

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **SITA looks to Wheatbelt Joint Development Assessment Panel review of Allawuna**

SITA Australia is looking towards a review of its Allawuna Farm project by the Wheatbelt Joint Development Assessment Panel (JDAP).

The regional regulatory body is the determining authority in SITA's application to develop the site almost 20 kilometres from the York township.

"SITA strongly believes the facility is an important part of regional infrastructure. Rigorous planning has gone into the Allawuna Farm project including comprehensive environmental assessments which have found the proposed project does not pose any significant risk to the environment," SITA WA State General Manager Stock said.

The JDAP review means the project is now entering its final regulatory stages.

"We have been open and transparent throughout this process and have given extensive information to the Shire including a number of independent opinions by the Department of Water, the EPA and Main Roads - all pointing to the limited impacts of the project," SITA WA State General Manager, Nial Stock said.

The JDAP review follows on from the Shire of York's assessment, in which SITA sought to clarify a number of misconceptions that had been circulating in the local community.

The most significant of which, was a misunderstanding about the height of the landfill due to the use of two different datums between the concept and detailed planning stages of the project.

"Despite the different datums, the design height and physical depth of the landfill has not changed. It's a bit like the difference with temperature expressed as either Celsius or Fahrenheit" said Mr Stock.

In response to claims that the changes in datums impacted the groundwater measurements referred to in SITA's submission to Council, Nial Stock says that is not the case.

"We drilled thirteen functional boreholes across the site and measured them from the ground level, which means these measurements are unaffected by the use of differing height datums" Mr Stock said.

With regard to groundwater, an independent assessment by the Department of Water found no significant concerns arising from the proposed landfill with regard to protection of water resources and particularly the Mundaring Catchment.

"Allawuna Farm was selected as the best option following an extensive review of close to 20 potential sites. It is the most suitable location for the facility with the location off the Swan Coastal Plain and offering separation from ground and surface water and houses", Mr Stock said.

Located at St Ronan's on the Great Southern Highway, the proposed project accounts for less than four per cent of the 1516 hectare Allawuna Farm, which will remain a working farm.

SITA is committed to ensuring that the facility does not detract from the heritage and appeal of the Shire of York. It won't be visible from key local areas due to it sitting behind two ridgelines and being screened by vegetation.

In addition, about 350 hectares of remnant bushland will be maintained by SITA indefinitely on the site.

While the project is still in the planning and approvals phase, SITA recently called for expressions of interest from local businesses interested in supplying technical, trade and professional services as well as materials, electronics and other commercial goods.

“We’ve had a strong response from local businesses interested in supplying the project, ranging from earth moving and excavation, drilling, the provision of construction materials, truck repair and business supplies,” Mr Stock said.

Independent modelling concludes that local businesses will also benefit from direct and in-direct expenditure related to the project of \$9 million annually.

Local suppliers interested in lodging their expression of interest can do so by downloading the form from SITA’s website: [www.sita.com.au/Allawuna](http://www.sita.com.au/Allawuna).

#### **About SITA Australia**

- SITA is the nation’s leader in the provision of sustainable waste and recycling solutions. With over 100 operations across Australia, SITA provides weekly services to 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and more than 3.7 million residents. In addition to operating seven engineered landfills across Australia, SITA operates six Advanced Resource Recovery Technology (ARRT) Facilities, eight Organics Resource Recovery Facilities, three Materials Recycling Facilities and an Alternative Fuels ARRT.
- SITA's ARRT facilities are leading the change from traditional waste disposal to economically sustainable resource recovery solutions. The Neerabup BioVision ARRT facility operated by SITA processes up to 100,000 tonnes of mixed solid waste (MSW) each year, diverting approximately 50% of waste from landfill and producing a high quality compost.

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**SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA)** is a SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT and Sembcorp Industries joint venture, providing weekly services to over 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and more than 3.7 million residents across Australia. SITA’s services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction. More information on SITA can be found at [www.sita.com.au](http://www.sita.com.au)