

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 07/10/2014)

Tuesday, 1 July 2014 at 3:00pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living, Mount Annan

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- (GJ) – NSW Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- (GB) – Richardson Rd Landfill Manager
- (PH) – Sydney Resource Recovery Manager
- (BL) – Compliance Officer
- (JM) – Camden ORRF Manager
- (GA) – Spring Farm ARRT Manager

Community

- (MR) – Mount Annan
- (SB) – Mount Annan

UrbanGrowth NSW

- (PBr)

Apologies

- (PC) – SITA
- (NH) – SITA

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed all to the meeting. All present introduced themselves. Apologies were noted from PC and NH.		

2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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

3. OPERATIONS UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
3.1	<i>Richardson Rd Landfill</i>		
3.1.1	GB reported that operations at the landfill had been continuing normally. Leachate and stormwater dams were at a minimum level as there had been no recent significant rain events.		
3.2	<i>SITA Organics Camden ORRF</i>		
3.2.1	JM reported that operations at the Camden ORRF were also business as usual, with recent dry weather leading to low dam levels.		

3.2.2 SB reported that he had noticed morning odours over the last few weeks, and asked if anything had been taking place regularly between 7am and 9am every day. SB added that the odour smelled like garden organics, but that he couldn't be sure where the odour was coming from, and that it could even be related to the urban developments around Spring Farm.

PH advised that shredding at Camden ORRF was always held back until 9am.

SB said he felt this was a good idea.

JM said he would look into this, review operations on site and see if anything else could be implemented.

SB said the odours usually only occurred on cold, still mornings.

JM advised that the first trucks delivered garden organics loads at around 6am. The grinder was never started before 9am, and windrows were never turned before 9am.

SB said odours only occurred before 9am on weekdays, never on weekends, and never later in the day.

MR added that the odour tends to linger for about an hour later in the day on colder months.

3.3 *Spring Farm MRF, ARRT, ORRF and Tank Farm*

3.3.1 PH reported that there had been no significant changes at the MRF. The ARRT processing line was being remodelled to improve efficiency, and had therefore not been running over the last few weeks, but should start again in the next 1-2 weeks.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
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4.1	<i>PH presented the Environmental Update included with these notes as Appendix 1 – Environmental Update.</i>		
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4.2	<p>SB reported that it had been a while since he had noticed the smell of the odour neutralising fence.</p> <p>PH advised that sometimes it is adequate just to run water through the fence; since odour molecules are soluble, even ordinary water is often effective.</p> <p>JM added that the chemical used in the odour fence is odourless itself – a neutralising chemical rather than a masking agent. The misting fence operates every day.</p>		
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4.3	<p>PBr noted that complaints normally peaked over Autumn every year, and asked if something naturally happens over this period which leads to more complaints.</p> <p>PH replied that this time of year normally meant the occurrence of an atmospheric inversion layer, which traps odours closer to the ground. In</p>		
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Summer, in contrast, the air and ground are already hot before operations start, which means odours are drawn straight up into the air. The inversion layer and associated odour movement patterns should start disappearing over the next couple of months, as days begin to become longer and temperatures rise. EPA officers informally recognise this period of every year as "odour season."

5. ARRT DA MODIFICATION UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
5.1	<p>PH reported that the Tank Farm proposal was still awaiting approval from the Department of Planning. Some objections had been lodged against the proposal. SITA's only concern about these objections was that they were based on incorrect information about what was being proposed and expected. There was a misconception that SITA wanted to return to the mode of operation which was used under WSN management – this is not the case, and the proposal simply involves using the existing tank infrastructure to process liquid wastes. SITA were not proposing any method of trying to turn MSW into liquid waste and then process it, which had created odours when WSN had attempted this in the past. The process would involve treating liquid wastes to reduce their biological demand and make them suitable for disposal to sewer.</p> <p>SB said he thought Camden Council might be worried that SITA would try to bring in other types of liquids in the future.</p> <p>PH said that he could understand this concern, but that it would not be the case.</p>		

6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
6.1	<p>6.1 Commission new Environmental Feedback Hotline signage in accordance with the locations agreed on by the CRG.</p>	GJ	Next meeting
6.1.1	<p>GJ advised that this project was still underway as a state-wide upgrade to all facility signage.</p> <p>ACTION CARRIED OVER.</p>		

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
7.1	<p>PH reminded all present that an open invitation was available for a guided personal tour of SITA's facilities at any time.</p>		

7.2 SB reported that he had found it very difficult to lift a large TV into the e-waste bin on his last visit to SITA's Spring Farm ARRPP.

GB replied that this had been an issue lately. Some other facilities leave the door at the end of the bin open, as Work Health & Safety rules mean SITA staff can't assist customers with lifting. It is acceptable and encouraged that customers simply leave their heavy e-waste items next to the bin – this is the best and safest option. The reason walk-in bins are not used at Spring Farm relates to the need for safe and efficient placement of e-waste items in the bin.

7.3 SB added that when he was leaving the facility he didn't know which way to go – over weighbridge or around it – if only dropping off free recyclable materials.

GB advised that SITA had to keep records of all vehicles entering and leaving the site via the weighbridge to make sure all tonnes balanced at the end of each month. A new sign to make things clearer would be considered.

Meeting closed 3:30pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 7 October 2014, 3:00pm (includes site tour)

Venue: Spring Farm Advanced Resource Recovery Park – 275 Richardson Rd, Spring Farm

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Issue	Action	By
6.1	Commission new Environmental Feedback Hotline signage in accordance with the locations agreed on by the CRG.	GJ	Next meeting

Appendices 1) Environment Update presented by PH.