

FACT SHEET

Hampton Park Resource Recovery Precinct

Background

Since early 2011, SITA Australia (SITA) has been refining and upgrading all the processes essential to manage community waste deposited at its Hampton Park Resource Recovery Precinct. Lengthy rain periods experienced during 2011 triggered anaerobic activity within the waste, causing early generation of landfill gas that is not usually experienced until the landfill cell is completely filled and capped.

To respond to this substantial change, SITA implemented a range of initiatives including reducing the size of the active waste cell, altering established waste filling and capping practices, installing additional gas collection wells and gas fired generators and installing Australia's first landfill odour neutraliser system of its kind. These changes in operational practice not only provide innovative solutions to current facility issues, they also provide a committed response to the changing urban environment in which the Hampton Park Resource Recovery Precinct is located.



Further, on 21 September 2012, the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) accepted an offer of an Enforceable Undertaking (EU) from SITA to address odour offences asserted by neighbours of the Precinct. The EU clearly establishes actions that SITA must undertake for the next three years to address operational improvements at the facility and to better manage increased landfill gas generation, which has been the source of the odour.

To ensure a better understanding of the EU and what SITA has to do, answers to the most common questions follow. For further information, visit the EPA Victoria website at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/en/our-work/compliance-and-enforcement/enforceable-undertakings>.

What is an Enforceable Undertaking?

An EU is a constructive alternative to prosecution. It allows SITA to voluntarily enter into a binding agreement with EPA to undertake operational works and develop community programs that respond directly to the alleged offence while delivering benefits to the environment and the community that go beyond mere compliance with the law.

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An EU must achieve several key objectives and the degree to which SITA will deliver them form the basis for EPA's decision whether or not to accept an offer of an EU.

An EU must :

- drive improvement in environmental performance;
- deliver benefit to the local environment and community; and
- drive improvements in environmental performance industry wide.

If the terms of an EU are breached, the EPA may pursue enforcement through the Court.

What is In the Enforceable Undertaking?

The EU outlines 18 undertakings that SITA must deliver. And each undertaking requires monitoring, reporting to EPA and the community and defines specific time periods for delivery and completion. Collectively, the undertakings respond to all of EPA's objectives while particularly addressing operational improvements at the facility and community benefits to facility neighbours.

In summary, SITA has undertaken to :

1. Operate the odour curtain system around the boundaries of the cell receiving household and industrial waste.
2. Reduce the amount of waste received into each cell which, in turn, reduces the lifespan of each cell.
3. Agree to amendments to the current EPA licence that reflect operational changes to cell management such as EPA approved Landfill Gas Management Plan and changes to waste tipping and covering processes.
4. Carry out an aerial infra red monitoring program every six months to detect any hotspots that may indicate gas emissions.
5. Update the community of actions undertaken, progress and reports submitted to EPA via a Community Update Fact sheet.
6. Operate the SITA Environmental Report Hotline, a freecall 24/7 contact available for use by the community.
7. Display posters in community hub locations providing SITA's contact details.
8. Facilitate the Hampton Park Community Reference Group (CRG) ensuring meetings are conducted at least every three months; that the Group is informed of the EU; and that EU reports become a standing Agenda item at CRG meetings until EU is complete.
9. Ensure that CRG members are taken on a facility site tour every six months to inspect works undertaken.
10. Host a Waste Management Association of Australia – Victorian Landfills Division every year, including a facility site tour and presentation of works undertaken with a focus on lessons learned.
11. Contribute \$100,000 to a local environment project for the restoration or enhancements of the environment in a public place; or for public benefit.
12. Provide proof to EPA that funding described above was provided to a community organisation.
13. That when SITA makes any reference to the \$100,000, it must refer to this EU.
14. Fund an independent research study scoped by EPA and the Department of Health, conducted by RMIT and reviewed by the CSIRO. The study will also include an extension of the air sampling and analysis currently being undertaken by the EPA in areas adjacent to the facility.
15. Design and deliver a planting scheme to screen SITA along the South Gippsland Highway boundary.
16. Appoint, at its own cost, an EPA appointed Auditor to ensure SITA has complied with all the undertakings.
17. Provide all relevant documents and information to EPA as required.
18. Pay all costs of compliance, estimated to be no less than \$800,000.

How will we know what is being done?

As part of the EU, SITA has undertaken to provide a Community Update Fact Sheet (see 5. above), similar to this document, every three months. The Fact Sheets will be available on the SITA website at sita.com.au/community-education/community-news/, emailed to community members registered on the SITA Community Contact database and presented to the Hampton Park CRG members for distribution to their community groups and neighbours.

Full colour A4 posters (see 7. above) promoting SITA's telephone, email and website contact details have been placed at more than 20 community locations such as shopping centres, schools, council offices and kindergartens. Community members, local organisations and neighbourhood groups are encouraged to contact SITA for answers to any of their questions. The poster also encourages community members to invite SITA to present at their next meeting or meet all the neighbours.

SITA will present a report at every meeting of the Hampton Park CRG (see 8. above) outlining works undertaken, monitoring programs and reports submitted to the EPA. In addition, CRG members will taken on a tour of the facility every six months (see 9. above) to sight operational works first-hand and question the relevant SITA officer about the process and program. All meeting Agendas and approved Minutes of Meetings will be posted on the SITA website at sita.com.au/community-education/community-reference-groups/vic/hampton-park/ for community information. Community members are encouraged to contact their representative CRG member for information and updates.

How do we know SITA means it?

In addition to the 18 undertakings outlined, the EU offered by SITA to EPA contains a Statement of Regret and an Assurance About Future Behaviour. Consequently, both commitments are subject to enforceable compliance. Should EPA assess non-compliance by SITA in any of the undertakings, SITA is aware that EPA may seek to enforce the Undertaking in the Magistrates' Court.

An important aspect of SITA's business plan is the commitment to seek input from the community to ensure consistent environmental performance improvement and operate in a sustainable manner.



SITA's Sustainability Policy is based on three core commitments:

- **Ethical Growth** - innovating to grow and anticipate the evolution of resource recovery markets
- **Responsible Impact** - commitment to environmental sustainability and local acceptance of SITA activities
- **Enterprise Culture** – developing SITA's reputation, professionalism and cultural cohesion.

SITA's commitment to undertaking the changes outlined in the EU and actively responding to community concerns is a reflection of its determination to be a good corporate citizen and work with local and regulatory stakeholders. While providing an essential public service, SITA will consistently seek to improve sustainable waste management and resource recovery practices that will help to combat climate change through a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Stay in touch

As a leader in the provision of resource recovery, recycling and waste management solutions, SITA's approach is based on acting locally and understanding local challenges.

We encourage you to learn more about us.

If you want to report an environmental issue, contact the **SITA Environmental Hotline**, a FREECALL 24/7 service

1800 ENV REP

1800 368 737

If you want us to visit your group or organisation, or you would like your question answered, send an email to

vic.communityenquiries@sita.com.au

If you want to learn more about how SITA Australia is developing sustainable waste management practices, log on to

sita.com.au

Our natural resources are not infinite and we must work together to protect and nurture them while helping to solve one of the major environmental problems that threaten the planet - the sustainable and ethical management of our waste.