

## MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 12/03/2015)

<b>Thursday, 11 December 2014 at 5:30pm</b>	<b>Chaired By:</b> Gareth Jones
<b>Club Central Menai – Allison Crescent, Menai</b>	<b>Note Taker:</b> Gareth Jones

### ATTENDEES

#### *SITA Australia*

- (KR) – Landfill Manager
- (PK) – Organics Manager
- (NR) – Project Manager
- (GJ) – Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- (MU) – Consultant (GHD)
- (AC) – Consultant (GHD)

#### *Community Groups*

- (LH) – Menai Wildflower Group
- (GH) – Cronulla Model Aero Club

#### *State Member for Menai*

- (MG)

#### *Residents*

- (IK) – Oyster Bay
- (DE) – Illawong
- (NG) – Illawong
- (GP) – Barden Ridge

#### *Apologies*

- (JaR) – Menai
- (JoR) – Menai
- (GS) – Sutherland Shire Council
- (ES) – Sutherland Shire Council
- (PC) – SITA
- (PH) – SITA
- (AP) – SITA

## RECORD OF DISCUSSION

### 1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed all in attendance. Apologies were acknowledged as listed above. All present introduced themselves.		

### 2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	<p>Minutes from the meetings held on 16 October and 24 November were accepted with one amendment:</p> <p>DE noted that she had asked a question during the 24 November meeting regarding the number of councils sending waste to Lucas Heights, but this was not included in the notes.</p> <p>GJ advised that this question would be answered during tonight's meeting, and that the notes from the 24 November special meeting would be amended accordingly.</p>		
<i>Action</i>	<i>Amend the notes from the 24 November special meeting to include DE's question regarding the number of councils delivering to Lucas Heights.</i>	<i>GJ</i>	<i>Next meeting</i>

- 2.2 GJ reported that JR had expressed in an email that her feelings regarding CRG members receiving information before the rest of the community had changed after reading about the development in the newspaper the day after the meeting. JR now feels that CRG members should have been informed earlier, before journalists were briefed about the proposal.

### 3. OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENT UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
<b>3.1</b>	<b><i>New Illawarra Rd Landfill</i></b>		
3.1.1	<i>KR presented the Operations and Environment Update included with these notes as Appendix 1.</i>		
3.1.2	<p>GP asked why odour management performance had been better recently.</p> <p>KR replied that a number of measures had been put in place, including new aerators in leachate ponds, better gas extraction infrastructure, and improved compaction rates as a result of better computerised systems in compaction machinery. New gas wells had also been added to increase the amount of gas extracted from the landfill.</p>		
3.1.3	<p>IK asked if the groundwater well which had run dry was the same well that had been obstructed previously.</p> <p>KR replied that it was a different well, but was located higher topographically and was currently above the level of the water table.</p>		
<b>3.2</b>	<b><i>Lucas Heights Organic Resource Recovery Facility (ORRF)</i></b>		
3.2.1	<p>PK reported that Summer is the busiest time of the year for the organics operation. There is a higher rate of incoming garden organics due to increased rainfall in August and September and again over the last couple of weeks. Local councils also order a lot of topdressing material around this time of year. Odour results lately have been very good, generally due to attention to detail in processing, and the dry weather experienced prior to the recent rainy period had also helped. Safety toolbox meetings are conducted every week with site staff, along with safety observations, in which supervisors and managers observe staff at work and ensure compliance with procedures. The site had received several visits by the EPA, who had been very focused on their licence requirements but had found no recent issues.</p>		

### 4. DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
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4.1 *NR delivered a presentation included with these notes as Appendix 2. NR's presentation followed up from PC's presentation delivered at the 24 November Special Meeting.*

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4.2 In addition to the information contained in the slides for the presentation, NR reported the following:

- SITA had conducted three open community information sessions in Engadine and Menai, with five visitors to the Engadine session, four to the first Menai session and zero to the second Menai session.
  - The project is still in its very early stages, and is by no means a "done deal." During the current phase, SITA wants to engage as effectively as possible with the local community, receive comments on the proposal, and integrate these into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Application (DA).
  - SITA hopes to lodge the Development Application with the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) in early April. An exhibition period will follow, during which time the community will be able to make further comment to the DPE for SITA to address.
  - SEARs were previously known as Director-General's Requirements (DGRs), are issued by the DPE, and specify what information SITA needs to include in the EIS.
  - SITA are operating a dedicated web page, hotline, and email account for community members to ask questions and receive further information about the proposal.
  - SSDSDs were previously known as Preliminary Environmental Assessments (PEAs).
  - The Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) acknowledges SITA's financial contribution to the community and outlines SITA's obligations to Council in terms of environmental performance and management systems to minimise potential community impacts.
  - SITA's Environmental Management Plans for the facility, outlined in the VPA, include how complaints are to be handled and what corrective actions are to be taken when complaints are received.
  - SITA would report to Council as required under the VPA on complaints received.
  - The ARRT Facility will be fully enclosed and under negative pressure, using biofilters to treat and clean odourous air. The facility would recover organic components from the waste for composting, and a variety of other materials which would be suitable for manufacturing processed engineered fuels (PEF).
  - The VPA specifies that an appropriate proportion of SITA's \$100m community contribution is to be made available for projects in nearby suburbs. These funds are not to be allocated to maintenance, roads, drainage, footpaths or stormwater management.
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- 4.3 IK noted that GJ had sent the link to the relevant page on the DPE website to all CRG members by email.
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- 4.4 MU added that the negative pressure system used in the ARRT does not mean a vacuum environment, but that instead of air and dust escaping through the doors, air and dust would be sucked in from outside.
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- 4.5 GH asked if the ARRT facility would be decommissioned in 2037.  
NR said this was the case, and at that time all waste receipt would cease.
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- 4.6 GP reported that in 1996 the CEO of Waste Service NSW had categorically stated that the Lucas Heights landfill lifespan would not be extended beyond 2016. The facility would become a transfer station. During a subsequent mediation process between the community and Waste Service NSW, known as the Woodward Mediation, a 7m height increase was negotiated. There were concerns held by some community members at the time that a 7m increase in height would result in a significant increase in velocity of rainfall runoff, which could lead to erosion of the surface and further damage to the banks of Mill Creek.
- KR replied that this had already been examined extensively in the EIS preparation process. A new landscape plan had been developed to minimise erosion resulting from runoff. There would be more grassland areas, which would result in a different outcome with minimal potential for erosion. Smaller trees and thicker soil cover would protect capping.
- GP returned to his statement regarding the 1996 statement that the landfill lifespan would not be extended beyond 2016, and asked how the community could be sure that 2037 would be the real end date. The mediation had received significant backing from local sporting groups, representing some 20,000 members in the local area. It was considered a good deal at the time for local residents. The Woodward Mediation succeeded on the basis that landfilling would cease in 2016, and local residents could visualise that end point at the time of the mediation.
- GH echoed GP's sentiments, and added that the Woodward Mediation report was commissioned by the then Environment Minister as a directive to Sutherland Shire Council and the then Waste Disposal Authority. By 2016, 65ha was to have been returned to the community. Now there would be no recreational area available until 2039. The community could not be sure that the landfill would not later be extended beyond 2037.
- KR said that he wasn't involved in the Lucas Heights 1 redevelopment, but understands that the facilities are of a very high standard.
- GP agreed, and noted that Waste Service NSW supported the redevelopment greatly even though the works went well over budget. The concern this time is that the community support won't be there when Lucas Heights 2 is to be redeveloped.
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- 4.7 GP asked why the community consultation period only appeared in the calendar after the EIS was to be released.
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MG explained that the community consultation period on the calendar was to focus on the EIS. SITA is also conducting extensive early community consultation prior to the preparation of the EIS, and this meeting is one of SITA's early consultation measures.

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4.8 GH said he was concerned that SITA's two multinational parent companies are too big to care about the Sutherland Shire community.

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4.9 DE and GP said that the low attendance at the community information sessions may be due to people being busy in the lead-up to Christmas.

MU replied that the aim had been to conduct the sessions prior to the start of the Christmas period – admittedly it is December already, however the brochure containing the information about the sessions had been distributed to 11,000 households, and hopefully the low attendance actually means the information provided has been comprehensive enough for a significant portion of the community.

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4.10 GH said he had been overseas and did not see the article in the Leader. He also had difficulty finding the article online, and had called SITA but was not able to speak to anyone who knew anything about the proposal.

NG, GP, GH and DE said that they also had not received the brochure.

MU said that the people who came to sessions all said that they had received the brochure.

PK added that SITA would rather see more people at the information sessions than fewer, as better attendance would mean SITA had engaged the community and received legitimate feedback.

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4.11 IK noted that the \$100m community contribution would be made in quarterly payments over 15 years, with interest if payment was late.

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4.12 DE said she had heard from Cllr Steve Simpson that \$20m was allocated to the Menai area, with the rest to the remainder of the Shire.

MG added that the distribution of the funds was still in discussion.

GP said he was concerned that Sutherland Shire Council is not adequately supporting the community by ensuring the funds stayed in the local area.

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4.13 KR said he had not been aware of a 2016 closure date. The current approval for landfill operations permits continuation until 2025.

GP replied that the Woodward Report states landfilling is to continue only until 2016, with a transfer station operating on the site thereafter.

GH added that at 2015, three quarters of the site was to have been returned to the community.

KR said that a 2000 amendment had granted extra tonnages and lifespan.

GP said he was disappointed that this amendment had slipped through without community awareness.

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KR said his understanding was that the community were aware of the amendment and had accepted it.

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4.14 GH asked why SITA were only applying for 15 more years and not 22.

NR responded that the timeline was related to the rate of asset depreciation. When the ARRT was built, it would also take 20 years to pay off the investment, giving an end date of 2037.

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4.15 GH said that the Shire is facing an ageing local population, degenerating existing facilities, and mountain bike groups and others all having need of facilities and land. \$100m at this point in time is not sufficient to cover the sporting/recreation and other community outdoor activities taking place. GH would like to see a breakdown of exactly how the funds will be spent, and believes that the Council are cutting themselves short.

MU replied that in various parts of the state where coal mining takes place, mining companies pay a tariff to state coffers. Many communities affected by dust, traffic, noise and other impacts are crying out to have some of that levy put back into their local areas, but this very rarely happens. This is a different situation – it is not a coal mine, but it is a facility with local impacts. In this case the company involved is giving money straight back to one local government area – not the state government, but the local council.

GH said he was still disappointed, given that the company is very large and \$100m does not seem like much.

MU replied that while SITA is a large company, this is just one site. Other landfills in Sydney are closing, with more waste being sent outside Sydney, and the extra cost of transport inevitably results in higher fees to ratepayers. In a sense, the Sutherland Shire community was being insulated from that cost, and being compensated in the form of a direct \$100m contribution towards community facilities.

KR added that SITA continues to support a number of community groups already located on the site, including the Menai Wildflower Group nursery, the PCYC Minibike club, and four clay target shooting clubs.

GH noted that those groups had been there well before SITA came along.

KR replied that there are long term agreements which SITA has supported.

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4.16 GH asked if there is an existing traffic flow benchmark which will be documented as part of the increased traffic impact modelling.

NR replied that this will be incorporated in the modelling and included in the EIS, including the annual increase in traffic forecasted by the RMS over the next 20 years. RMS would also have input into the SEARs.

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4.17 GH noted that litter and illegal dumping had been significant problems along Heathcote Rd over the last few years.

DE added that it was also an issue in nearby suburbs.

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PK agreed that the problem was rampant throughout the Illawarra region.

KR said that the VPA specifies new initiatives for SITA in terms of environmental management.

GH said he suspected that if there wasn't a tip in the area there wouldn't be such a big illegal dumping problem.

NR replied that the VPA specifies SITA's obligations in regards to litter collection along New Illawarra Road and Heathcote Road. SITA and Council are in the process of finalising lease arrangements for the use of Little Forest Road. The funds arising from the lease will be used for litter collection campaigns and purposes.

KR added that new legislation had been introduced by the State Government on 1 November which gave much greater powers to the EPA and council inspectors, and also brought about a dramatic increase in fines for illegal dumping. Several councils including Sutherland Shire Council are now embarking on new campaigns to catch illegal dumpers. There has been a number of recent high-profile prosecutions by NSW EPA, and these are increasing in frequency. More rangers are being employed. Tackling illegal dumping is the EPA's responsibility, not that of any private operator – SITA can report and assist with investigations, but it is ultimately up to regulators and government.

MG said that most of the heavily dumped areas on Heathcote Rd are owned by the Gandangara Aboriginal Land Council, who are currently under administration. Due to this, MG has not been able to get in touch with Gandangara to request their permission for crews to enter the property to clean up illegal dumping.

A member highlighted that the definitions of 'litter' and 'dumping' required clarification.

KR noted, on the issue of gate fees, that the State Government receives waste levy for each tonne of waste received at landfill.

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4.18 GH asked about the recycling tonnages coming to Lucas Heights.

GJ explained that no recyclable material from council collections was delivered to Lucas Heights.

GH asked if other councils had recycling systems.

GJ replied that all Sydney councils had kerbside recycling collections.

GH asked if the number of residents from each Council could be supplied so that CRG members could see the amount per capita and assess which councils were the best and worst recyclers.

DE said that she thought the number of councils delivering to the site used to be 28, and had fallen to 4, but had now risen back to 14.

All agreed that there was confusion regarding that slide of NR's presentation – the left column contained the names of councils, while the right column contained the names of SITA's transfer stations, rather than actual council names.

GJ explained that several councils will tip at a transfer station, from which some tonnes would come to Lucas Heights, some would go to Eastern Creek, and some would go to other sites. It is not possible to

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determine how much waste from each council comes to Lucas Heights via transfer stations.

### 5. LUCAS HEIGHTS I UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
5.1	<p>GJ advised that GS and ES had sent the following update by email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The dam at Barden Ridge is currently at 50% capacity.</i></li> <li><i>Sutherland Shire Council have recently applied wetting agent to the fields and golf course fairways to reduce water usage.</i></li> <li><i>The contract documents for the construction of the BMX track should be advertised in February 2015.</i></li> <li><i>The off-leash dog park proposal is still under consideration for next year's budget.</i></li> </ul>		

### 6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By				
6.1	<p>From 16 October meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="343 1120 1173 1243"> <tr> <td>4.2</td> <td><i>Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.</i></td> <td>AP</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	4.2	<i>Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.</i>	AP		AP	Next meeting
4.2	<i>Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.</i>	AP					

AP was not present at the meeting to address this action.

**ACTION CARRIED OVER.**

### 7. OTHER BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
7.1	<p>The meeting dates for 2015 were set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 12 March</li> <li>Thursday 11 June</li> <li>Thursday 10 September</li> <li>Thursday 10 December</li> </ul> <p>All meetings would be held at Club Central Menai commencing at 5:30pm, except for the September meeting which will be held on site at SITA's Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, commencing at 9am and including a tour of the site.</p>		
7.2	<p>A member related that in times gone by, CRG members could show their membership card and come to inspect any part of site unaccompanied.</p> <p>All agreed that this would no longer be a safe practice for SITA to allow.</p>		

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7.3 MG asked how long the exhibition period for the EIS would be.

NR said that SITA would advise the community when this information was available, but it was likely to be between 30 and 60 days.

MU added that the preliminary Environmental Assessment is already on the DPE website and is available for public viewing. This is a draft EIS in a sense. SITA are open at all times for queries and suggestions.

**Note to members:** *The Preliminary Environmental Assessment and other documents are currently available on the Department of Planning & Environment website at <http://goo.gl/ci9LPR>.*

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7.4 GH asked if there was any update on ANSTO's agreement to SITA's proposal. GH said he was concerned that ANSTO may place requirements on the development that will result in changes to the proposal.

NR replied that as far as ANSTO are concerned, SITA is only seeking an extension of the current lease under current terms.

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7.5 DE said she expected that the gun clubs would likely expand in the near future as a small bore rifle club at Peakhurst is soon to close, and members need to maintain their activities to keep their licence.

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7.6 GP asked if SITA would be adding more landfill on top of the PCYC area. KR showed a map of the site, which illustrated that the proposed landfill overtopping would be limited to within the footprint of the existing landfill, and would not encroach into the PCYC area.

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7.7 GP said he believed that the older sections of the landfill which had been grassed were meant to be handed over to Council in 2016, and that he was disappointed that he spent so much time lobbying through the Woodward Mediation to find out now that the outcome of that mediation is no longer relevant. GP said he understood that the Council needs SITA's funding, and that Sydney needs facilities like this, but feels that he can't trust Council or the authorities after finding out that the long term plans for the site changed in the early 2000's without community advice.

GH added that the change in the early 2000's brings into question the Members of Parliament who were involved in the Woodward Mediation.

GP said he felt sorry for SITA having picked up such a "hot potato."

GH and GP said that many community groups were likely to be very disappointed that the grassed areas were no longer going to be handed back to the community in 2016, and said that SITA and Council would need to come up with a better offer for the community.

KR reiterated that the development proposal was still only in its very early stages, and that there would still be plenty of time for further consultation.

MU added that Council came to the table to negotiate with SITA thinking about the community, and that the \$100m figure is what the Council came up with – this is much more than would be expected normally from a development of this nature. MU said he had never heard of such

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a significant figure being donated to a local community. This contribution was to be spent on community related assets, and would not be given to any specific individuals in Council to curry favour.

GP said that most of the community's disappointment would be with Council and the State Government rather than with SITA.

GH added that SITA could give \$200m to the community and this still wouldn't fix the land handover issues.

7.8 NG said that local community sporting groups are in need of support, noting that she has been trying to get a \$10,000 grant for resurfacing her netball club's courts, but has had a lot of trouble with Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in trying to achieve this.

7.9 DE and IK asked who came to the Lucas Heights tour organised for Sutherland Shire Councillors.

NR replied that there had been two attendees.

### MEETING CLOSED 7:15 PM

**Next meeting:** Thursday 12 March 2015, 5:30pm – Club Central Menai (Allison Crescent, Menai)

## ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Issue	Action	By
2.1	Amend the notes from the 24 November special meeting to include DE's question regarding the number of councils delivering to Lucas Heights.	GJ	Next meeting
6.1	Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.	AP	11/12/2014
<b>Appendices</b>	1) Operations & Environment Update presented by KR. 2) Presentation delivered by NR.		

## APPENDIX 1 – OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENT UPDATE 11 DECEMBER 2014

### SITE OPERATIONS

- Daily landfilling operations cell 5.2 west.
- Cell 5/3 Stage 1 West liner works completed - Contract value in excess of \$2.3m
- Contractors are attending two or more EQS toolbox meetings each month.
- Monthly EQS meeting are taking place with contractors to ensure a high standard of environmental and safety management/compliance is undertaken on site.
- Site has acquired its own UHF closed channel and installation of a repeater station is scheduled to improve communications within the site.
- New Site LTI board has been erected to reflect the separate divisions on site (located at entry of site, on right)

### PCYC MINI-BIKE CLUB

Sutherland PCYC is now closed for the summer break.

For further details if required:

Michelle Nelson, Sutherland Club Manager  
T 02 9521 5690 | F 02 9545 1352 | M 0458 486 690  
Waratah Park, Eton Street (South), Sutherland NSW 2232

### LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT

Ongoing maintenance works on site to repair and upgrade underperforming gas infrastructure is continuing. Increased maintenance on areas of intermediate cover, and around gas wells where possible emissions could occur.

### NURSERY/PLANTING

The nursery would like to remind the community that they still donate plants. The nursery can be contacted via the Menai wild flower group with the below contact details:

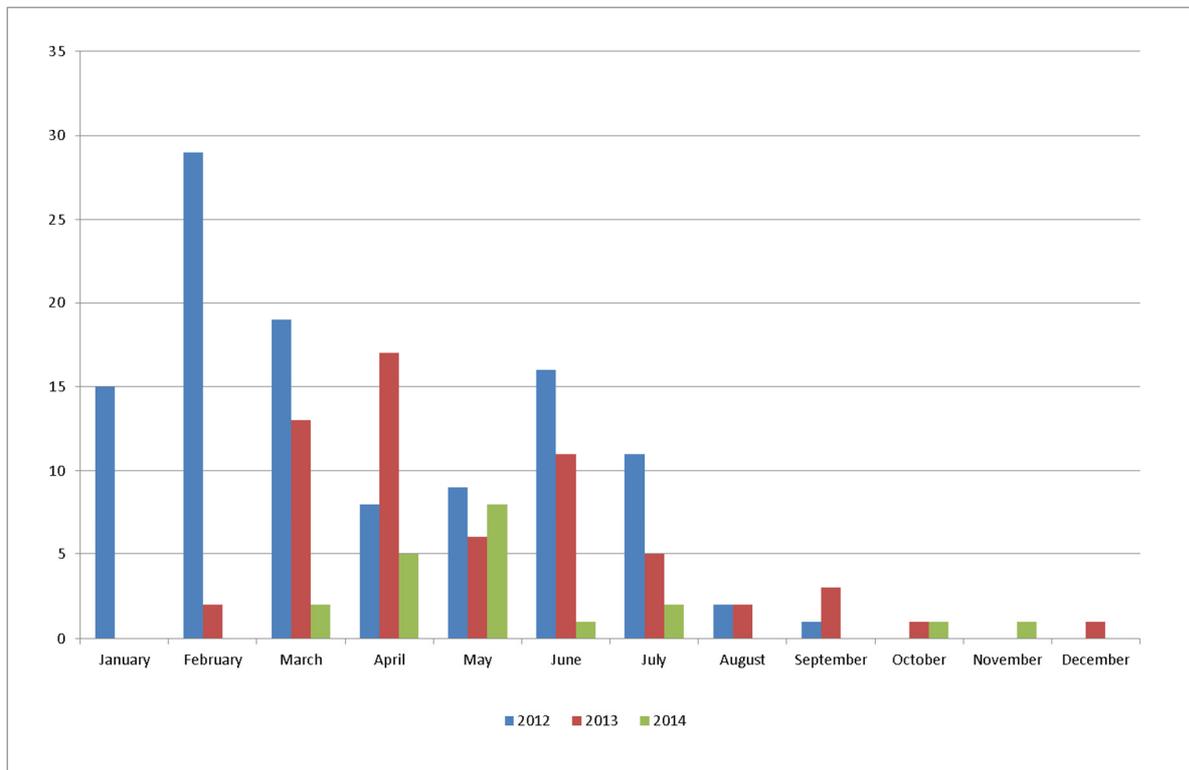
Contact	Lloyd Hedges (Vice President) – 0406 901 631
Website	<a href="http://menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au/">http://menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au/</a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au">menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au</a>

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

### Odour Notifications

The chart below illustrates odour notifications received from the community through our Environmental Feedback Hotline and the EPA pollution line. There were 1 for October, 1 for November and currently 0 complaints for December 2014.

The odour complaints per month for 2014 can be seen below in Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** Odour complaints for 2014.

To mitigate any odour which may be present at LHRRP, the tip face has been reduced in size, waste is covered at the end of each day, deodouriser is being used on site and continuously operating during turning the organics products. The leachate and organics dams are being aerated and weather conditions are monitored for when possible odorous works are undertaken. Additional odour monitoring is undertaken in the mornings in and around the site to identify possible odour.

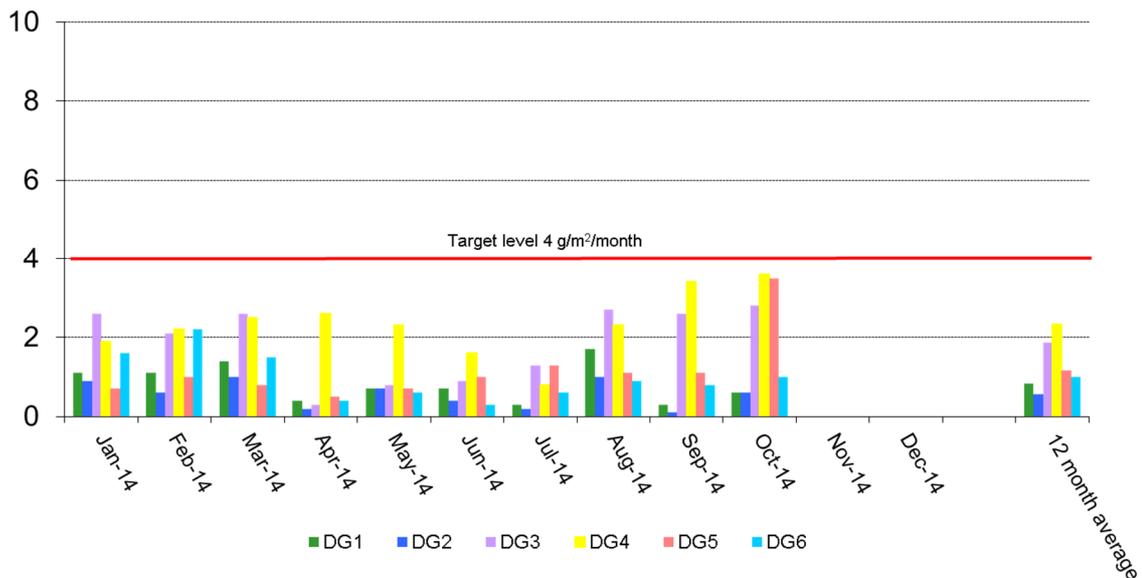
### Gas and odour monitoring

The last landfill and organics monitoring rounds for gas and odour were undertaken in October 2014. The site was found to have low levels of surface gas with no area exceeding the EPL limit of 500 ppm methane.

## Dust

Dust has been monitored each month at six (6) locations around the site. The 12 month average is currently below the limit aimed for of 4 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month as seen in Figure 3.

**Dust Deposition at Lucas Heights RRP**



**Figure 3:** Monthly dust gauge readings from Jan 2013 – Present for LHRRP.

## Leachate

The total volumes of leachate treated and sent to sewer during the reporting period were below the volumes agreed with Sydney Water of 1,200 m<sup>3</sup>/day as seen in Table 1 below.

Month	Quantity	Units
<b>Aug 2014</b>	500	m <sup>3</sup> /day
<b>Sept 2014</b>	707	m <sup>3</sup> /day
<b>Oct 2014</b>	598	m <sup>3</sup> /day
<b>Nov 2014</b>	565	m <sup>3</sup> /day

**Table 1:** Average volume of leachate treated per day at LH2.

## Ground water

Analytical and field results from groundwater sampled during the September 2014 monitoring round were consistent with those from previous rounds with the following results shown in Table 2 below. No exceedances were detected in the boundary bores.

Monitoring Well	Turbidity		Total alkalinity		Total Dissolved Solids		Sulphate	
	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)
MB034	31	220	21	18	190	200	9	8
MB035	2300	4900	7	<1	180	200	9	12
MB038	1300	270	<1	<5	290	280	35	11
MB040	1900	200	17	16	190	190	8	7
MB041	57	49	<1	<1	200	180	51	52
MB306	45	120	5	5	200	240	8	7

**Table 2:** Ground Water Parameters from June - Sept 2014

Analytical results of typical indicators of leachate in groundwater (Ammonia as N and TOC) are shown in Table 3 below. The level of ammonia was found not to have exceeded the licence limit of 1 mg/L in the ground water bores.

Monitoring Well	Ammonia	Total Organic Carbon
	(mg/L)	(mg/L)
MB008	<0.01	7
MB032	0.011	3
MB033	<0.01	1
MB034	<0.01	<1
MB035	0.038	2
MB038	0.022	2
MB039	Nt	Nt
MB040	0.014	39
MB041	0.073	3
MB305	<0.01	<1
MB306	<0.01	<1

**Table 3:** Groundwater readings of ammonia and total organic carbon from September 2014.  
(Nt = Not Tested due to well being dry)

## Access to Environmental Monitoring Reports

All environmental monitoring reports can be located at:

<http://www.sita.com.au/facility-reports/new-illawarra-road-environmental-reports>