



Appendix F. Community and Stakeholder Participation Report (PlanCom Consulting, 2021)

Community and Stakeholder Participation Report

Buronga Landfill Expansion

**Engagement prior to the submission of the
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

PlanCom Consulting Pty Ltd

August 2021



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1. Overview of this report

This is a report of the engagement with the community in advance of the submission of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to accompany a Development Application (DA) for the proposed Buronga Landfill.

Wentworth Shire Council engaged PlanCom Consulting (PlanCom), a company based in NSW that specialises in planning and community engagement. PlanCom has extensive experience in engaging community and other stakeholders for environmental impact assessments and in particular State Significant Infrastructure and State Significant Development.

This is a report of the engagement activities and outcomes of these activities. PlanCom engaged with identified stakeholders to fulfill the requirements of the SEARs and act in the interest of Wentworth Shire Council (Council) to make the community aware of the proposed expansion of the landfill. As a result of the consultation there were several issues raised that the team has confirmed have either been addressed in the EIS or there has been further focus on these issues through what was learned in the consultation.

See section 7 of this report for more detail of the issues raised by stakeholders and responses to those issues.

2. The project

Buronga Landfill is owned by Council and is located on Arumpo Road Buronga approximately 4.5 km north northeast of the township of Buronga, NSW. Access to the Landfill is via Arumpo Road and Silver City Highway. The landfill operations currently occur in an area of approximately 19 ha, with the landfill footprint covering approximately 5 ha. The landfill is zoned SP2 (Waste or Resource Management Facility) and is surrounded by agricultural activities and remnant vegetation.

There are two businesses on Arumpo Road and the nearest residential property is about one kilometre north of the site on Arumpo Road. There are a number of agricultural and fruit growing properties that surround the site.

There has been few complaints about the operation on the existing site. Complaints related to existing operations by Council have been about litter, dust, and odour. There has been concern about incidents related to the previous landfill operator.

The landfill is currently reaching its capacity. That is, there will be no space for future waste without this proposed expansion. It is this proposal to increase its size that leads to the need for the preparation of an EIS to accompany a DA at this time. The public will be invited to make formal submissions during the exhibition of the EIS.

3. Plans for engagement as part of this stage

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) requested that engagement be planned for and conducted in advance of the submission of the EIS. Council and Tonkin, the environmental consultants, endorsed this as good practice to ensure that issues are identified and addressed and to potentially minimise the requirement to

address some of these as additional issues through the EIS exhibition period and in response to submissions.

In accordance with the SEARs PlanCom developed and submitted to Council and the Tonkin team a 'Community and Stakeholder Participation Strategy' identifying key community members and other stakeholders and details and justification for the proposed consultation approach(s). It identified the activities, a list of companies or organisations in proximity to the site and identified those to receive emails and phone calls.

PlanCom has compiled in this 'Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report':

- Evidence of how each stakeholder identified in the strategy was consulted and the issues raised by the community and surrounding landowners and occupiers
- Information about how issues raised during consultation have been addressed and whether they have resulted in changes to the development
- Suggestion for the approach to future community and stakeholder engagement based on what was learned from this consultation.

The key messages in communication with the community and other stakeholders included that:

- Council is proposing to expand the Buronga Landfill to meet local and regional needs for the next 30 years.
- The expanded landfill provides for expanded recycling facilities and waste reduction in line with the NSW government Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and the National Waste Action Plan which aims to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Council is preparing and will place on exhibition an EIS that will outline how potential environmental and social impacts will be managed.
- This EIS will aim to address issues raised by the community in relation to the expansion, so we are seeking feedback from the public at this time to identify issues.

4. Objectives of the engagement

The engagement plan was delivered in keeping with Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2016-2020. Specifically in line with this it aimed to engage effectively with a range of stakeholders and draw on peoples' knowledge to build support for, and involvement in the landfill expansion.

In line with the Core Values of Council and underlying principles of the strategy this engagement aimed to be:

- Inclusive and targeted
- Transparent
- Innovative and accessible, and
- Informative and respectful.

Council's Community Participation Plan outlines how the community might expect to be able to participate in the planning system. As this project is a State Significant Development it requires the preparation and exhibition of the EIS for 28 days. Prior to and during that exhibition Council will Inform, Consult and Consider as per Table 3 of Council's Community Participation Plan. Submissions from the public in response to the

EIS will be received by DPIE and considered in determining whether the landfill expansion should be approved.

The objectives of the engagement and associated actions are as follows:

Objective/ Approach	Justification/ Action
Create broad awareness of the planned expansion and the planning process.	Making people aware of the proposal, its objectives and the opportunities for input
Identify particular issues and impacts	Seek early input from the nearby community and other stakeholders into the issues that they may experience because of the project. We will actively seek input of those closest to the site.

5. Stakeholders

Consideration was given to the stakeholders who might be interested and impacted by this project. The focus of the consultation was to ensure those most directly impacted are aware of the proposed expansion and had the opportunity to identify issues for consideration in the EIS. Care was taken to ensure stakeholders knew there was further opportunity to make formal submissions to the DPIE in response to the EIS.

The consultation led by PlanCom focussed on trying to identify and reach:

- Surrounding landowners/neighbours
- Businesses in the vicinity and especially those likely to be impacted
- Community service providers
- Advocacy groups.
- Previous complainants.

The EIS project team led the consultation with government stakeholders and the outcomes of this consultation will be reported in other parts of the EIS. Aboriginal groups were targeted separately through the Cultural Heritage Study for the EIS.

Council took responsibility for engagement with Internal Council departments.

A list of stakeholder organisations that were contacted is provided in Appendix A.

6. Engagement activities and outcomes

The consultation took place over the months of April and May 2021. Meetings and discussions were predominantly with near neighbours and mostly businesses. They were aware of the existence of the landfill, and some were aware of the proposal to expand the landfill. The closest residential property is one kilometre to the north.

The consultation involved the following:

Notification by Letter

A letter from the General Manager of Council was sent by:

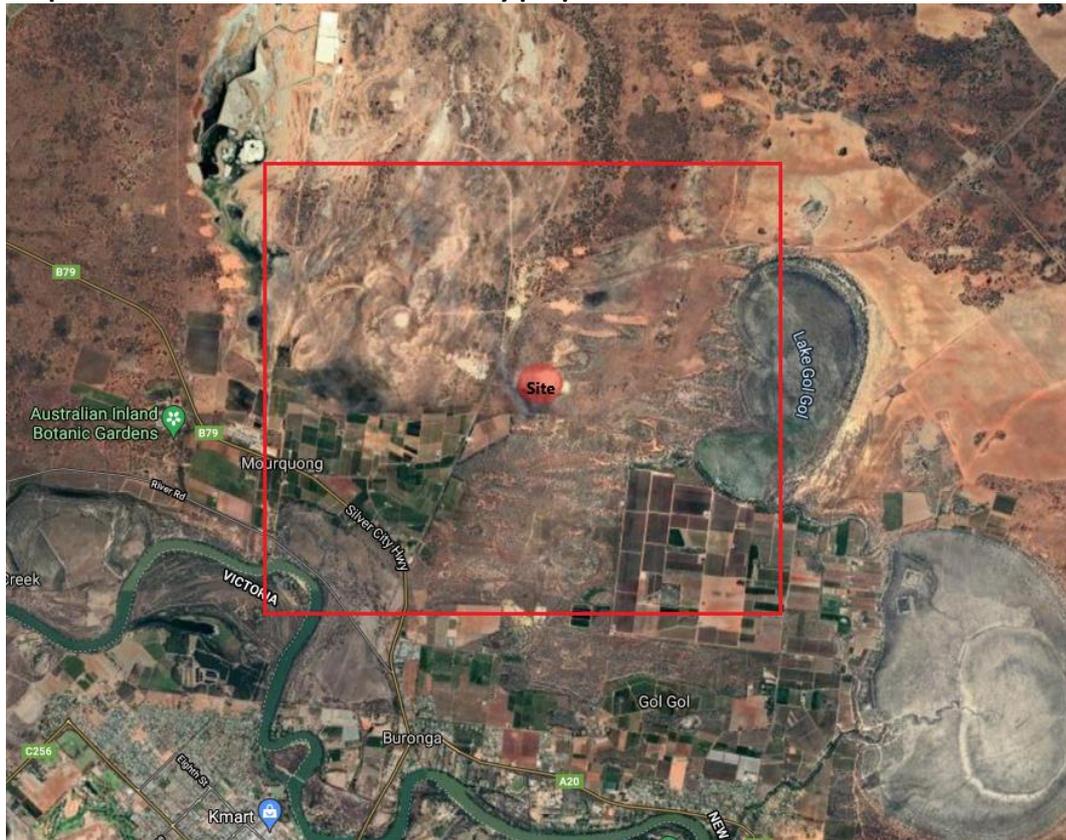
- post to 40 properties within 3 kilometres of the site. The map below shows the area that was used to generate letters from Council's General Manager to property owners.
- email to 14 identified organisations and potentially impacted stakeholders (about 5 of these were also captured by the postal distribution).

A copy of the letter from the General Manager to property owners is provide in Appendix B, the letter to organisations was the same but addressed differently.

The purpose of the letter was to make neighbours and other organisations aware of the proposal and invite them to make contact if they want to discuss the proposal and/or meet with the team.

There was no stakeholders that contacted the project team in response to the invitation to do so presented in the letter sent.

Map 1 -Area that Council used to identify properties to send notifications



Phone Calls

Some individuals and organisations were identified to follow up with a phone call and invitation to meet. They were selected because of the proximity of their property to the landfill or the nature of their business such that they may have impact and or interest in the proposal. There was effort to speak with food producers, businesses on Arumpo Road and the resident to the north. There was success in reaching most of these apart from Morello Gypsum on Arumpo Road. Phone calls and messages did not lead to a response.

Online interviews /meeting / responses on the phone

There were a total of two meetings arranged via Zoom. The purpose was to brief people about the plans and timing of the EIS process and learn of any issues in relation to the proposal.

There were five responses provided over the phone, one an arranged appointment and two were subsequent calls that followed emails to the stakeholders and giving them time to consider their responses and potential concerns.

7. Key issues and response to those issues

The following table is a summary of the issues raised through this consultation and responses from the team to the issues raised. A more complete summary of each of the meetings and phone calls is detailed in Appendix C.

Issue raised	Response - address of issues and any changes to the proposal
<p>Need for local waste management services – improved capacity for recycling, increased pick-up services have resulted in less illegal dumping, want to retain local services</p>	<p>The project proposes to improve community recycling facilities by providing additional drop off facilities aimed at improving diversion of recyclables from the waste stream. We note the request for additional drum muster storage and have accommodated this into the concept design.</p> <p>The project will also provide surety of local community services into the future. Current projection has the site closing in approximately 5 years’ time with no alternative disposal facilities identified. Approval of the project site will provide security for diversionary and disposal options for the community for many years to come.</p>
<p>Nature of the material to be accepted by the landfill and need to control what is accepted in the interest of other industry including agriculture</p>	<p>The same waste streams are proposed to be accepted as are part of the current licence. There is no plan to change this as part of this project.</p> <p>All quarantine waste, regardless of its origin, is handled and immediately buried in accordance with Commonwealth and State guidelines to minimise any potential to impact the surrounding agricultural industry.</p> <p>All waste able to be accepted at Buronga that cannot be reused or recycled, is placed within engineered landfill cells designed in accordance with NSW EPA Solid Waste Landfill Guidelines. The cell is lined with bentonite clay (known as geosynthetic clay liner, GCL) and high density polyethylene (HDPE) which is under the constant supervision of an independent geotechnical inspection and testing authority to provide quality control. This encapsulates the waste and prevents contaminants entering the surrounding environment</p>
<p>Need for control over the operations</p>	<p>Site operations are strictly controlled through EPA licence conditions and a detailed Landfill Environmental Management Plan (LEMP). WSC carefully manages site operations to achieve compliance with these requirements and will continue to do so moving into the future.</p>
<p>Traffic increase and need for improvement to roads as part of the project - Arumpo Road being one in the interest of</p>	<p>A traffic assessment has been undertaken which has recommended improvements to Arumpo Road at the entrance to the Buronga Landfill to maintain a safe environment for local residents and waste transporters. It is noted that widening of shoulders has also been requested to improve residents’ safety and it is noted that although the road width meets current standards, the sealed shoulder</p>

shared use and safety	width can be improved. Further consultation will be held with local residents to discuss timeframes for completion of shoulder sealing.
Access to the site and in appropriate use of certain roads	Morquong Road was noted to be used by large trucks. It is unclear if these trucks are related to the landfill or to other industries. WSC will undertake further consultation on this matter to determine an appropriate response, which may include options such as load limits. Improvement made to Arumpo Road should also assist in encouraging large trucks to use this road rather than smaller roads.
Dust from traffic, landfill, and other existing industry	<p>Dust from construction and during operations is minimised as required by the licence. The LEMP identifies the following measures to assist in minimising dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate burial of dusty loads • Entrance and site access roads to be maintained and watered if required • Speed limits enforced on site • Earthworks avoided on days with moderate winds or stronger where practical • Soil dampened during excavation • Water truck used as required for operations likely to cause dust, e.g. crushing concrete, chipping green waste. <p>The project proposes to retain the vegetation along Arumpo Road and set back the landfill operations over 200 m from the boundaries to assist in minimises the impact of dust generated on road users and surrounding residents.</p>
Odour	<p>As described in the LEMP, odour from the landfill is controlled by compacting the waste as it is received, minimising the size of the waste placement area, immediately covering malodorous waste and covering the exposed waste surface with daily cover (soil) at the end of each day.</p> <p>As stated, the project proposes to keep a minimum 200 m buffer from the boundary to further minimise the potential for odour to be a nuisance to neighbours.</p>
Litter	<p>Litter is managed in accordance with the licence with the control measures specified in the LEMP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining a small active waste placement area; • Compacting and covering the waste; • Deploying litter fences around the active tipping area as required; • Fencing the site. <p>The project proposes a 200 m buffer from the landfill, bulking up areas and waste transfer station to the site boundary and</p>

	will retain and protect existing vegetation along Arumpo Road.
Fires in the landfill and resulting impact on air quality and odour	Landfill fires may occur due to the inappropriate disposal of spontaneously combustible waste, such as batteries, in the municipal solid waste. They are controlled as far as practical by limiting the acceptance of flammable wastes. The project proposes to improve the handling and sorting of recyclable waste such as green waste. Improved handling and limitations on the volume of potential flammable wastes retained on-site will assist in reducing the frequency of fires.
Land use - potential for conflicts with agricultural land use	No rezoning of land is proposed as part of this project. The site is currently appropriately zoned and the surrounding areas are zoned rural. This project does not propose to rezone surrounding land.
Visual impact as result of the height of the filled area	The existing height of the landfill is 56 m AHD with the expanded landfill proposed to reach a maximum height of 59 m AHD. The landform has been designed as a series of rolling dunes to replicate similar east-west dunes in this area. In addition, it is proposed to revegetate the final landform with endemic native species which includes a range of grasses, forbs, shrubs and potentially trees to soften the landform outline and match in with the local colour palette.
Commercial interest - supply to the landfill, use of the service, expansion of nearby industrial development	WSC will undertake further discussion with the specific parties in relation to their interests that were expressed through the consultation.
Future consultation and desire to be informed about the release of the EIS	WSC has undertaken to continue to inform, consult and consider feedback from the community in accordance with the Community Engagement Plan. All parties contacted during this EIS development phase have been provided these responses and will be notified when the EIS has been submitted and the public exhibition commences. They will be provided with information about how to make a submission to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

8. Future approach to community and stakeholder engagement

Formal submissions to the EIS may raise further issues that impact recommendations about future consultation. Based on the consultation at this stage the future engagement should give information to all but be focussed on the needs of immediate commercial neighbours.

Recommendations for future consultation would be:

- Ensuring that all those contacted as part of this stage are notified by email when the EIS is on exhibition.
- Information about the proposal should be provided through Council newsletters and communication and via the website.
- Further meetings or information session should be offered during the EIS exhibition period. This may be just an advertised time when people can attend at Council, view maps, and have any questions answered with Council staff available.
- Ensuring that all near neighbours have a contact name and number for a person in Council who can address any operational concerns on site or incidents such as illegal dumping.
- Information should be provided to the agricultural community but available to all stakeholders about the operations and controls. This is to reassure those with concerns about the impact on local activities including food production.

Appendix A - List of Stakeholder organisations

Stakeholders	Consultation Mechanism	Address
Businesses		
Arumpo Bentonite (mining)	Online Meeting	
Antony Grape Farm	Online Meeting	1187 Arumpo Road, Buronga NSW 2739
AW & JA Barnfield	Phone call	PO Box 246 Buronga NSW 2739
Duxton Buronga Winery	Phone call	1131 Silver City Hwy, Buronga NSW 2739
Mawsons Garden Centre	Email	Silver City Hwy, Buronga VIC 2379
Orange World	Phone call	93 Link Rd, Mourquong NSW 2739
Morello Gypsum	Phone call	
Pickering Transport Group	Email	86 Silver City Hwy, Buronga NSW 2739
Neighbouring Agriculturalist	Phone call	Arumpo Road
Agriculturalist	Phone call	
Community organisations		
Buronga Gol Gol Lions Club	Email	
Rotary Club of Wentworth	Email	
Schools		
Buronga Public School	Email	Chapman St, Buronga NSW 2739
Gol Gol Public School	Email	William St, Gol Gol NSW 2738

Appendix B - Letter from Council General Manager to property owners and organisations

**WENTWORTH
SHIRE COUNCIL**
WORTH THE DRIVE

Our Reference: DOC/21/7126
Your Reference:
Prepared By: Office of General Manager
Date: 12 April 2021

Dear Resident

BURONGA LANDFILL EXPANSION - STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As an owner/leaseholder of land close to the site of the proposed Buronga Landfill Expansion, there will be future opportunity to make submissions to the NSW Government regarding the proposed development. At this time, Council wants to understand any matters that you would like to be considered as part of the assessment of impacts and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Landfill Expansion.

The Buronga Landfill is owned by Wentworth Shire Council and encompasses the Wentworth Community Recycling Centre. Council is proposing to expand the facility to meet local and regional needs for the next 30 years. It will also provide for expanded recycling facilities and reduction of waste going to landfill in line with the NSW Government Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and the National Waste Action Plan.

Council is required to prepare an EIS which will be placed on public exhibition. The EIS will outline how potential environmental and social impacts will be managed. This will be assessed by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) as a State Significant Development.

More information about the project and the assessment process can be found on the DPIE website <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/40406>. Via this link you will find the Preliminary Scoping Report that was prepared by Council to inform the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) that are also available on this website.

The EIS is currently scheduled for public exhibition in mid-2021 and we are seeking to understand any community issues requiring consideration. Council has engaged independent consultants to prepare the EIS and PlanCom Consulting are assisting us in engaging with the community. Margaret Harvie is leading this and is interested to speak to anyone with matters of interest that they want to raise.

You are invited to make a time to meet online or via the phone with Margaret or Emma at Plancom.

- Phone - 1800 228 554
- Email - emma@plancom.com.au

You are requested to make contact prior to Friday 23 April 2021 so that Plancom representatives can arrange to meet with you prior to the end of April 2021.

Should you require any clarification of the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the General Manager on 03 5027 5027.

Yours sincerely



KEN ROSS
GENERAL MANAGER

T 03 5027 5027
E council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
W wentworth.nsw.gov.au

26-28 Adelaide Street WENTWORTH NSW 2648
PO Box 81 WENTWORTH NSW 2648
ABN 96 283 886 815

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Appendix C - Details of the consultations and issues raised

Nearby businesses/ agriculturalists	
<p>Arumpo Bentonite - Zoom Meeting - CEO</p> <p>Facility opposite the site - produces bentonite - product use includes animal food</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive of industrial commercial development in Wentworth Shire • Materials to be accepted by the landfill (Toxic Waste) - the use of the site for dumping of toxic or hazardous waste, i.e., asbestos, or radioactive material. Such activity would impact their production of food grade/stock feed on site • Traffic - there are currently 8 - 12 road trains/B-doubles entering and exiting their facility per day. Would like to keep in contact regarding traffic planning - suggestion of strips leading into the facilities to take trucks off the road. • Commercial interest - would like a commercial agreement with the landfill site to supply bentonite • Future consultation - would like to be notified when EIS is on exhibition
<p>Antony Grape Farm Zoom Meeting with the owner</p> <p>Adjoining agricultural property that his son lives on. It produces table grapes for export (mostly to China)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust - with the increase in traffic there will be increase in dust. Dust also comes from Arumpo as well as landfill - all to be exacerbated by the additional activity. • Odour - only a slight issue at present but he is concerned how this may increase with expansion • Visual (height)- concerned about the appearance and in particular the height of the landfill. Can see increase in height of late and does not want to see it get any higher. Would like Council to review their position on the potential height. • Traffic and road- concern about traffic increase on road and the safety issues and the fact it is not up to standard - too narrow and dangerous with passing trucks. Needs to be upgraded as part of the expansion. • Material going to landfill (fruit fly and soil contaminants) - concern that if material is coming from many places this may introduce fruit fly into the area. Also concern that it will be used as destination for soil contaminants
<p>Duxton Buronga Winery Environment Manager - phone call</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of the Landfill - interested in the landfill being able to take additional waste. He believes that the volume for the region relative to demand is limited and there is need more local capacity. He mentioned Drum Muster waste capability needs to be increased (drum recycling program) - Buronga site needs to be able to take more - if not industry is forced to keep waste on site. <i>Referred to 20 litre containers and limit on number landfill can currently take.</i> They are required to call in advance to determine capacity. Need for expansion in both size and range of waste - hazardous waste streams and potentially new waste streams not currently taken. Industry currently needs to use Cleanaway for hazardous waste. Key message was that there are many wine producers in region and there is demand for waste related to this production and more local facilities for this waste. • No other issues - too far away for truck impacts. As they create own odour so no issues with odour

<p>Agricultural property - citrus, avocado, and wine grapes - phone discussion further to email with information.</p> <p>Closest landfill neighbour to gate - property is within 400 metres and 2.5 kilometres from the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and Road - Concern about the quantity of traffic. The lack of capacity and disrepair of the road and in particular the state of the road shoulder. He wants to see the road upgraded as part of the development. • Access to the Landfill - Concern about the use of Mourquong Road for tip trucks - it is not suitable for this - the route should not be used for large trucks. • Traffic and Safety - safety issues associated with the need to compete with trucks along that road including B-triples that go to the landfill. • Material going to landfill (mixed waste and asbestos and waste from out of the area) - mentioned the incident with the Asbestos going to the landfill. Believes that rubbish should be dealt with where it is generated and not brought in. The land fill should only receive waste from Wentworth Shire. • Illegal dumping - sometimes dumping occurs on adjoining farming properties when people drive to the landfill and find that it is not open. Since collection services have started/ increased the incident of this happening has reduced - less people drive there. • Regulation and control - The landfill needs to be well regulated to avoid incidents of the past. There have been B-doubles lined up in the morning waiting for the landfill to open. Pointed to the incident when one rolled over with asbestos. There was lack of regulation which is why Council took back the control from Cleanaway. Council need to maintain scrutiny of the landfill. • Fires - concern about the impact of fires at the land fill - these happen quite often (every 6 month or so) - this leads to people within the local area getting smoked out and creates a terrible smell. Wants to know Council's plans to respond to this issue in the future.
<p>Resident/property owner closest north of the site - phone discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter - the expansion needs to be not beyond the chain fence as this fence protects against litter - paper is his concern • Odour - in addition to paper he is worried about the smell • Future development - Has been discussing with Council a future development application on the site - a storage facility for trucking companies/heavy industrial subdivision.
<p>Previously local landowner/ producer - phone call</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use - was keen that Council understand that this is an agricultural area. • Material going to landfill - concerned about what goes into it in the future -, i.e., incident with asbestos.
<p>Orange World Owner - phone call</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations are located further down the road so no concern or likely impacts.