

Social Impact Assessment

A Submission to the Department of Planning and Environment on behalf of Polytrade Pty Ltd

28 July 2022



Social Impact Assessment 132-144 Warren Rd Smithfield

A Submission to Polytrade Recycling Pty Ltd

Prepared by

MRA Consulting Group (MRA)
Registered as Mike Ritchie & Associates Pty Ltd
ABN 13 143 273 812

Suite 408 Henry Lawson Building
19 Roseby Street
Drummoyne NSW 2047

+61 2 8541 6169
info@mraconsulting.com.au
mraconsulting.com.au

Version History

Ver	Date	Status	Author	Approver
0.1	25/07/2022	Draft	Esther Hughes	Veronique Bensadou
1	27/07/2022	Final	Esther Hughes	Esther Hughes

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by MRA Consulting Group for [Insert Client Name]. MRA (ABN 13 143 273 812) does not accept responsibility for any use of, or reliance on, the contents of this document by any third party.

In the spirit of reconciliation MRA Consulting Group acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Table of contents

Glossary.....	iv
Declaration.....	v
1 Introduction.....	6
2 Social Locality and Social Baseline	6
3 Methodology.....	8
3.1 Scoping Worksheet.....	8
3.2 Risk Assessment	8
4 Stakeholder engagement.....	8
5 Identification and Description of Social Impacts	8
5.1 People and Community	9
5.2 Culture	9
5.3 Health and Wellbeing.....	9
5.4 Employment and Business	9
6 Impact Assessment and Prediction.....	9
6.1 Risk Assessment	10
6.2 Cumulative Assessment	13
6.3 Overall Social Impact.....	13
7 Sensitivity Analysis.....	13
8 Economic Outcomes	13
9 Conclusions.....	14
10 References.....	15

List of Tables

Table 1: Likelihood levels	10
Table 2: Magnitude levels for social impacts.....	10
Table 3: Risk Matrix	10
Table 4: Socio-economic impacts risk assessment.....	11

List of Figures

Figure 1: Calvary Church location	7
---	---

Glossary

Terminology	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment
LGA	Local government area
MRA	MRA Consulting Group
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
tpa	Tonnes per annum

Declaration

Author Esther Hughes

SIA Date of Completion 26 July 2022

I hereby declare that this SIA:

- contains all relevant information and
- is not false or misleading.

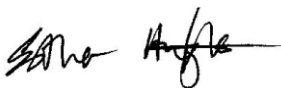
By completing this SIA and making this declaration, I understand my ethical and legal obligations.

Qualifications Bachelor of Arts (Hon), Master of Arts, Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning, Master of Environmental Science

Experience Environmental Planner since 2008.

Professional Organisations Member, Planning Institute of Australia (MPIA)
Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) (General)

Signed



1 Introduction

Polytrade intends to establish a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that would receive up to 150,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of domestic kerbside recyclables (yellow lid bin) and commercial dry recyclables. Of the 150,000 tonnes per annum, 20,000 tonnes per annum is expected to be mixed plastic received from external parties. Processing operations would sort and recover paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metals into single streams in preparation for secondary reprocessing. The facility will provide materials to be reused for remanufacturing in the local economy.

This Social Impact Assessment has been prepared to:

- Predict and analyse the extent and nature of likely social impacts against baseline conditions
- Evaluate, draw attention to and prioritise the social impacts that are important to people
- Develop appropriate and justified responses and explain residual social impacts
- Propose arrangements to monitor and manage residual social impacts, including unanticipated impacts, over the life of the project

2 Social Locality and Social Baseline

The site is located within the suburb of Smithfield, NSW, within an area described as Smithfield Industrial by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 Census *Community Profiles*. Smithfield Industrial is within the Cumberland City Council LGA.



Source ABS 2022

Data for this community profile has been attached in Appendix A. The number of people recorded in the 2021 Statistical data is 10, being predominantly males. The median age is 43. There are 16 private dwellings in Smithfield Industrial. The median weekly income is \$1,625. There was no data for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people because the area had no people or a very low population in the 2021 Census.

The ABS data is indicative of the industrial land use, showing a lack of residences in proximity to the development. The Smithfield Industrial Precinct adjoins the Wetherill Park, Yennora and Pemulwuy Industrial Precincts, making this area the largest industrial land use in the southern hemisphere.

Similar industrial use and resource recovery activities exist nearby, including Visy Recycling's Smithfield site 300m south-west.

The neighbourhood has been previously developed, including the built environment and the provision of infrastructure and utilities. There would be no alteration of the current social environment or the provision of services due to the proposal. The suburb of Smithfield contains an art gallery, museum and RSL club. The Smithfield Cemetery is located in the western parts of the suburb and is managed by the Syrian Orthodox Church. There are minimal apparent socio-cultural features, such as places of significance, heritage items, social gathering hubs or recreational facilities in the area surrounding the development. The Calvary Church exists approximately 90m to the south-east of the site location. The closest residence is approximately 400m north-east of the site and is separated from the development by arterial road infrastructure.

Users, occupants and employees of the surrounding industrial site and the adjacent road network would be potentially affected by the development by reason of noise, traffic, amenity and construction works. However, these effects and the activities that produce them are in alignment with existing surrounding use and land use zoning.

The development would be contained to the site location, utilising the existing building and hardstand. Proposed improvements to fire safety, stormwater drainage and site access are consistent with the social locality and would provide improved safety and access.

Proposed construction works are minor, and predominantly limited to the site. A short term disruption to footpath access may occur during the construction of the proposed driveways, lasting only a few days. Other construction works within the site to improve fire safety, drainage and installation of equipment and machinery would take place for several weeks, and would have no off-site impact. Construction impacts can be managed to avoid undue disruptions.

Considering the site location within an industrial precinct, the baseline characteristics described are comparable to the proposed activity. Hence there would be no transformation of the locality or diminished access to social values due to the development.

Figure 1: Calvary Church location



Source: Google Maps

3 Methodology

The methodology for this Social Impact Assessment uses the following technical guidelines and support documents:

- *Technical Supplement Social Impact Assessment Guideline for State Significant Projects November 2021,*
- *Social Impact Assessment Guideline For State Significant Projects November 2021, and*
- *SIA Scoping Worksheet.*

3.1 Scoping Worksheet

The Scoping Worksheet in Appendix B analyses the project in consideration of each of the following categories:

- way of life
- community
- access
- culture
- health and wellbeing
- surroundings
- livelihoods
- decision-making systems

The results of the worksheet indicate that the proposed development has minimal potential impact on people.

3.2 Risk Assessment

A risk assessment matrix was completed in accordance with Section 2.3 of the Technical Guidelines. The risk matrix assists to predict, analyse and evaluate social impacts by and categorising risk by magnitude and likelihood. The assessment outcomes are expressed as a characteristic, e.g. long term, positive etc.

4 Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder engagement is described fully in Section 7 of the EIS.

MRA Consulting Group engaged with the local community by delivering a flyer to approximately 100 local stakeholders within 250 m of the site.

One response was received that indicated that the respondent is concerned about the ability to control vermin at the site, potentially affecting local businesses. The matter was referred to Polytrade and a commitment was given that they would implement a regular pest control regime. A written response to the stakeholder was sent via email on 6 August 2021.

The lack of response to community engagement is an indication that the siting of the resource recovery facility is appropriate in the social and economic context.

5 Identification and Description of Social Impacts

5.1 People and Community

The extent to which the community is linked to the proposal location is limited. Access to footpaths, roads and public transport is available to users of the site and to the general community outside the site. It is likely that staff will primarily use private vehicles to access the site. Safe, off street parking would be provided. The site may become open to visitors for educational purposes if it is safe and feasible to do so.

Calvary Church is located to the south-east of the site. The use of this location for gatherings would not be changed by the proposal.

Socialisation opportunities would present themselves while staff are working at the resource recovery facility. During break time, staff would be able to use the lunchroom and outdoor areas toward the front of the site. Accessible parking and staff amenities are also provided.

Safety is the responsibility of the employer. Polytrade would implement the required workplace safety measures to ensure staff are supported.

Overall, there is minimal potential to affect the social attributes of people and community in the locality. Within the workplace, the proposal provides opportunities for social interaction.

5.2 Culture

The Darug are first nations people who occupied land within the Cumberland LGA. While it is acknowledged that the original land of 132 – 144 Warren Rd belonged to Aboriginal peoples, the site has since been developed and there are no significant historical places or artefacts attached to the locality.

There are no other recognisable cultural or historical aspects associated with the site or proposal, nor is it likely to be developed as a cultural location. The proposal therefore has no identifiable impact on cultural awareness or cultural values.

5.3 Health and Wellbeing

The site is part of an established built environment, which would not be substantially altered. The existing building has facilities for sanitation and ablutions. There is open space outside the building that could be used for mental health breaks. Employment opportunities from the activity are likely to result in reduced psychological stress resulting from financial or other pressures.

Shift work and machinery operations are necessary to the development, but may have a negative effect on mental and physical health in some persons. Safety and wellbeing measures would be implemented to support staff members.

5.4 Employment and Business

The provision of 36 full time jobs is a social benefit of the proposed development. Employment helps people to learn new skills, improve their financial situation, have a sense of purpose and fulfillment and have freedom to manage their own lives and hence there are overall beneficial employment and health outcomes.

Waste management facilities are often subject to negative perceptions, either real or constructed. Polytrade would maintain the site in a tidy state and provide contact details for complaints, including follow up procedures so that the community is not only enabled to have a say, but is also listened to. Good management practices would be adhered to during operations through the implementation of an Environmental Management Plan. Polytrade is keen to act as a good neighbour to the surrounding stakeholders.

6 Impact Assessment and Prediction

6.1 Risk Assessment

A risk assessment has been undertaken to determine the social risk of the project. The risk assessment follows the preferred methodology in the Department of Planning and Environment's SIA Guideline Technical Supplement. The tables below were used to help scope impacts and inform the likely significance of each impact.

Table 1: Likelihood levels

Likelihood level	Meaning
Almost certain	Definite or almost definitely expected (e.g. has happened on similar projects)
Likely	High probability
Possible	Medium probability
Unlikely	Low probability
Very unlikely	Improbable or remote probability

Table 2: Magnitude levels for social impacts

Magnitude level	Meaning
Transformational	Substantial change experienced in community wellbeing, livelihood, infrastructure, services, health, and/or heritage values; permanent displacement or addition of at least 20% of a community.
Major	Substantial deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an indefinite time, or affecting many people in a widespread area.
Moderate	Noticeable deterioration/improvement to something that people value highly, either lasting for an extensive time, or affecting a group of people.
Minor	Mild deterioration/improvement, for a reasonably short time, for a small number of people who are generally adaptable and not vulnerable.
Minimal	Little noticeable change experienced by people in the locality.

Table 3: Risk Matrix

Likelihood	Magnitude Level				
	Minimal 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Transformational 5
Almost certain	Low	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Very unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

Table 4: Socio-economic impacts risk assessment

Aspect	Description	Risk	Effect
Employment	Construction and operational activities provide employment opportunities.	Low	Short and long term positive
Economic Development	Construction and operational activities provide broad economic benefits to employment and utilisation of surrounding businesses.	Low	Short and long term positive
	The sorting of recycle enables secondary industries to use recovered resources.	Low	Long term positive
Ecologically Sustainable Development	The proposal has the potential to improve the long-term environmental outcomes of the Sydney Metropolitan Region by providing an avenue for resource recovery and thereby reducing reliance on virgin materials, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing waste to landfill and enabling a circular economy. Individuals can be reassured of the capacity for improved sustainability outcomes.	Low	Long term positive
Way of life	The project is unlikely to affect the interactions or movements of people.	Low	Nil
Community	The composition, character, function and resilience of the community is not likely to be affected as the proposed facility is suitably located. Although the Calvary Church is located within 100m of the development, the proposal would comply with acceptable noise levels for the proposed use. Access to and use of the Church would not be disrupted.	Low	Negligible
Accessibility	Accessibility to footpaths may be impeded during construction of the driveway. The recycling facility would provide greater accessibility to resource recovery services in the Sydney region.	Low	Minor short term negative Long term positive
Culture	No negative socio-cultural impacts have been identified.	Low	Nil.
Health and wellbeing	The health and wellbeing of the greater community would not be affected. The industrial work environment has the potential to affect physical and/or mental health. Polytrade would provide workplace health and safety support to minimise the risk of stress and injury.	Low	Negligible

Aspect	Description	Risk	Effect
Surroundings	The surroundings would not be significantly altered by the proposal. The site would provide space for staff to access the outdoor environment during break times for amenity and aesthetic values.	Low	Minor positive.
Livelihood	The facility would provide secure job opportunities for 36 staff.	Medium	Long term positive
Decision making systems	The community would have access to contact details so that they can communicate with Polytrade, and have a mechanism to lodge complaints.	Medium	Minor positive
Amenity impacts	Noise impacts from construction works are short-term but have the potential to cause annoyance to surrounding localities.	Low	Minor short term negative
	Noise impacts from operations have a minor potential to cause annoyance to surrounding localities, particularly if all doors are open during night time operations. Polytrade is able to mitigate the risk by closing doors.	Low	Negligible
	Visual impacts may occur from construction works, stockpiling of materials and waste management. Polytrade has committed to storing materials inside and keeping the site tidy.	Low	Negligible
	Visual impacts may occur from stockpiling of materials and waste management during construction. During operations, materials will be stored indoors. .	Low	Negligible
	There is potential for waste to attract vermin. Polytrade has committed to regular pest control	Low	Negligible
Pollution impacts	Minor impacts due to construction activities, such as dust generation, emissions from equipment and machinery, discharge of sediment to stormwater. Standard mitigation measures would be used to control pollutants	Low	Short term minor negative
	The facility is unlikely to generate leachate, air emissions or odour during operations due to the types of materials being processed.	Low	Negligible
Traffic	Traffic may be affected along Warren Rd during construction of the new driveway.	Low	Short term minor negative

Aspect	Description	Risk	Effect
	Traffic would be managed so as to avoid impacts to other road users and enable the safe circulation of vehicles around the site. Increased truck movements may be experienced in the local area, however a traffic analysis has concluded that there would be no significant impact on the road network.	Low	Negligible

6.2 Cumulative Assessment

A cumulative impact assessment for environmental impacts is undertaken in Section 10 of the EIS. Environmental impacts are unlikely to cause cumulative effects.

Cumulative social impacts are non-existent as the development would be contained within the site boundary and located in a previously developed industrial area. The proposed use would not result in an intensification of the industrial nature of the precinct or encroach toward residential land.

6.3 Overall Social Impact

Wellbeing and social responsibility would be maintained and potentially improved by the provision of additional resource recovery services and employment opportunities.

Negative social impacts are generally short term due to construction impacts, which would be managed by standard mitigation measures and scheduling of construction works.

Long-term impacts to social systems, values, culture, accessibility, surroundings, health and way of life are unlikely due to the limited scope of the proposal.

A minor positive outcome is the result of the risk assessment, from the employment opportunities of the development.

7 Sensitivity Analysis

A sensitivity analysis was not performed for this development as the effect of the development in all aspects is limited.

8 Economic Outcomes

In the immediate context, the economic benefits of the proposal include

- The employment of 36 staff members during operations and approximately 30 during construction.
- Training of staff in skills required to operate the materials recycling facility.
- The spending of employee income results in increases in productivity and employment opportunities.

In a broader context, benefits include:

- The reuse of recyclable materials assists with local supply chain management and for manufacturing.
- Resource recovery contributes to the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improved sorting enables local processing to be economically viable and increases export material quality.

Negative economic impacts could include:

- Disruptions to local businesses, however, this is unlikely to occur in the industrial precinct.
- Environmental harm leading to pollution and costly remediation, however, the proposal is not likely to cause harm with the recommended management measures in place.

9 Conclusions

An analysis of potential social impacts has found that:

- Baseline conditions are similar to the proposed use of the site. There would be no intensification or encroachment of industrial landuse.
- The community consultation resulted in one concern about the appropriate use of the site due to amenity impacts. Controlling vermin would meet the social expectation of the nearby stakeholder. The negative perception of waste management facilities can be addressed by good housekeeping and response to complaints.
- The risk assessment found that there is minimal risk of affecting community culture, health and lifestyle. An overall minor positive outcome results from the employment opportunities of the development.
- Standard management practices and provision of communal facilities at the site would be able to address potential negative outcomes.

10 References

ABS *Smithfield Industrial 2021 Census Community Profiles* <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/community-profiles/2021/125031486> Accessed July 2022

NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2021, *Technical Supplement Social Impact for State Significant Projects*




NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2021, *Social Impact Assessment Guideline For State Significant Projects*

NSW Department of Planning and Environment, *SIA Scoping Matrix*
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Under-review-and-new-Policy-and-Legislation/Social-Impact-Assessment> Accessed July 2022

Appendix A Community Profiles

2021 Census All persons QuickStats

Geography type [Statistical Areas Level 2](#)
Area code 125031486

	People	10
	Male	90.0%
	Female	30.0%
	Median age	43
	Families	3
	Average number of children per family	
	for families with children	2
	for all families	0.4
	All private dwellings	16
	Average number of people per household	1.8
	Median weekly household income	\$1,625
	Median monthly mortgage repayments	\$0
	Median weekly rent (a)	\$150
	Average number of motor vehicles per dwelling	1.6

(a) For 2021, median weekly rent calculations exclude dwellings being occupied rent-free.

Search all persons QuickStats for another area

2021

Enter a location, postcode or geography code



Other 2021 Census products available for this area:

- [Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people QuickStats](#)
- [Community Profiles](#)

To view more QuickStats or Community Profiles for a different area, see [Search Census data](#).

Source: ABS 2021 Census Data <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/125031486>

Appendix B SIA Scoping worksheet

PROJECT ACTIVITIES	CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PEOPLE		PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION OF IMPACT		CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
Which project activity / activities could produce social impacts ?	what social impact categories could be affected by the project activities	What impacts are likely, and what concerns/aspirations have people expressed about the impact? Summarise how each relevant stakeholder group might experience the impact.	Is the impact expected to be positive or negative	Has this impact previously been investigated (on this or other project/s)?	If "yes - this project," briefly describe the previous investigation. If "yes - other project," identify the other project and	Will this impact combine with others from this project (think about when and where), and/or with impacts from other projects (cumulative)?
None	way of life	The proposal is not likely to affect how people live, travel, interact or spend time as it is located within an industrial precinct with no changes to community facilities or community infrastructure. Construction works are minor, contained within the site and unlikely to cause disruptions to way of life.	Positive	No	N/A	No
None	community	The proposal is not likely to affect the composition of the community, the character of the area, social cohesion or sense of place. The development is contained within the existing industrial lot.	Positive	No	N/A	No
Works to widen and construct driveways	access	Potential temporary minor impact when tie in with existing road network is constructed	Negative	No	N/A	No
Improve awareness of recycling and waste management	culture	There is no potential to impact the culture or beliefs of local Aboriginal communities. The project has the potential to provide education that could positively influence environmental awareness e.g. The value of recycling; What to put in the yellow bin.	Positive	No	N/A	No
Workplace environment	health and wellbeing	The provision of employment has long term benefits on health and wellbeing. The workplace environment would be managed for safety.	Positive	No	N/A	No
None	surroundings	The surroundings would not be significantly altered by the proposal. Staff amenities and outdoor areas are provided for workers.	Positive	No	N/A	No
Employment opportunities	livelihoods	The facility would provide secure job opportunities for 36 staff.	Positive	No	N/A	No
Feedback regarding the proposal.	decision-making systems	The surrounding community and other stakeholders have opportunity under the development application process to provide responses.	Positive	No	N/A	No

ELEMENTS OF IMPACTS - Based on preliminary investigation					ASSESSMENT LEVEL FOR EACH IMPACT	Clear Assessment Level Impact			PROJECT REFINEMENT	MITIGATION / ENHANCEMENT MEASURES
Will the project activity (without mitigation or enhancement) cause a material					Level of assessment for each social impact	What methods and data sources will be used to investigate this impact?			Has the project been refined in response to preliminary impact evaluation or stakeholder feedback?	What mitigation / enhancement measures are being considered?
extent i.e. number of people potentially affected?	duration of expected impacts? (i.e. construction vs operational phase)	intensity of expected impacts i.e. scale or degree of change?	sensitivity or vulnerability of people potentially affected?	level of concern/interest of people potentially affected?		Secondary data	Primary Data - Consultation	Primary Data - Research		
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	None required
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	None required
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Standard road construction measures.
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	None required
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	Staff facilities and workplace support.
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	None required
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	None required
No	No	No	No	No	Not relevant	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	None required

MRA Consulting Group

Suite 408 Henry Lawson Building
19 Roseby Street
Drummoyne NSW 2047

+61 2 8541 6169
info@mraconsulting.com.au
mraconsulting.com.au

