

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 21/08/2014)

Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 5:30pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Education Centre, 1725 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- (PH) – Sydney Resource Recovery Manager
- (LC) – Elizabeth Drive Landfill Manager
- (NB) – Compliance Officer
- (GJ) – NSW Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- (PC) – Sydney Landfills Manager

Community

- (BF) – Horsley Park
- (AB) – Kemps Creek
- (CB) – Kemps Creek
- (PM) – Kemps Creek
- (WM) – Kemps Creek

Apologies

- (NH) – SITA
- (JD) – Mount Vernon

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed visitors to the meeting. All present introduced themselves. PC has recently taken over the role of Sydney Landfills Manager. Apologies were acknowledged from NH and JD.		

2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	Notes from the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.		

3. OPERATIONS UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
3.1	Kemps Creek SAWT Advanced Resource Recovery Facility		
3.1.1	PH reported that operations at the SAWT facility had been very active over the previous two months. SITA are in the middle of an interim upgrade project whereby approximately \$3.5m is being spent on improvements to the facility. The 8,000m ² concrete surface was completed on the lower compost maturation pad earlier in the year, and the second (4,000m ²) concrete surface has now also been completed on		

the upper maturation pad. This process has involved the excavation of old surface soil and the replacement of this surface material with concrete. Work has begun on a new set of concrete tunnels adjacent to the upper maturation pad. The plans for these tunnels began as simply aerated floor bunkers, which were designed to dry compost in wet weather periods and keep the refining process going despite rainy weather. In the last couple of months however this proposal has been upgraded, and now involves the construction of several concrete tunnels, which will eventually be sealed and connected to a biofilter system designed to extract and neutralise odours. These tunnels will provide extra operational capacity to the SAWT facility, enabling more efficient processing and refining of compost products, at an additional cost of between \$500,000 and \$1m.

PH explained that odours had been stronger over the last couple of months due to the construction of these new concrete surfaces. In order to prepare the 8,000m² pad, all maturing compost had to be relocated from the lower pad onto the upper pad. When the new concrete had cured, the opposite procedure had to be done for the 4,000m² pad. Unfortunately around 9,000t of compost became anaerobic during these works, and now has to be sent to landfill. Approximately 6,000t have been landfilled to date, with the remaining 3,000t to be completed within the next few days. This will free up space on the maturation pads, and allow a return to the normal and optimal windrow mode of operation. Transferring this anaerobic material to landfill has resulted in the release of odours, but removes the odourous material, and this will ultimately result in a long-term improvement in odour performance.

PH added that the new tunnels adjacent to the upper pad should be operational and drying compost product within around 12 weeks. Operations have been hectic over the last couple of months, and will continue to be so for the next 2-3 months as operations return to normal. The new tunnels on the upper maturation pad will be independent to the existing tunnels in the SAWT building.

3.1.2 BF asked how moving the anaerobic compost compared to leaving it sit in terms of the strength of odour released.

PH replied that if the anaerobic compost was left sitting and covered, little odour would be released unless it was disturbed. If the anaerobic compost was not addressed and removed now, however, there would be stronger odours when this had to be done further down the track. Moving the compost at this point in time would be better than waiting to do it later. SITA are limiting this operation to the hours of 8am-4pm in order to minimise the odour impacts on nearby residents.

3.1.3 CB and AB said that odours had been quite bad lately, including some early mornings and evenings.

AB asked PH to give neighbours a warning if operations were planned which were expected to result in the release of stronger odours.

3.1.4 BF asked if wind direction is considered in planning operations likely to cause odours.

PH replied that it is difficult to do this because residents are on all sides of the SAWT facility. Now, however, while there are strong winds present,

it is the ideal time to complete this operation, as odours are diluted more by stronger winds, and should then cause less of an impact on neighbours. PH's team are trying to complete this work as quickly as possible to minimise the duration of any related odour impacts on neighbours, rather than drawing it out and causing an impact over a longer period of time.

- 3.1.5 BF asked how big the new concrete tunnels would be when completed. PH replied that the tunnels would be approximately 10m wide, 30m long and 5m in height. BF asked how the compost in the tunnels would be turned. PH explained that the aerated floor of the tunnels would force air into the compost inside, which would both inject oxygen and remove moisture, and this would remove the need for physically turning the material.

3.2 Elizabeth Drive Landfill

- 3.2.1 LC explained that landfill operations were proceeding as usual, and recent tonnages had been stable. The new finished product storage pad for the SAWT facility has been completed, and SITA are now waiting for EPA approval for it to be used. The excavation of the next cell has also been completed, and lining work has commenced. Landfilling in the new cell is expected to commence in around 2 months' time. This new cell will provide enough airspace for another 2 years at current tonnages. PC added that SITA is required to undertake an aerial survey of the landfill every 6 months, and this is undertaken in the form of an aerial photograph, with the next fly-over due to take place tomorrow.

- 3.2.2 BF asked when the landfill was estimated to reach capacity. LCC replied that capacity was expected to be reached in approximately 2026 at current tonnages.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
4.1	<p><i>NB presented the Environmental Update included with these notes as Appendix 1 – Environmental Update.</i></p> <p>BF noted that there had been discussion at the previous meeting regarding the way in which complaints were counted.</p> <p>GJ explained that SITA count complaints using the same rationale employed by the EPA – that is, each report, whether an email or a phone call, is treated as one complaint for statistical purposes. If a report is received which describes odours being observed on more than one occasion, each observation reported will be investigated as part of normal operating procedures, but the report would still be classified as one complaint.</p> <p>PH added that when the EPA receive a complaint they will normally forward the details to a number of facilities in the area which they</p>		

consider to be potential sources of the odour, and in the case of Kemps Creek this includes several other waste management facilities operated by other companies.

- 4.2 *GJ presented the Complaints Report included with these notes as **Appendix 2 – Complaints Update.***

5. PROJECT UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
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5.1 SAWT Expansion and Upgrade

- 5.1.1 PH reported that the SAWT Expansion proposal was currently sitting with the Department of Planning and awaiting approval to proceed.

5.2 Landfill Gas Infrastructure

- 5.2.1 LCC reported that discussions with a third party to install a gas engine on the site were continuing, and that agreement was becoming closer.

PC added that any landfill gas power project is a positive thing, but the process of setting up such a project is very complicated, especially with regard to establishing an input connection to the power grid, and registration of the facility as an energy provider. This new engine would represent the first new landfill gas power project for SITA in some time.

LCC reported that the flare was currently processing approximately 900m³ of landfill gas per hour.

6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
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6.1

<p>3.1.6 Investigate the likely cause of early morning movements and noise.</p>
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*PH/
LC*

*Next
meeting*

- 6.1.1 LC reported that a contractor had moved some equipment out of the site during the night without SITA's approval, and that this would not occur again. Contractors had been instructed to be more considerate of SITA's neighbours.

PM said that some contractors may have permits that only allow night time movement of their machinery on public roads, but if this was the case, the contractors should be able to park their equipment on the main driveway at close of business, rather than inside the site, to minimise noise later when manoeuvring prime movers and connecting trailers.

PH added that SAWT's operations and movements continued to be restricted to daytime hours.

ACTION CLOSED.

6.2	3.2.2 Investigate current buffer zone width and advise CRG.	<i>LC</i>	<i>Next meeting</i>
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- 6.2.1 LCC explained that landfill operations did not take place immediately adjacent to the fence, and that access roads and bunds separated active landfill areas from fence lines along most of the site’s boundaries.
GJ added that in any case landfilling operations would soon move to the new cell, which is further from all boundaries.
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- 6.2.2 BF asked about the landowners on the western side of the property.
NB replied that he believed this was land owned by the University of Sydney.
ACTION CLOSED.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
7.1	GJ advised that the remaining meeting dates for 2014 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21/08/2014 30/10/2014 		

MEETING CLOSED 6:05PM

NEXT MEETING

Date & Time:	Thursday, 21 August 2014 at 5:30pm
Venue:	Education Centre – SITA Kemps Creek ARRP, 1725 Elizabeth Drive Kemps Creek

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Issue	Action	By
All outstanding actions were closed. No new actions were raised.			

Appendices	1) Environmental Update 2) Complaints Report
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