

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 28/11/2013)

Thursday, 26 September 2013 at 6:30pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Education Centre, 1725 Elizabeth Drive, Kemp's Creek

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- (GJ) – Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- (BC) – Business Development Manager
- (PH) – Sydney Resource Recovery Manager
- (LCC) – Elizabeth Drive Landfill Manager
- (NB) – Compliance Officer

Nepean Greens

- (DG)
- (MT)

Community

- (WM)
- (ARA)
- (BF)

Apologies

- (PM) – Community
- (NH) – SITA
- (AK) – SITA
- (SW) – Nepean Greens

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	<p>GJ welcomed visitors to tonight's meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were acknowledged from PM, NH, AK and SW.</p> <p>BF introduced himself as a new member of the CRG. BF lives in Horsley Park, close to the waste facilities operating in Eastern Creek. One of these facilities, owned and operated by Global Renewables Eastern Creek (GREC), is similar to SAWT. The Eastern Creek group also includes a SITA organics platform and a WAMC landfill. SITA operate the front end of the site (weighbridge and unloading areas). BF started attending community meetings at Eastern Creek when GREC (then Global Renewables Limited) started operating, due to increased odour issues relating to the facility. BF is an accountant, and used to work for Brambles who owned Cleanaway at the time, so has a background understanding of the waste industry.</p> <p>All present introduced themselves to BF.</p>		

2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	<p>GJ reported that a CRG member not present at tonight's meeting had reported inaccuracies within the odour complaint figures reported at the previous meeting. This error would be adjusted in the notes, and the matter would be further addressed later in this meeting.</p>		

Notes from the previous meeting were accepted with no further amendments.

3. OPERATIONS UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
Kemps Creek SAWT Advanced Resource Recovery Facility			
3.1	<p>PH reported that recent dry weather has helped with operations at the SAWT facility, in that it had been easier to refine and move compost product to end markets. There had not been any breakdowns or wet weather impacts recently, with all operations running smoothly and stockpiles on site being reduced and kept to a minimum. Compost windrows were covered to reduce susceptibility to wet weather impacts.</p> <p>PH added that an interim solution to existing odour issues was being examined, which would possibly involve the installation of aerated concrete floors on the maturation pads.</p>		
3.2	<p>MT asked for more information on the SAWT facility.</p> <p>PH explained that all municipal, food and garden waste comes into SAWT. After initial processing indoors, the compost is moved outdoors into windrows to mature. The surfaces of the maturation pads have degenerated, leading to ponding of water on the ground. Concreting would enable better drainage of excess moisture from these areas.</p>		
Elizabeth Drive Landfill			
3.3	<p>LC reported that operations had been continuing as usual. Active tipping was occurring in the middle of the landfill. There had been a few recent changes in filling operations – last month work had been undertaken on the gas collection infrastructure, and a new major gas pipe had been added across the landfill. The foundation for the new flare had also been constructed in the last 2 weeks. The flare would be installed in October, and should be operational by the end of the year.</p>		
3.4	<p>BF asked how long the facility had been taking waste.</p> <p>LC replied that the landfill had started receiving waste in 1992.</p>		
3.5	<p>BF asked if the landfill received putrescible waste.</p> <p>LC replied that the landfill only received material classified as dry waste.</p>		
3.6	<p>BF asked how much gas was extracted from the landfill.</p> <p>LC replied that the current rate was approximately 800m³ per hour.</p>		
3.7	<p>BF asked how much organic content was in the landfilled waste.</p> <p>LC replied that while putrescible or organic waste was not accepted for landfilling, there may be some wood, cardboard and paper, which can produce gas as it degrades.</p> <p>BC added that the capture and flaring of landfill gas is a good</p>		

environmental outcome, and that the landfill would soon be generating electricity using this gas. The process also reduces SITA's carbon liability.

BF agreed that the capture of landfill gas was an important activity.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
4.1	NB provided the Environmental Update as attached. Since the last meeting (Wednesday 24 July), SITA's Kemps Creek Advanced Resource Recovery Park complex had received 15 complaints.		
4.2	BC explained the operation of the SAWT facility for BF's benefit. BF said that the SAWT facility seemed similar to the Global Renewables Eastern Creek (GREC) facility. BC agreed that the process was similar but said that the indoor residence time at SAWT was longer than that at GREC.		
4.3	DG asked for information on SITA's complaints handling process. NB replied that complaints can be received either directly by staff, via SITA's freecall Environment Report Hotline (1800 368 737), or via the EPA. GJ and NB explained that all complaints are circulated among relevant SITA staff – this process happens immediately and automatically for all calls received by SITA's freecall Environment Report Hotline. NB would then begin an investigation into the complaint.		
4.4	DG asked how complaints are followed up. GJ replied that he followed up with complainants who requested a return call, and would make contact again with some complainants who requested an update on completion of NB's investigation.		
4.5	DG asked if the investigation of complaints included examination of geographical and/or weather patterns, and if complaints received were checked against the waste accepted that day. GJ, NB and BC replied that all of these things were taken into account, along with comparing operations and conditions on site at the time leading up to the complaint.		
4.6	BF asked how the system worked, and whether it would contain information about the complaint he logged against SITA's Eastern Creek Resource Recovery Park on 21 September. GJ said that BF's complaint was in the system, and that as NB's investigation progressed, his findings would be added to the record. NB explained the process of establishing remedial action items – once the investigation into a complaint is completed, the compliance officer and site manager would determine what changes could be put in place to help minimise the chance of the problem occurring again. These preventative actions would be logged in the system and assigned to relevant staff, who would then be accountable for ensuring the actions were undertaken		

within a reasonable time frame.

- 4.7 ARA asked if data on complaints could be provided.
- GJ replied that regular statistical updates were provided at CRG meetings, but that SITA could not provide addresses or other identifying information due to privacy reasons.
- ARA asked if SITA could provide the CRG general information on the distance of complaints from the site.
- GJ, BC and NB agreed that general location information could be provided.
- MT asked if data could also be made available on the number of complaints which had been found to be attributed to SITA.
- GJ, NB and BC agreed that this information could also be provided.

Action	<i>SITA to provide general information on recent complaints, including the distance from the site, and the number of complaints found after investigation to be attributed to SITA.</i>	SITA	28 Nov 2013
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- 4.8 BF asked whether the recommendations made by The Odour Unit in their recent report, specifically regarding attempting to identify odour strength and type, had been taken on board.
- BC and NB replied that this was a part of normal operations.

- 4.9 BF asked if The Odour Unit's report had been provided to CRG members.
- BC replied that SITA had attended the Erskine Park public meetings conducted by the EPA which had led to the commissioning of The Odour Unit's report. While a request had not been received to provide the report to CRG members, SITA would be happy to do so at the next meeting.
- BF said that since the report identified SITA's Kemps Creek Advanced Resource Recovery Park as a source of odour, he would like to see the report provided to the CRG at the next meeting.

Action	<i>SITA to provide the report produced by The Odour Unit on odours in western Sydney to CRG members.</i>	SITA	28 Nov 2013
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- 4.10 PH reported that improvements were already being planned which acknowledged odour problems, including the concrete pad proposal.
- BC explained that the longterm plan was to fully enclose the outdoor maturation pads, and that while the EIS for this work had already been conducted, SITA would need to do something in the interim to solve existing problems before the expansion could proceed.
- BC also made the comment that SITA did not accept all the findings of The Odour Unit in their report. There are other contributors to local odours, including a greenwaste processing site at Badgerys Creek (receiving biosolids), along with three other landfills which have also been identified by residents as a source of odour.

- 4.11 DG said he felt that the crucial factor would be wind direction.
- NB reported that SITA have an on-site weather station, and that weather data was used to help pinpoint the most likely source of odours as part of

normal investigations.

BC added that SITA have learnt from previous complaint investigations that a large compost stockpile was contributing to odours, and that this has now been completely removed. PH confirmed this was correct.

4.12 DG asked if complaints were seasonal.

PH and BC explained that temperature inversions and wind patterns varied throughout the year and did have a seasonal impact on dispersal.

4.13 DG asked if samples of dust around the site were collected and analysed.

NB explained that as part of licence requirements dust gauges were placed around the perimeter of the site to measure deposition rates, but that analysis of this dust was not normally conducted.

DG asked if such analysis could be undertaken, since this could be useful information for the community in light of the State Government's proposal for disposal of soil from Hunters Hill.

Action	SITA to consider analysis of dust samples.	SITA	28 Nov 2013
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4.14 NB reported that SITA had been working with Taronga Zoo on a possible project involving planting trees in the riparian zone along Badgerys Creek. Eucalypts would be planted and later used for koala food.

PH added that SITA handle manure from Taronga Zoo at a site in Spring Farm, near Camden. The material received in these loads was of exceptional quality for manufacturing nutrient-rich compost.

MT said she would like some more information on this project.

Action	SITA to provide an update on the partnership with Taronga Zoo.	SITA	28 Nov 2013
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4.15 GJ noted that a CRG member had reported outside CRG meetings that the graph provided in NB's previous report was incorrect. After investigation it had been found that a spreadsheet error was responsible for the inaccuracy. The figures in the updated graph presented in NB's report at this meeting had been checked to be correct.

5. PROJECTS UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
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SAWT Expansion and Upgrade

5.1 BC said that the proposal had been through an adequacy review, and around 15 public submissions had been received by the Department of Planning. SITA were cooperating with the Department to address the issues raised in these submissions. One such issue is the need to have an interim solution to odour issues up and running. This was already underway due to the length of time involved in completing the full expansion. SITA would have to prove the facility could meet the

conditions of development consent before it could then spend \$50m on the upgrade. This was an ongoing process with the Department of Planning and SITA's neighbours, and it would need to be done properly, no matter how long this would take.

Landfill Gas Infrastructure

- 5.2 All agreed that LC had covered progress with this project in his update.
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- 5.3 MT asked if SITA's position in wanting to lower emissions would be affected in the event that the Federal Government's Carbon Pricing Mechanism (CPM) was repealed.
- BC said that SITA are already committed to extraction and processing of landfill gas, with 30 gas wells already in place and operational.
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- 5.4 DG asked if this would still be worthwhile to SITA without the CPM.
- BC said that flaring the gas was a better environmental solution than allowing methane to be released, and was a good positive story for SITA.
- GJ added that SITA been extracting gas from their landfills for years, and that this had begun long before the introduction of the CPM. Incentives existed independent of the CPM.
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- 5.5 BF asked if there was any power generation currently taking place on site.
- BC replied that the gas was currently flared, but that the aim was to install a generator in the near future which could then be used to feed electricity back to the grid.
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- 5.6 BF asked if much excavation or boring was required in order to install new gas collection wells.
- LC replied that vertical and horizontal trenches had to be created.
- BC added that when the landfill was first constructed in 1992, it was not expected to produce a significant amount of gas, and therefore gas extraction infrastructure was not initially part of the construction.
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- 5.7 BF asked if gas would be released during the process of boring into waste to install new gas wells.
- LC explained that gas was already being extracted from deeper parts of the landfill cells, and that this reduced total pressure inside the cell, which further reduced the amount of gas that would escape from open bores while wells were installed.
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- 5.8 BF asked what other measures were in place to stop gas escaping.
- LC explained that only one well was installed at a time, and that the pipes were installed as soon as the bore had been drilled. Only one bore would be exposed at any time, and very little gas would escape. The process of drilling a bore and installing a new well normally only took a few hours.
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- 5.9 BF asked if SITA ever received any extra odour complaints while drilling.
- LC replied that this had not occurred to his knowledge.
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BC said that this was a good question, and was something that was normally examined during investigations into complaints.

- 5.10 BF said that during the period at which a large number of odour complaints were being made to the EPA from the Erskine Park area, the Enviroguard landfill at Erskine Park were installing new wells.
- LC said he understood that Enviroguard didn't have many wells, and that in the process of installing their new wells they had exposed old waste.

6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
6.1	<p>6.1 ARA to send GJ a list of suggested amendments to the previous regular meeting's notes by email for consideration.</p> <p>GJ reported that ARA had submitted his suggested amendments earlier on the day of this meeting.</p> <p>BC advised that notes from CRG meetings are public documents, and in light of this, proposed that ARA's comments be acknowledged in tonight's minutes rather than adjusting notes from meetings which took place more than 6 months ago.</p> <p>ACTION 6.1 CLOSED.</p>	ARA	26 Sep 2013
6.2	<p>6.3 SITA to release an information package to the CRG and general public on the Hunters Hill proposal, which includes the independent consultant's report and correspondence with the State Government.</p> <p>BC advised that the report was not yet completed due to the State Government's proposal being unconfirmed.</p> <p>ACTION 6.3 CARRIED OVER.</p>	SITA	26 Sep 2013
6.3	<p>BC provided an update on the Hunters Hill soil proposal: Before the federal election, David Bradbury & Chris Bowen had approached the Premier and asked why a federal facility had not been considered as a possible destination for the material. The Premier had told Mr Bradbury and Mr Bowen that if they proposed an alternative he would consider it. There had also been a change of minister – Greg Pearce had been replaced by Andrew Constance, who was currently examining the matter. BC said he thought Mr Constance would probably be reluctant to rush such a decision, and might elect to send the material to Muckaty, NT.</p> <p>MT said she would be unhappy if the material was sent to Muckaty.</p>		

BC said that SITA had “downed tools” on the matter for now, and were waiting for the State Government to make a decision.

BC reported that SITA had gone two-thirds of the way through the independent expert assessment, which examined geology, operation of the restricted waste landfill, the composition of the material, and whether it could be managed in environmentally safe way, and realised that more than a desktop study was required.

6.4 DG asked if the State Government had paid for SITA’s research.

BC said that SITA had not received funding assistance from the State Government – the Government just knew that SITA had an appropriate licence. If SITA are to consider the proposal, the company would need to do its own due diligence – hence the hiring of an independent international expert. BC acknowledged ARA’s previous comments about his dissatisfaction with the consultant selection process, but advised that SITA required a consultant external to the country, since most internal consultants had worked for Government departments in the past, and therefore independence could not be completely guaranteed.

6.5 DG asked if Mr Bradbury and Mr Bowen had also sought a Government response on the possibility of encapsulating the Hunters Hill site.

BC said he saw reports of this in the media and understood that the Government’s response was that given the topography and the proximity to the foreshore, other options would be considered instead.

6.6 BF asked how much soil was proposed to be moved from the site.

BC replied that it was around 4,000-5,000 tonnes.

6.7 BF asked if there were any other treatment or disposal options.

BC said that thermal desorption might be a possibility. 10 different options had been proposed in the Environmental Assessment, three of which involved landfilling. SITA were not pushing the Government for a decision.

6.8 ARA asked if SITA had any tentative plans in place in preparation for the material to arrive.

BC said that there would be no change in operations until a decision was made. SITA have been managing the current inputs to the landfill for 30 years, and were satisfied that this was being done in an environmentally safe manner. If the soil taken from Hunters Hill was the same as that described in the Government’s analysis, there would be no problems, but SITA could not give the State Government an answer until the State Government made up their minds. BC said he expected the proposal would go through a public consultation process.

6.9 ARA asked when SITA were expecting the report to be completed.

BC said that SITA were waiting for the Government to provide surety – until that process was finished, SITA’s information pack wouldn’t be ready. The Government would also need to address public submissions.

6.10 MT asked what public information SITA had released to date.

BC replied that SITA had been speaking to various MPs and local councils,

and that all relevant local authorities and members were being consulted. There would be no point issuing detailed mass information since SITA were not receiving any enquiries outside this CRG.

MT suggested writing to local members with occasional updates.

BC replied that this sounded like a good idea, and he would take it on board. BC also asked CRG members to let him know if they were aware of any other community groups with which SITA should be engaging.

DG commented that due to the federal election, while local politicians had not changed their viewpoints, they had just been focused on other issues. The issue was still significant despite the discussion falling quiet.

6.11 ARA asked if SITA could issue a public statement on their official position.

BC replied that if SITA did this, it could be seen as pushing the State Government to make a decision for SITA's commercial interests.

6.12 BF said he had noticed SITA had not seemed to be engaging a great deal with the Fairfield LGA in terms of its developments.

GJ explained that SITA's Kemps Creek facilities were located in the Penrith LGA, on the border with the Liverpool LGA.

BC reported that SITA were also currently considering development of mobile phone app which provides information on SITA operations and services, would be offered via council websites including Fairfield.

BF suggested advertising in Fairfield newspapers might be worthwhile.

BC agreed that this was a fair point, and that SITA would consider it.

DG commented that these local newspapers have common administration centres and processes, and so their own editorial process should recognise any relevance for the Fairfield LGA.

BC asked BF what strategies he suggested SITA use in the Fairfield LGA.

BF suggested newspaper advertisements or letterbox drops.

DG added that the NSW Greens had members in and around Abbotsbury.

6.13 BF said he had not been able to find information about the SAWT expansion proposal on the SITA website.

BC said SITA were always interested in website feedback.

GJ said he would take the comment on board and see if the information could be made more accessible.

6.14 DG noted that some time ago there had been discussion of SITA providing a report on their website regarding the sources of material coming to the Elizabeth Drive Landfill, and asked if this had this been provided.

BC said that since the information had been provided to Penrith City Council, it was now public, and could be provided to the CRG.

Action	<i>SITA to provide the CRG with the information previously provided to Penrith City Council regarding the sources of material coming to the Elizabeth Drive Landfill.</i>	SITA	28 Nov 2013
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6.15 ARA mentioned recent articles he had seen in news media, and said he would forward these to SITA.

Action	ARA to forward recent media articles of interest to SITA.	ARA	28 Nov 2013
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6.16

7.3	GJ to reschedule the remaining meetings in 2013 to the Thursday night immediately after the current date, and send the revised list of meeting dates to all members along with the draft notes from this meeting.	GJ	7 Aug 2013
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GJ confirmed that all future meetings would be held on Thursdays.

ACTION 7.3 CLOSED.

6.17

7.4	GJ to contact WM to organise a guided tour of the site.	GJ	26 Sep 2013
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GJ advised that he had been considering a tour for all CRG members together as one group, as this would be a more efficient use of time.

All agreed that this would be a good idea, and a group tour was scheduled to take place at 5pm on the day of the next CRG meeting.

ACTION 7.4 CLOSED.

Action	GJ to organise a group tour for all CRG members coinciding with the next meeting. Tour to commence at 5pm, with CRG meeting to follow immediately afterwards.	GJ	28 Nov 2013
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7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
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7.1 No other matters were raised for discussion.

MEETING CLOSED 8:00PM

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:	Thursday 28 November 2013, 5pm (site tour followed by CRG meeting)
Venue:	Education Centre – SITA Kemps Creek ARRP, 1725 Elizabeth Drive Kemps Creek

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

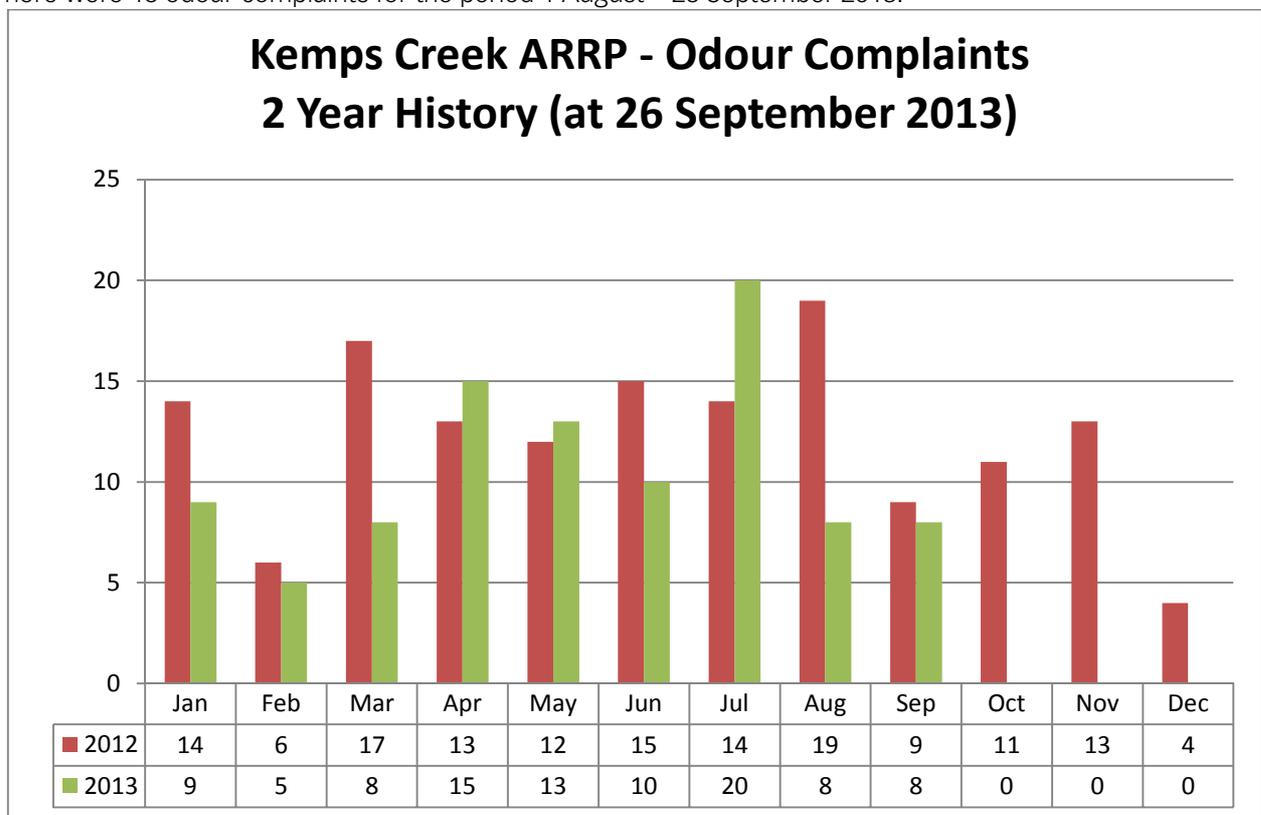
Item	Issue	Action	By
4.7	SITA to provide general information on recent complaints, including the distance from the site, and the number of complaints found after investigation to be attributed to SITA.	SITA	28/11/13
4.9	SITA to provide the report produced by The Odour Unit on odours in western Sydney to CRG members.	SITA	28/11/13
4.13	SITA to consider analysis of dust samples.	SITA	28/11/13
4.14	SITA to provide an update on the partnership with Taronga Zoo.	SITA	28/11/13
6.2	SITA to release an information package to the CRG and general public on the Hunters Hill proposal, which includes the independent consultant's report and correspondence with the State Government.	SITA	When available
6.14	SITA to provide the CRG with the information previously provided to Penrith City Council regarding the sources of material coming to the Elizabeth Drive Landfill.	SITA	28/11/13
6.15	ARA to forward recent media articles of interest to SITA.	ARA	28/11/13
6.17	GJ to organise a group tour for all CRG members coinciding with the next meeting. Tour to commence at 5pm, with CRG meeting to follow immediately afterwards.	GJ	28/11/13
Appendices	1) Environment Update presented by NB.		

APPENDIX 1: ENVIRONMENT UPDATE PRESENTED BY NB

KEMPS CREEK ADVANCED RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK ENVIRONMENT UPDATE JULY-SEPTEMBER 2013

ODOUR COMPLAINTS

There were 16 odour complaints for the period 1 August – 26 September 2013.



8 odour complaints were received in August, and 8 odour complaints have been received in September as of 26 September. A total of 96 odour complaints have been received to date during 2013.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- As part of the odour mitigation strategy, an upgrade of the outdoor maturation pads will ensure that the material will be kept dry. Liquids will not pool, instead running off into aerated ponds. The turning of maturing compost can then also continue during wet periods.
- SITA has continued with the use of an odour spotter which has proven to be a key tool in identifying odour sources.
- A trial odour control system will be installed on the eastern boundary to determine the effectiveness of deodouriser against potential odours from the restricted waste cell.
- SITA are working with Taronga Zoo on a tree planting program in the riparian zone along Badgerys Creek.