: Brooke Donnelly, Llew Fleming, Adam Fitzgibbons, Simone Brookes, Kristen Boverly-Spencer.

Woolworths: Peter Bruce, Alice Yang, Laurie Kozlovic, Nerilee Telford, Eloise Fanuli, Liam Brennan.

New South Wales Environmental Protection Authority (NSW EPA): Adam Gilligan, Stephen Beaman, Corrie Ford.

Minutes

Agenda item 1: Options to consider for stockpiles

- Attendees referred to the draft Clean-up Notices issued by the NSW EPA to each of Woolworths and Coles and confirmed the Taskforce is exploring options to manage the stockpiled material, with landfill being the least desirable outcome.
- [REDACTED] Attendees noted that REDcycle had confirmed in a letter sent to Coles and Woolworths [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Woolworths provided an update on the potential for export as an option to manage the existing stockpiles in NSW, noting there is a country in [REDACTED] that appears willing to take the material, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Woolworths confirmed the processor would accept this material in its current form [REDACTED]
- Attendees queried if a phased approach to managing the stockpiles would be acceptable to the NSW EPA, effectively prioritising high-risk material as the first group to be managed within the most immediate timeframe, with subsequent timeframes and mitigation activities for sites classified as medium and low risk.
- [REDACTED] The NSW EPA noted that there are a number of site owners [REDACTED] who wanted the material moved as a priority.

Outcomes:

- **NSW EPA confirmed** support of a phased risk-based approach to managing the existing stockpiles in NSW.

Agenda item 2: Stockpile project – Operations, roles and responsibilities and timelines

- **The Parties** voiced concerns around accessibility for Woolworths and Coles to the NSW sites on which the REDcycle material is allegedly stored and the transportation of the REDcycle material flagging litter risks and subsequent potential repacking requirements.
- Attendees reiterated they would need access to the sites to understand the condition of the REDcycle material and wanted to understand what support the NSW EPA could provide.

- Attendees noted the need to factor in safety considerations with regards to accessing the sites.

[REDACTED] The NSW EPA discussed the potential need to consider solutions for the existing stockpiles which may differ from REDcycle's proposed preliminary solution [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] Parties discussed the need to obtain accurate and current information [REDACTED]

Outcomes:

- **NSW EPA confirmed** they could assist Coles and Woolworths to gain entry to the sites with stockpiled material, however noted their entry powers might not be required in circumstances where site owners would be happy to co-operate by granting access to third parties to support the removal of the REDcycle material.
- **NSW EPA confirmed** they could facilitate connections between Coles and Woolworths and the site owners, notwithstanding their entry powers were available.

Agenda item 3: Next steps

- The Parties discussed putting together a proposal to manage the stockpiles within approximate timeframes, on the basis of a phased risk-based approach.
- The Parties discussed setting up a meeting cadence with the NSW EPA to provide progress reports.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Outcomes:

- **NSW EPA confirmed** it could not provide advice on timeframes that it would be comfortable with based on the information currently available and would prefer a proposal from Coles and Woolworths to consider.
- [REDACTED] **Coles and Woolworths agreed** that a response to the NSW EPA draft Clean-up Notice would contain the following [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **NSW EPA agreed** it would support access to the NSW sites where necessary.
- **Coles and Woolworths agreed** to meet next Monday with the NSW EPA to discuss the NSW EPA's view on Coles' and Woolworths' responses to the draft Clean-up Notices.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Agenda item 4: Meeting close