

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community input sought on Lucas Heights upgrade

SITA Australia is encouraging members of the community to learn about and provide input into a proposal to upgrade essential waste management and recycling infrastructure at the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park.

Phil Carbins, SITA's Project Director, explained that the project is in the early stage of the planning process and that community feedback will inform the planning proposal, expected to be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment next year.

"We have worked with Sutherland Shire Council and ANSTO to develop initial plans for the project and we are now seeking community input to assist in the development of the planning documentation.

"We are encouraging members of the community to come along to one of our information sessions, visit the project website, call us or send us an email. We've sent out 10,000 project brochures to residents in Menai, Engadine, Barden Ridge and Woronora Heights to keep the local community informed and we are also offering tours of the facility for anyone who is interested," Mr Carbins said.

Mr Carbins emphasised that SITA is getting the community involved at this early stage to help inform the proposal, but that there will be further opportunity for community input once the proposal has been submitted. "Once we submit our planning documentation to the Department of Planning and Environment, statutory community consultation will take place. During this time, members of the community and other stakeholders can provide submissions to the Department which will be addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement."

The Lucas Heights upgrades are necessary to ensure Sydney's waste can continue to be managed sustainably. "Landfill capacity in Sydney is quickly decreasing. Although more waste is being recycled, there is still a need to find additional landfill capacity and it makes sense to find it at an existing facility," Mr Carbins said.

"We recognise our activities take place within the existing Sutherland community and this is a key consideration for us. We are making improvements to manage odours better and when Lucas Heights closes, the site will be rehabilitated and returned to the community as parklands for everyone to enjoy."

He added, "SITA is also contributing \$100 million in funding over 15 years to Sutherland Shire Council to be used for community projects in the Shire."

Feedback on the Lucas Heights proposal can be provided via email or phone and three community information sessions are being held in the first week of December. Community members are invited to drop in to one of the sessions to learn about the project and provide feedback any time between:

- 2pm and 5pm on Tuesday 2 December at the Engadine Community Centre
- 4pm and 7pm on Thursday 4 December at the Menai Community Centre
- 1pm and 4pm on Saturday 6 December at the Menai Community Centre.

For more information, to have your say on the proposal or to request a site tour, please visit www.sita.com.au/lucasheights. You can also email feedback to lucas.heights@sita.com.au or phone the project team on 1800 810 680.



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CONTACT: SITA Media Office on (02) 8775 5527.

SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA) makes it easy for our customers to put their waste to good use. We find smart and reliable solutions to collect, recover and recycle waste into valuable resources to help protect our environment. SITA employs 2,100 people and provides services to more than 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and 3.7 million residents across Australia each week.

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