



Weston Aluminium Pty Ltd
129 Mitchell Ave
PO Box 295
Kurri Kurri NSW 2327
Ph: (02) 4936 2166 Fax: (02) 4936 2165
ABN: 18 058 884 012

15 July 2015

Emma Barnet
Environmental Planning Officer
Infrastructure and Industry Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Proposed Modification to Development Consent (DA-86-04-01-MOD 9 and 10397 of 1995-MOD 7) - Response to Public Exhibition Submissions – Amendment 1

I refer to the various submissions received by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment during the Public Exhibition period in relation to the above project. Submissions received are referred to herein as follows:

- **Submission 1:** Col Maybury of Brooks St Kurri Kurri; dated 19 May 2015
- **Submission 2:** Des & Lynn Mills of Northcote St Kurri Kurri; dated 11 May 2015
- **Submission 3:** Cessnock City Council; dated 21 May 2015
- **Submission 4:** Landcare Kurri (member) and Weston resident; dated 19 May 2015
- **Submission 5:** NSW EPA; received 21 May 2015

Weston Aluminium provided an initial response to the above Submissions on 28 May 2015. A Meeting was subsequently held with representatives of your Department, Cessnock City Council and NSW Police on 7 July 2015 to specifically discuss the potential issues and concerns raised by Cessnock City Council. Detail provided herein has been updated to reflect those Meeting discussions and associated resolution.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 4936 2166.

Yours sincerely,

Weston Aluminium Pty Ltd

Christopher McClung
Plant Manager

Submission 1

Weston Aluminium has successfully and responsibly operated its facility within the Heavy Industrial Zoned area of Kurri Kurri for over 18 years. Environmental and hazard management protocols are quite mature, and the facility is committed to the continued achievement and maintenance of its strong history of regulatory compliance. Our emissions are typically an order of magnitude below the stringent limits imposed for our facility, and we are very proud of this performance. Such performance is monitored through regular testing and scrutinized via routine Environmental and Hazard Audits, undertaken by independent NATA-accredited consultants. Significant capital and maintenance effort continues to be invested in our infrastructure and daily operations in order to present a safe working environment, maintain ongoing regulatory compliance and to preserve and protect our surrounding environment and neighbouring community.

Weston Aluminium continues to publish and share our environmental monitoring and performance data in the public domain in accordance with requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operation Act (2011 Amendment). These data are accessible on our website (westonal.com.au/monitoring.html).

We are grateful for Mr Maybury's suggestion of clinical and medical waste processing. This may indeed be further explored as a compatible input. Weston Aluminium continues to review operations and explore future diversification opportunities in order to utilize the existing approved Plant capacity, sustain operations, maintain local employment and support local contractors.

Submission 2

Please refer comments above (Submission 1) regarding environmental and hazard management, operational performance and independent assessment and verification via monitoring and auditing.

Submission 3

1. Air emissions and potential impacts on human health

In response to our experience with historical processing of illicit drugs and with the melting of packaging wastes from the pharmaceutical industry, Weston Aluminium is confident that existing systems of ventilation and emission capture – including high-capacity, pulse-jet fabric filter baghouses and premium hydrate lime-injection air emission scrubbing systems - are more than adequate to treat all likely process emissions. Accordingly, we have not sought to increase our existing regulatory emission limits for the proposed Trial. **It is noted that Weston Aluminium adheres to stringent regulatory emission limits that are actually significantly lower than limits typically applied throughout NSW and designed to protect human health and the environment.**

Weston Aluminium continues to demonstrate compliance with stringent regulatory air emission compliance limits. Our air emissions performance is illustrated below in **Figure 1**. The **green** bars represent the compliance limits (shown in units of mg/m^3 , and illustrated as 100% of each limit), while the assessed performance is illustrated as **blue** bars (as proportion of 100% limits).

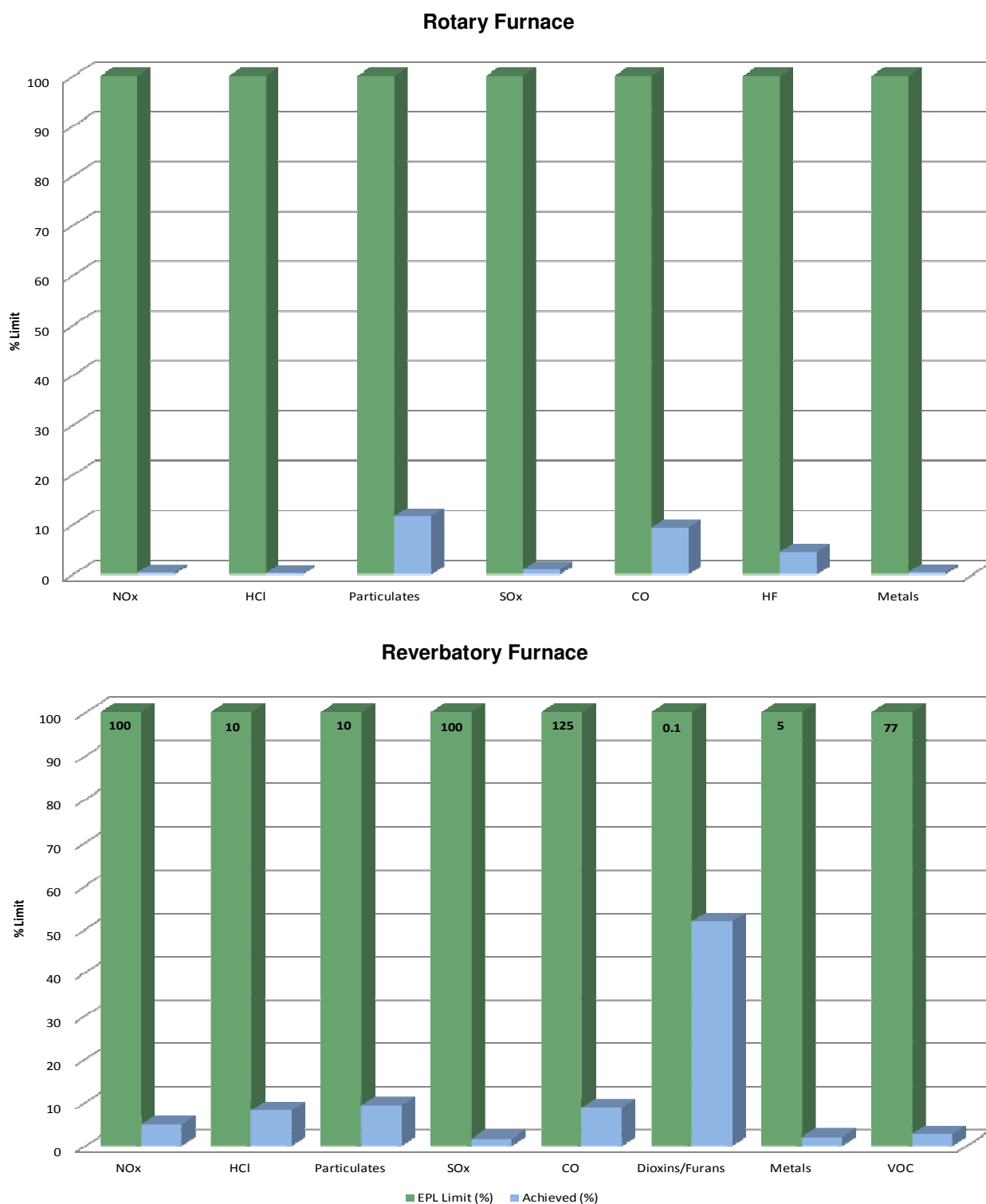


Figure 1: Air Emission Performance versus Regulatory Limits – Rotary and Reverbatory Furnace Treated Emissions.

Trial inputs are principally organics, and are readily transformed to common products of combustion including carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and water. As detailed in our Application, Weston Aluminium proposes to maintain real-time monitoring systems, and engage independent consultants to undertake NATA-accredited emissions testing and analyses on a quarterly basis to verify emission performance. The suite of parameters proposed for assessment, as defined within our Environment Protection Licence, are considered to be comprehensive and will enable a thorough assessment of emission control performance. The scope of proposed quarterly emissions testing is summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Proposed Quarterly Stack Emission Monitoring.

Discharge Point	Emission Parameter	Approved Testing Method
Stack 1	Carbon monoxide	OM-1
	Gaseous fluoride	TM-10 & Continuous Monitor
	Hydrogen chloride	TM-7 & TM-8
	Nitrogen oxides	TM-11
	Solid particles	TM-15 & Continuous Monitor
	Dioxins & furans	TM-18
	Sulfuric acid mist and sulfur dioxide	TM-3 & TM-4
	Type 1 and 2 substances (heavy metals)	TM-12, TM-13 & TM-14
	Fine particulates (PM ₁₀)	OM-5
	Fluorides	TM-10
	Volatile organic compounds	OM-2
	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	OM-26
	Cyanide	USEPA OTM-29
	Dry gas density (incl. O ₂ , CO ₂ & H ₂ O)	TM-23
Stack 5	Fluorides	TM-10
	Hydrogen chloride	TM-7 & TM-8
	Nitrogen oxides	TM-11
	Solid particles	TM-15 & Continuous Monitor
	Dioxins & furans	TM-18
	Sulfuric acid mist and sulfur dioxide	TM-3 & TM-4
	Type 1 and 2 substances (heavy metals)	TM-12, TM-13 & TM-14
	Volatile organic compounds	OM-2
	Velocity	TM-2
	Dry gas density	TM-23
	Moisture	TM-22
	Temperature	TM-2
	Oxygen	TM-25
	Fine particulates (PM ₁₀)	OM-5
	Volumetric flow rate	TM-2
	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	OM-26
	Dry gas density (incl. O ₂ , CO ₂ & H ₂ O)	TM-23

It is noted that it would be quite difficult to replicate our processing recipes, furnace conditions and emission control and scrubbing technologies in a simulated, controlled testing environment, and hence, data generated in this way is unlikely to be representative. It is precisely for this reason that the Trial is proposed to be conducted at our Kurri Kurri facility utilising the existing processing equipment and emission control systems.

2. Quantity of materials to be processed

It is acknowledged that the proposed Trial processing quantities of 1,000 tonnes of illicit drug wastes does not correlate well with the estimated generation rates defined in our Application. It is noted that estimated generation rates tabulated in our Application are based on anecdotal information only, and actual rates (expected to be highly variable) are currently unpublished.

The Trial scale and duration is designed to provide sufficient information and data to assess the variability and availability of such wastes, to verify the performance of our processing sequence, and to demonstrate emissions control performance. Weston Aluminium has deliberately nominated a conservative Trial scale so as to enable satisfaction of Trial objectives.

As discussed and agreed during the Meeting of 7 July 2015, Weston Aluminium proposes to reduce the proposed scale of illicit drug waste processing from 1000 tonnes to 200 tonnes. This Trial quantity should be sufficient to meet Trial objectives in relation to illicit drug waste processing. Due to the variable nature anticipated of pharmaceutical wastes, the original proposed input scale of 1,000 tonnes remains unchanged.

3. Source of illicit drug waste

Weston Aluminium acknowledges Council's Sydney Waste Policy W1.3, and understands that this Policy was announced in 1999 by the then Minister for the Environment, Ms Pam Allen, to prevent the landfilling of Sydney-derived wastes in the Cessnock LGA. In this instance, no landfilling of illicit drug and pharmaceutical wastes will occur. Therefore, we question the relevance of the Policy to our proposed Trial.

During the Meeting of 7 July 2015, the context and background of the Policy was unclear, however, it was acknowledged by all that waste inputs are due to be processed (not landfilled), and therefore would not represent a burden on Council's landfill resources. It was also speculated that Policy implementation may have also related to the management of traffic movements within the LGA. Weston Aluminium confirms that the number of traffic movements relating to Trial activities (and above typical Plant operation) will remain well-within existing approval constraints (also refer **Submission 4** response below). Furthermore, traffic loads on LGA roads have also been dramatically eased by the recent opening of the Hunter Expressway, and accordingly, no impacts upon traffic are expected by the Proposal.

Furthermore, it was also highlighted by Meeting attendees that the exclusion of Trial inputs sourced from Sydney would present a conflict, as Trial inputs are, in any case, due to be sourced throughout the whole of New South Wales and potentially from interstate.

4. Social impact and potential for crime

The potential for social impact and crime is a concern shared by Weston Aluminium, and we seek to eliminate and manage any unwanted attention to the facility and Trial activity for the protection and wellbeing of our employees and the wider community. We offer the following protocols and comments:

- As defined in our Application, and in accordance with historical practices, NSW Police personnel and nominate observers are responsible for the coordinated and secure delivery of illicit drug wastes to our facility, and personally supervise the handling and complete destruction of these wastes immediately upon receipt. There will be no storage of illicit drugs on site. These processes are thoroughly controlled and documented by NSW Police; and
- Based on the information gathered to date, we understand from input sources that pseudoephedrine and other precursors to illicit drug manufacture are not present in pharmaceutical wastes, and hence, such waste inputs should not attract or stimulate criminal activity. If small quantities of precursors were to be present in pharmaceutical waste deliveries at any time, Weston Aluminium will seek formal prior notification from waste suppliers and insist that such materials be segregated for either immediate processing upon receipt or secure onsite storage. Storage and processing of such wastes will be under the direct supervision of Weston Aluminium management.

The likelihood and potential for social impact and crime was considered during the 7 July 2015 Meeting. It was confirmed that the presence of precursor drugs amongst pharmaceutical waste deliveries would be negligible, and that quantities of wastes stored at any time would be minimal.

The following site security features were also confirmed:

- Operating hours and site manning;
- Boundary fencing and main gate operation;
- Back-to-Base security monitoring;
- Network of site security cameras; and
- Regime of regular contractor Security Patrols.

Due to the nature and quantities of pharmaceutical wastes due to be received and stored during the Trial, Weston Aluminium understands that the NSW Police have no particular concerns regarding site security nor of the potential for crime. Hospitals, aged care facilities and pharmacies could be considered to represent a far greater target for crime, but we understand from NSW Police that such criminal activity is non-existent. Accordingly, the existing security features operating at the Weston Aluminium facility are considered more than adequate for the proposed Trial.

Submission 4

Whilst operating within a Heavy industrial Zone, Weston Aluminium is always conscious of our proximity to residents, and ensures that operations occur strictly in accordance with Regulatory approvals so as to mitigate any impact. As above, Weston Aluminium has demonstrated superior performance and compliance with stringent environmental requirements.

Traffic movements associated with Weston Aluminium operations are well below those approved for the development. Such movements have been in continual decline since the Global Financial Crisis. Rather than the historical transport route through the Kurri Kurri township, our transport contractors are instructed to utilize the Hunter Expressway, which is a far more convenient point of access to our facility, and alleviates traffic volume through residential areas. Traffic issues noted by the Kurri Kurri Landcare member during our Information Session appear to be unrelated to Weston Aluminium activities. Importantly, the few traffic movements that do occur are constrained by our Weighbridge operating hours of 7am – 3pm, Monday to Friday, and hence Weston Aluminium-related traffic flows do not occur outside these times. Based on the Trial scale proposed, it is likely that traffic movements will only increase by a single vehicle per week, which is considered insignificant.

As stated above, Weston Aluminium continues to review operations and explore future diversification opportunities in order to fully utilize the existing approved Plant capacity, sustain operations, maintain local employment and support local contractors. Weston Aluminium has always, and will continue to, follow necessary regulatory requirements and assessment of proposed future activities and actively seek comment and input from residents and other stakeholders.

Submission 5

Weston Aluminium acknowledges the support of the NSW Environmental Protection Authority and recognition of Weston Aluminium's historical and ongoing environment management and control performance.

In conjunction with our Application to the Department of Planning and Environment, Weston Aluminium has prepared and submitted an Application for Environment Protection Licence Variation. Trial activities will not commence until all regulatory approvals have been granted.

Weston Aluminium is quite familiar with the conditions recommended for the Trial, and have implemented and satisfied similar conditions as part of prior Trial and research and development activities. Weston Aluminium is committed to thorough and independent, NATA-accredited emission testing throughout the Trial phase, and will comply with those conditions anticipated for inclusion in our varied Licence.