

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

The Director General
NSW Department of Planning
GPO BOX 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Via email: Felicity.Greenway@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Ms Felicity Greenway,

Re. Orchard Hills Waste & Management Facility – Community Consultation

Dellara Pty Limited (the Proponent) engaged Parker & Partners (the Consultant) on 24 May 2010 to provide strategic external communications and community consultation advice.

The Proponent was increasingly concerned that key elements of the Environmental Assessment (EA) were being misrepresented by opponents in the community and this was reflected in local media and material from. Opponents of the project, including local Councilors, had been disseminating misleading and alarming information that the Proponent believed would be detrimental to the project.

In the final 6 weeks of consultation, the Proponent took steps to immediately boost the level of communication and consultation regarding the proposal.

The focus of the all communications and consultation activities was to provide the local community with clarity and transparency succinctly present the facts and challenge the myths. Also, each piece of communication sought community feedback and presented further opportunities for engagement.

Correspondence of 7 and 10 June was sent to over 230 landowners and residents living within close proximity and the Vines, inviting them to an onsite project briefing and tour at the following times:

- Saturday, 19 June 2010: 1:00–4:00pm
- Wednesday, 23 June 2010: 1:00-4:00pm
- Saturday, 26 June 2010: 1:00-4:00pm

In total 13 landowners and residents visited the site, including the two principal adjoining landowners Darley Australia and Vic Bates.

All tours focused on the proposal being the optimal solution for the site and providing in-depth briefings on the following:

- Types of incoming waste, location and noise and air management plans for the recycling facility;
- State of Cell 1 and how the waste management facility will operate;
- Asbestos Management Plan and dealing with the eastern bund wall; and
- Plans to reshape and landscape the northern bund wall to provide a better outlook for neighbors.

During the period all Councilors (to be accompanied by Officers) were invited on several occasions to site. None accepted.

All communication to residents was also sent Councilors and relevant Officers at Penrith City Council for their information.

It's important to note that Penrith City Council's consultant, Mr Karl Berzins who addressed the 8 June 2010 Community Meeting and drafted Council's submission:

1. Has never been to the site; nor
2. Requested a briefing or clarification on the technical underpinnings of the EA.

R.W.Corkery & Co Pty Limited's submission to the Department will directly address deficiencies in that submission.

Throughout consultation the Proponent actively engaged on the following issues:

- Air and noise management plans and strategies to minimise potential externalities;
- Pre-existing asbestos in the eastern bund wall and the management plan to safely remove and securely store the contaminated soil onsite;
- The height and form of the northern bund wall and a commitment to additional landscaping;
- Types of incoming waste under a Class 2 License and clearly stating that there will be no hazardous, chemical, toxic or domestic waste deposited onsite;
- Depth and height of the extraction and waste deposits; and
- Water and leachate management.

Resident's participating in the onsite project briefing and tours responded positively. We found that once stakeholders got a greater understanding of the challenges faced by the site and the industry best solutions the Proponent was putting in place to address those concerns neutralised the negative sentiment.

The Proponent will continue to undertake Project Updates throughout the project's construction phase and has indicated that they will implement real time air and noise monitoring technology to ensure residents can see that the project is operating within the strict environmental limits set.

Enclosed are copies of all correspondence from 24 May 2010 onwards to residents.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on (02) 8281-3278 or trent@p-p.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trent Mumford', written over a horizontal line.

Trent Mumford
Practice Director