

# Matrville Precinct Committee (as at 27 May 2014)

## SSD 5855 - Banksmeadow Waste Transfer Terminal Proposal for Processing of Putrescible & Non Putrescible Waste at 14 Beauchamp Road Matrville

The current EIS proposal<sup>1</sup> by **Veolia (previously known as Collex, Vivendi)** is a rather similar to a previous application which was before the courts and parliament a decade ago relating to Clyde Waste Transfer Facility. We understand that Viola's EIS has not adequately addressed the alternative sites and alternative arrangements such as containerisation of the waste in the southern, eastern and inner western suburbs.

There is one major difference between the two proposals as the Banksmeadow site is in a much closer proximity to two public schools<sup>2</sup> and private residences<sup>3</sup> as well as food processing and food outlets.

A recent article in the Goulbourn Post<sup>4</sup> was drawn to the Committee's attention. The story identified two residents Mr & Mrs Barbara and Richard Fairfax whose property is situated 2 ½ (two and a half) km from a NSW based waste bioreactor processing facility at Woodlawn. The article noted that the residents lodged countless complaints with Veolia about the pungent odour.

"We ring up quite often to say we are getting the smell from the place and we get told they're working on it. They record it but it seems that is as far as it goes," Mr Fairfax told the Goulburn Post after the meeting, hosted by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).

"They never seem to do anything about it though because the problem isn't getting any better. We regularly have to close up the house because of the odour, at 10.30 the other night we had to do it. Mr Fairfax continued: "Representatives from Collex (the original

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<sup>1</sup>SSD 5855 - Banksmeadow Waste Transfer Terminal ( 17April 2014 Have your say on proposed Banksmeadow waste facility) [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=5855](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5855)

<sup>2</sup> Matrville Public School is less than 700 meter as the crow flies from the proposed Banksmeadow waste facility.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to APPENDIX for selected observations to the Matrville Precinct Committee as well as Randwick Council. It should be pointed out that the Randwick Council was not included in the negotiations of this multi-councils agreement even though residents of municipality of Randwick will be most affected by this mega development.

<sup>4</sup> More waste means double odour trouble , By Tom Sebo, Goulburn Post, 23 February 2012  
<http://www.bing.com/search?q=woodlawn+fairfax+waste+site%3Aau&gs=n&form=QBRE&pg=woodlawn+fairfax+waste+site%3Aau&sc=0-22&sp=-1&sk=&cvid=9f8ea59e229e43458086099a6bf75b43>

proponents) stood here in this very hall and told us that there would be no odour. The Woodlawn Waste Management Facility Environmental Impact Statement, dated 1999, stated that odour would not be experienced in the surrounding area.”

“They started and it wasn’t long after that we started getting the odour. This isn’t a new problem, it’s an ongoing problem.”

In early 2000s, during the EIS assessment stage Justice Neal Bignold referred in his final determination in the Collex case to the “unsuitability of the development [Clyde] site to accommodate a waste transfer station because of its adverse environmental, economic and social impacts and its adverse precedential planning effect”. These are the similar community concerns and facts Judge Bignold found against the project. It should be pointed out that Justice Bignold found in favour of Auburn council and the local residents not only on points of law but on each every single point before the court. On all four points of law and all six points of merits<sup>5</sup> the judge found against Collex (see Drake & Ors; Auburn Council v Minister for Planning & Anor; Collex Pty Ltd [2003] NSWLEC 270).<sup>6</sup> Since then Collex has changed its name to Veolia however it has not changed its way of doing business in NSW. The community is concerned that the dollar is driving everything, and negative impact on visual amenity, air quality, odour, traffic appears to be ignored by corporations and governments.

Taxpayers and residents of other areas who reside along the route (s) used by the garbage trucks will also be affected as the EIS states that the operation will take place every day – Monday to Sunday (24/7). Garbage from Botany Bay, Rockdale, Woollahra, Waverley and Kogarah councils will be delivered and processed at the facility. It is not clear how this additional burden will affect our communities which are currently experiencing environmental issues relating to Port Botany which also operates as well as many other businesses such as paper mill which function 24/7. In the context of, airport noise and traffic noise and pollution the community now faces the reality of the following statistics:

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<sup>5</sup> Backyard legal team that laid a multinational to waste, By Stephen Gibbs, SMH 14 November 2003 <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/11/13/1068674317941.html>; Auburn waste dump battle continues, Green Left Weekly, 26 November 2003. <https://www.greenleft.org.au/node/28652>

<sup>6</sup> Swearing-Out Ceremony of The Honourable Justice Neal Bignold As A Judge Of The Land And Environment Court Of New South Wales Mr Michael Slattery QC, President, Bar Association Of New South Wales (17 March 2007) [http://www.Lec.Lawlink.Nsw.Gov.Au/Agdbasev7wr/ Assets/Lec/M420301716853/Bignold\\_Swearing-Out%20ceremony%20of%20the%20honourable.Pdf](http://www.Lec.Lawlink.Nsw.Gov.Au/Agdbasev7wr/Assets/Lec/M420301716853/Bignold_Swearing-Out%20ceremony%20of%20the%20honourable.Pdf)

- 400 tons Putrescible (domestic) garbage to be processed each day
- 100 tons Non-Putrescible (non organic) garbage to be processed each day
- 215 trucks in and out to deliver Putrescible (domestic) garbage each day
- 140 trucks in and out to deliver Non-Putrescible (non organic) garbage each day
- 200 tons on floor at any one time, compressed by running a tractor over the garbage.

The Matraville Precinct Committee together with neighbouring precinct committees such as La Perouse and others found some technical terms rather hard to define. The term “Putrescible Waste” is often used synonymously with “domestic waste” however it was agreed in our discussion they are not the same. In layman’s terms Putrescible waste rots whereas domestic waste tends to contain many bacteria that survive for a very long time and do not decay for a number of years.

The Mayor of Botany Bay Council<sup>7</sup>, Ben Keneally, in his message to community in the Southern Courier on 27 May 2014 raised his concerns about the losing battle with illegal dumping in the Botany Bay area. The Matraville Precinct Committee expects that this proposal for waste facilities will make combating illegal dumping even harder not just for Botany Bay but also Matraville area as dumpers do not discriminate between borders.

Another major concern is the negative effects on Beauchamp Road from the traffic generation and the road safety implications of additional heavy vehicle movements that may use residential roads in the area.

Further dominant issues of concerns in the community arguments against the proposal which the Matraville Precinct considered relevant to this assessment are listed below:

### **Air environment**

The key issues include:

- Odours
- Dust, pathogens and fine particles
- Other noxious pollutants
- Asbestos
- Heavy vehicle emissions

### **Water environment**

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<sup>7</sup> Councils Buddy Up for Garbage, Burwood Scene 15 October 2013, [Botany Bay Council is one of the eight (8) amalgamated councils who are signatory to the long term contract with Veolia. The article mentioned that Independent consultant Hyder Consulting was undertaking the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Banksmeadow facility. ] <http://www.burwoodscene.com.au/2013/10/15/councils-buddy-up-for-garbage/> (Hyder Consulting: Waste Facility Scenario Modelling (January 2013) [http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/media/files/documents/Investigation\\_into\\_Waste\\_Management\\_Scenarios\\_PUBLI\\_C.pdf](http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/media/files/documents/Investigation_into_Waste_Management_Scenarios_PUBLI_C.pdf) )

Key issues include:

- Surface water runoff
- Polluted groundwater from site contamination
- Flooding

### **Noise**

Key issues include:

- Noise from process and stationary equipment
- Noise modelling and noise criteria
- Noise from train loading and assembly
- Noise from traffic

### **Vermin and vectors**

Key issues include:

- Risk of vermin and vectors to nearby industries including food processing and food outlets
- Risk of microbial and spore agents to health
- Risk of airborne chemical agents to food quality

### **Traffic**

Key issues include:

- Traffic volume pressures on Beauchamp Rd
- Traffic lights at proposed entrance
- Potential abuse of local streets by waste vehicles accessing the Terminal

### **Health**

Key issues (distinct from those raised specifically under air quality) include:

- High incidence of asthma in area
- Possible impact on food processors/handlers in area
- Possible risk to residents and local workers from contaminated dust during construction
- Possible risk to health of workers and construction personnel from disturbance of contaminated land

**Amenity**

Key issues include:

- Negative perception of garbage trucks and facilities
- Smelly trucks in streets
- Adverse impression and stigma associated with waste terminal in our suburb
- Dust from waste vehicles tracked onto roads
- Potential windblown litter
- Adverse impact on local commerce and commercial property values
- Adverse impact on residential property values

**Cumulative impacts**

Key issues include:

- Incentive for clustering of future waste transfer and waste processing industries in the Matraville area once the first is established
- Cumulative impacts on air quality
- Cumulative impacts on traffic arising from re-development of commerce/industry along Beauchamp Road

**Local planning issues**

Key issues include:

- Auburn staged development for the Clyde intermodal facility and environs not addressed

**Strategic issues**

Key issues include:

- Alienation of publicly owned land as buffer zone or for profit making purposes

**Perceived inadequate enforcement of requirements and policy**

Key issues include:

- Concerns about EPA enforcement at similar waste facilities

**Political issues**

Key issues raised include:

- Party political issues in terms of perceived electoral fairness as this facility will add to the detrimental effects to health of residents living in the state electorates of Maroubra and Botany.

- The residents firmly believe that most of Sydney's garbage will be targeted for this facility in the future. (By the use of the well known Salami tactic)

## APPENDIX

### Resident 1

I think it's strange that considering all the industry that has left this part of Sydney, and the last has been converted to housing, that now the council is suggesting we start a rubbish dump

Why would this be a good thing.. Turning the land into a park would be a good thing...

Our property is 500 m away, which is less than 800m at Clyde.

Also I can see that there are houses at 61 Perry St (350 Meters) and at 11 Perry St (140m)

### Resident 2

...I have high hopes for the Port Botany Noise Strategy Working group and the SPEEDY development of a noise abatement strategy!!\

As we continue to be bombarded 24/7 by noise and air pollution issues from:

- an ever expanding port;
- containers crashing, ships horns honking, forklifts beeping;
- a wailing port siren which can go on all night when the winds are high;
- generator noise from ships in port;
- truck movements (with beeping reverse noises) in and out and around our street 24/7;
- an enormous papermill which continues to emit odours from time to time, regularly releases powerful shoots of steam into the air emitting incredible bursts of noise which last for up to 20 minutes, and again accounts for numerous truck movements in the area;
- rubbish falling from trucks entering the mill with loads of paper to be recycled that is not properly secured (I see this constantly);
- a nearby airport...
- and the legacy of industrial pollution from years past.

Can I also add to this list my growing concern about Veolia's establishment of a waste processing plant on Beauchamp Rd.

At what point will council concede "Enough is enough!"

How can we absorb further truck movements per day... ?

More odour...?

More noise...?

More beep beep beeping from trucks reversing...?

People live within 500m of the proposed Veolia site. There are schools and offices in the area. Beauchamp Rd is clogged with traffic as it is. We're on the coast which means odour is carried on the sea breeze.

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I fear that Veolia will just add to our noise and air pollution issues....

We also can't work out why waste from western councils like Rockdale has to be brought over here – only to be transported west again. I don't want anyone to have to live next door to a waste processing plant - but surely there are less populated places in Sydney where this plant can be built??

I hate being a complainer!

I'm thankful for Randwick Council's provision for our family in so many other areas... but I just can't see any progress on these noise pollution issues... and I'm losing confidence there is going to be any change.

Despite the detailed recordings on the EPA's Noise Monitoring Sheet showing that noise in the area has really not changed over time – anecdotally, I will tell you it has. I can't recall the noise ever being this bad in the past.

As I put my head on the pillow to the sound of beep, beep, beep every night and motors whirring – I seriously contemplate what it is doing to my family's health and well being - and if we should just move house?

What are some of the strategies the Port Botany Noise Strategy Working group are considering?

I am happy for you to forward my details to the EPA.