

Appendix B – Consultation material

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery **y** Park
Community brochure

Lucas Heights resource recovery park

Our plan to invest in essential waste management
and recycling infrastructure





*SUEZ Recycling and Recovery (referred to as SUEZ) (ABN 70 002 902 650) is the new business name of SITA Australia Pty Ltd.
SITA Australia Pty Ltd is part of the SUEZ global group of companies. SUEZ Recycling and Recovery is a joint venture with Semcorp.

about SUEZ

SUEZ* makes the best use of **water and waste** by providing **smart and reliable** resource management solutions.

- Our first preference is always to recycle the waste we receive and in NSW we divert more than 370,000 tonnes of waste from going into landfill each year.
- We enable communities to transform their waste into valuable energy and materials. Our smart and reliable collection, recovery and recycling solutions help protect our environment and make our communities more sustainable.
- With operations across the entire resource recovery chain, we help local councils, businesses and residents work towards solving two of our largest environmental problems – managing waste and conserving resources.



Above: Highly engineered landfill at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park

key facts



SUEZ has operated the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park since 2011, we provide **essential waste management and recycling infrastructure**.



At the recovery park, we **process garden organics into composts, mulches and other soil conditioning products**.



Where waste is not recycled, we treat and dispose of it in our highly engineered landfill and then capture landfill gas to produce renewable energy.



We give back to the Sutherland Shire by supporting a range of local community initiatives and sporting teams.

we're investing in essential waste management and recycling infrastructure

We plan to increase capacity at the **New Illawarra Road Landfill** by 8.3 million cubic metres and extend operations at the site for 12 years until 2037.

- We will also upgrade the landfill gas capture system to reduce a source of odour, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate more renewable energy.
- We plan to relocate and expand our existing garden organics facility that recycles garden waste into a range of nutrient-rich compost products and diverts these valuable resources from landfill.
- We will invest in additional infrastructure for our garden organics operations, including covering active phases of the composting process for better odour management. The capacity will be increased from 55,000 to 80,000 tonnes per year and activities moved to the western side of the site near Heathcote Road, further away from residential areas.
- We are seeking approval to build a fully enclosed \$90 million state-of-the-art Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility in the future. This facility would process up to 200,000 tonnes of general solid waste per year and recover valuable resources that can be used to create compost or alternative fuels. The facility would divert up to 70% of waste from landfill.



- The Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park will ultimately be returned to the community as parklands for everyone to enjoy. As part of the proposal, the parklands would be approximately 25 hectares larger in area than the currently approved parkland, providing more area for recreation and community use.
- SUEZ will also contribute \$100 million in funding over 15 years to Sutherland Shire Council which will be used by Council to fund a range of new projects and facility upgrades in Sutherland Shire.

key features

- Increase landfill capacity by 8.3 million cubic metres
- Invest in and extend operations until 2037
- Improve and relocate the garden organics facility
- Invest in a \$90 million resource recovery facility to divert up to 70% of waste from landfill
- Better environmental outcomes through best practice prevention, mitigation and rectification measures
- No significant impact to the environment or the community
- Establish community parklands after closure
- Provide \$100 million for community facilities in the Sutherland Shire

Far left: SUEZ will upgrade the landfill gas infrastructure at the New Illawarra Road Landfill

Left: Compost

advanced resource recovery technology

Recovering and recycling valuable resources
back into the economy

Our Advanced Resource Recovery Technology (ARRT) facilities **transform household waste** into compost that can be used in rehabilitation projects to **replenish degraded soils**.

- These facilities also turn mixed plastics, timbers, textiles and other dry combustible materials into fuels which can replace gas and coal in cement kilns.
- SUEZ owns and operates more than half of all alternative waste treatment facilities in Australia and in 2014 recovered over 399,000 tonnes of materials that would have otherwise gone to landfill.
- As part of the Lucas Heights proposal, the onsite ARRT will be a fully enclosed facility and be able to divert up to 140,000 tonnes of waste from landfill.



Above: An ARRT facility which recycles waste that would have otherwise gone to landfill

Top: Nutrient-rich compost used to replenish degraded soils

community engagement is an essential part of our operations

Community and stakeholder engagement is an **integral part of our operations** in the Sutherland Shire.

- We are committed to actively engaging and listening to the community and our stakeholders throughout the planning process, including by offering guided tours of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park.
- We will continue to seek input from the community through our Lucas Heights Community Reference Group, which is made up of local residents and business neighbours. The CRG meets regularly to discuss our operations.
- We will also continue to help educate the local community about resource recovery, recycling and waste management practices.

For further information we encourage the community to have their say on this proposal during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exhibition period.

Visit majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au



Above and right: Councils, residents, community groups, schools and businesses are encouraged to visit our facilities to learn how we recover valuable resources from everyday 'waste'

timeline

- 01 SUEZ submits State Significant Development Supporting Documentation with the Department of Planning and Environment
- 02 Secretary of NSW Department of Planning and Environment provides environmental assessment requirements and community consultation begins
- 03 Development Application including EIS submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment for review
- 04 **WE ARE HERE**
EIS placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment which provides a further opportunity for community input
- 05 Department of Planning and Environment assesses the application

garden organics

Returning nutrients to the earth with high quality compost products

SUEZ's garden organics facilities **recycle garden waste** into a range of high-quality, nutrient-rich **compost products**, diverting these valuable resources from landfill in the process.

- Our facilities transform lawn clippings, leaves, branches and other green waste into high quality compost products.
- Once the garden organics material is received from council and commercial collections, all contaminants such as plastic bags, bottles and metals are removed. The organics are then ground into a smaller, more suitable size for composting.
- This material decomposes naturally with the help of the same micro-organisms found in any home compost bin.
- The composting process is aerobic, meaning the material breaks down in the presence of oxygen.
- Over the composting period the organic product is closely monitored for moisture, temperature and bulk density. When decomposition is complete, the material is screened into a variety of high quality compost, mulch and soil blends.
- SUEZ is investing in compost organics onsite, relocating and expanding our existing garden organics facility to the western side of the site.
- Capacity will be increased from 55,000 to 80,000 tonnes per year.
- We will also invest in additional infrastructure including covering active phases of the composting process for better odour management.



Left and below: SUEZ's garden organics operations return nutrients to the earth with high quality compost products



By returning organic matter and essential nutrients to the soil, SUEZ contributes to a sustainable future for Australia's fragile soil systems.

engineered landfill

Renewable energy generation from biogas capture

Our first preference is always to **recycle or reuse** the waste we receive.

- Where waste is not recycled or reused, it is disposed of safely and securely at our engineered landfills.
- At SUEZ, our highly engineered landfills are divided into areas called cells. Before a cell can be filled with commercial and residential waste, many protective layers are installed. These consist of 900mm of compacted clay, a 2.5mm plastic liner, and perforated pipes which are laid down within a layer of drainage aggregate to capture the wastewater generated within the landfill known as leachate.
- Leachate is pumped out of the cell and into a Leachate Treatment Plant. It is then treated onsite using bacteria and forced aeration before being responsibly discharged into the sewer system in compliance with Sydney Water's requirements.
- Biogas generated from the waste as it breaks down is captured using a network of wells and pipes and converted into green electricity, which is fed into the power grid. In 2013, gas captured at our New Illawarra Road Landfill produced enough renewable energy to power 20,000 households.
- Long-term care, through ongoing monitoring of capped and closed landfills, is an important part of our commitment to environmental protection and rehabilitation programs.
- After the cell is capped it is then revegetated using local native plants and grasses. Rejuvenated landfills are often turned into public parks and gardens, golf courses or bike tracks for use by the community.



Above: A lined landfill cell at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park

As part of the proposal, we will invest in additional gas extraction operations which will assist in managing potential odour and **boost renewable energy production**, generating power equivalent to the needs of approximately **5,700 homes**.

we believe in giving back to the communities in which we operate

SUEZ is an **active supporter** of the **Sutherland Shire** community.

- Parts of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park are currently being used by local community groups such as the PCYC Mini Bike Club and the Sydney International Clay Target Association.
- Once operations cease in 2037, the site will be rehabilitated into parklands within two years for everyone to enjoy.
- SUEZ will continue to support a range of community initiatives and local sporting teams in the Sutherland Shire, including Menai Roosters Junior Rugby League, Menai Warriors Junior Rugby Union, Bangor Football Club, Bangor Cricket Club, Barden Ridgebacks Football Club and Barden Ridgebacks Netball Club.
- We are a major sponsor of the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation based in the Sutherland Shire and have contributed \$150,000 to programs supporting children living in families affected by mental illness.

Through the SUEZ Community Grants Program, we provide funding for **social** and **environmental projects** which create a more **sustainable future**.

- Over the last two years, the program has distributed over \$250,000 in funding to over 50 community groups across Australia, including \$25,000 in grants funding to Sutherland Shire community groups.

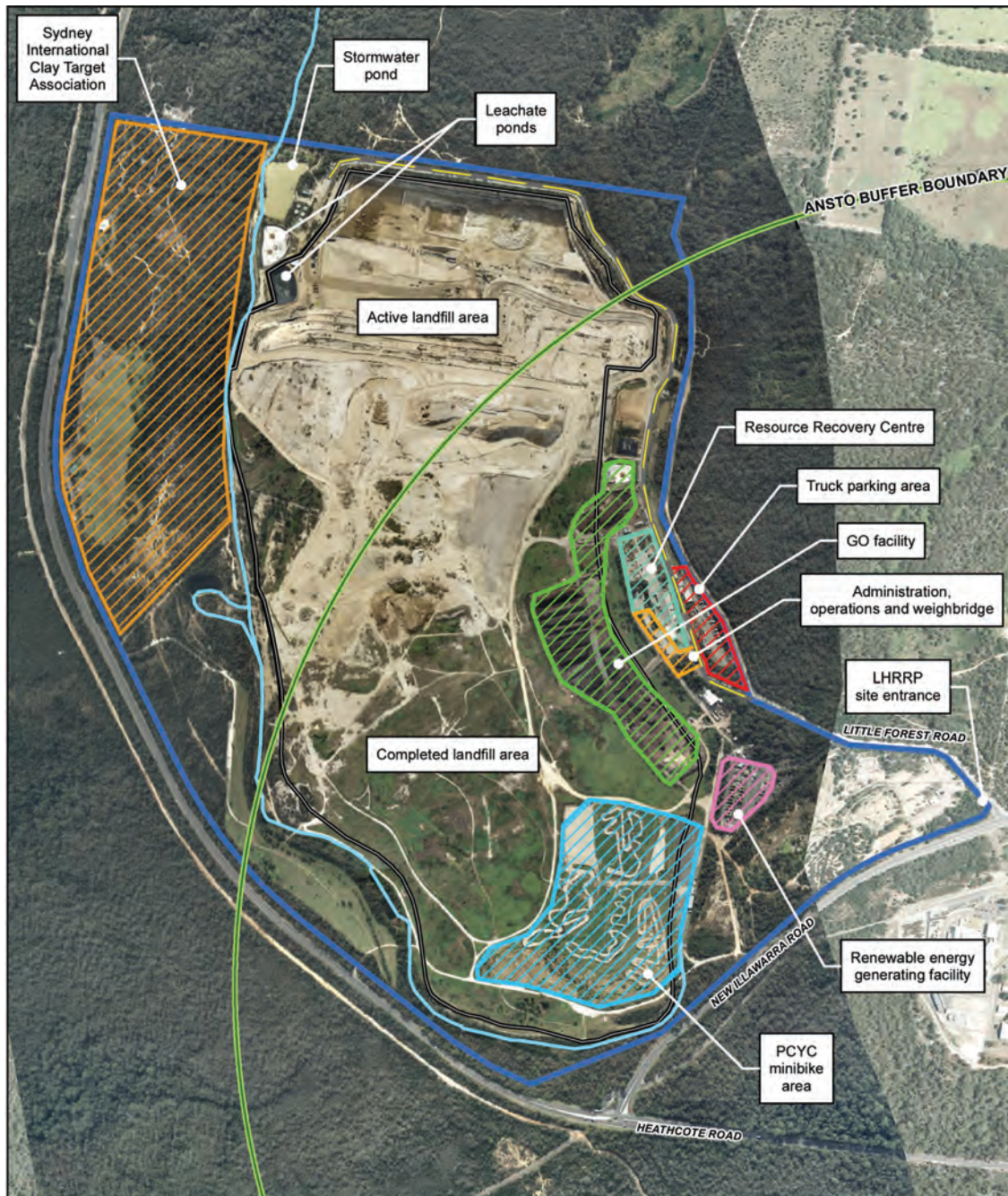


As part of the proposal, SUEZ will contribute **\$100 million in funding over 15 years** to a range of Sutherland Shire Council projects that benefit the local community.



Above and left: SUEZ has a long history of supporting the Sutherland Shire community

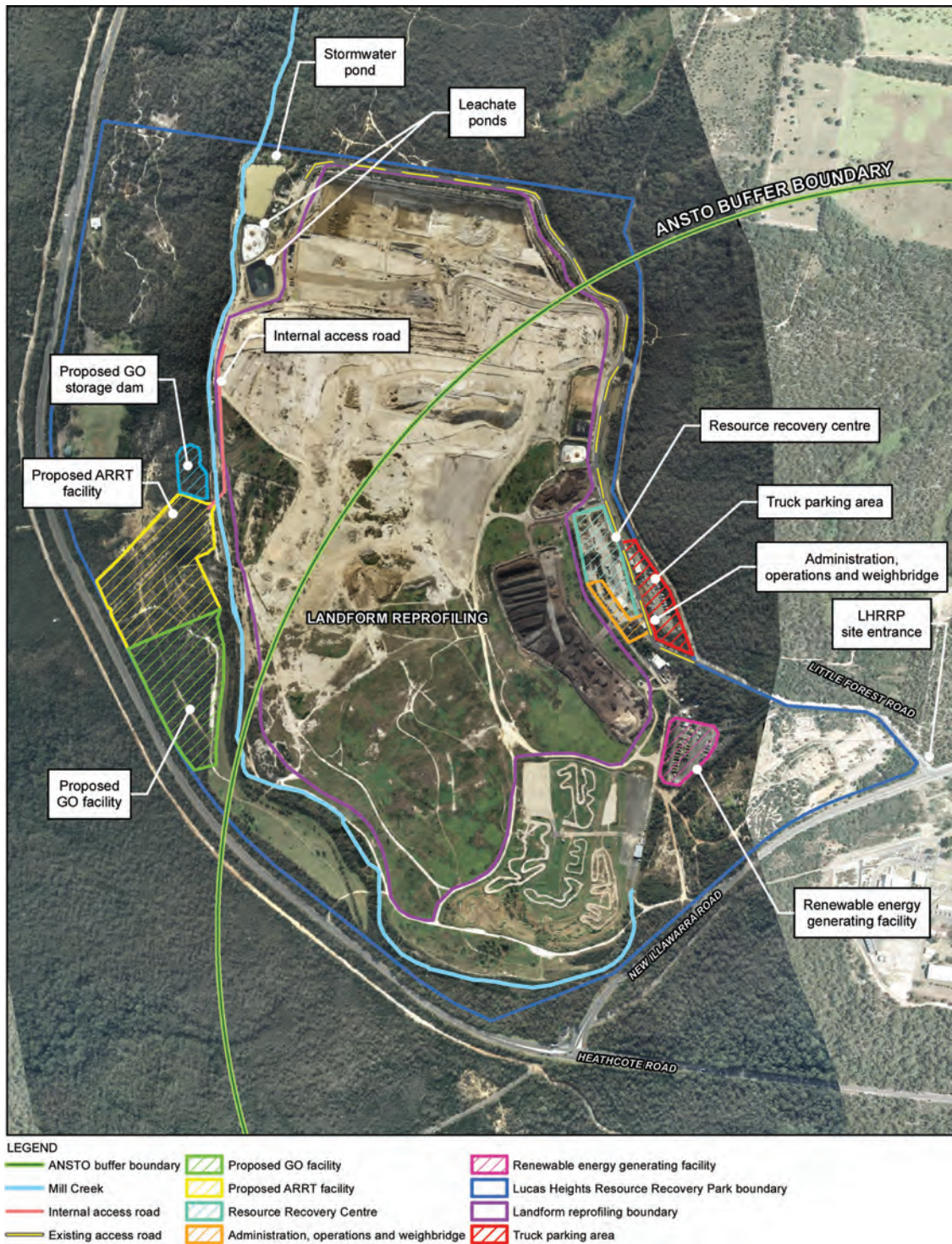
existing site plan



LEGEND

ANSTO buffer boundary	Sydney International Clay Target Association	Renewable energy generating facility
Internal access road	GO facility	PCYC minibike area
Approved landfill footprint	Resource Recovery Centre	Truck parking area
Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park boundary	Administration, operations and weighbridge	

proposed site plan



community parklands

Once operations cease in 2037, the site will be rehabilitated and **converted into community parklands** within two years for everyone to enjoy.

The parkland will have a total area of 149 ha. This is approximately 25 hectares larger in area than the currently approved parkland, providing more area for recreation and community use.

The parkland will include a range of features such as open grassed picnic areas, viewing areas, bridges, ponds, pedestrian and cyclist paths and a vehicle access route through the site.

There are also substantial undulating open spaces with areas suitable for a variety of activities.

For example:

- Running, jogging or walking
- Picnics
- Bicycling
- Dog training or off-leash dog areas
- Equestrian activities

The final uses of the each space would be determined in 2035 by Sutherland Shire Council with ANSTO approval based on community needs at the time.



Q&A

The Environmental Impact Statement addresses the full range of potential impacts from the proposal.

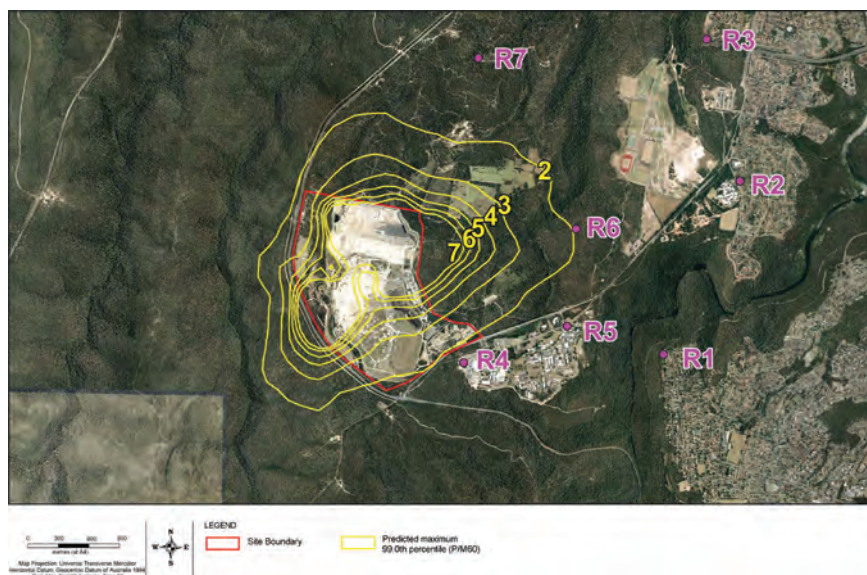
Q Will there be an impact on air quality?

A SUEZ has measures in place to prevent and mitigate odour from the facility and this will continue. As part of the proposal, SUEZ will also upgrade the landfill's gas capture system to further reduce a source of odour.

The garden organics operations will be moved to the western side of the site further away from residential areas, and the active phases of the composting process will be covered for better odour management.

Through the proposal, odour from our operations across the precinct will be **reduced by more than 40%** compared to current levels. These improvements will be achieved as early as 2016.

SUEZ has also committed to strict air quality targets beyond its statutory requirements.



other topics

Visual impact

Whilst the site is operational, the perimeter will be screened by planting. There will be **no significant visual impacts** to the community.

Noise

The noise assessment concluded that the proposal would have **no significant impacts** on the community or environment.

Left: Odour modelling shows the facility will achieve the 'two odour units' performance criteria at the nearest residential receptor. Typically, odour less than two odour units is not perceived as a nuisance

Q&A

The Environmental Impact Statement addresses the full range of potential impacts from the proposal.

Q Will there be an impact on traffic?

A The Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Precinct accounts for **only 1.3% of all vehicles** on New Illawarra Road at the present time. As part of the proposal, there will be marginal increases to traffic volumes along New Illawarra Road and Heathcote Road.

The year 2027 is expected to be the peak year in terms of traffic generation at the facility. If all facilities are operating at maximum capacity, the forecast increase in vehicles using New Illawarra Road during peak hour periods is approximately 1.6%, or a **maximum of 63 additional vehicles** at this time. Modelling indicates that 96% of vehicles using New Illawarra Road are not associated with this proposal.

For waste delivered from the SUEZ network of facilities, we have invested in High Mass Load trailers which can carry approximately **20% more waste** than older trailers. These trailers allow efficient waste transport and reduce the number of truck movements to the park.



other topics

Leachate

Leachate is water that has come into contact with waste.

The new landform design will **increase rainfall run off** from the surface of the site, reduce water infiltration and prevent unplanned ponding from occurring. Less leachate reduces the potential impact on the local environment.

Litter

Existing controls to manage and mitigate litter such as portable litter nets and regular patrols will continue.

Waste delivered to the Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility would occur within enclosed buildings therefore the potential litter impact is low.

SUEZ will contribute to a **\$300,000 fund over five years** aimed at preventing and combatting illegal dumping in the Sutherland Shire.

Left: SUEZ have invested in High Mass Load trailers which can carry approximately 20% more waste than older trailers



For more information about the project or a guided tour of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, visit or contact us at:

 suez-env.com.au/lucasheights

 lucas.heights@suez-env.com.au

 **1800 810 680** Project Hotline



Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park

Posters

about SUEZ

SUEZ* makes the best use of **water and waste** by providing **smart and reliable** resource management solutions.

- Our first preference is always to recycle the waste we receive and in NSW we divert more than 370,000 tonnes of waste from going into landfill each year.
- We enable communities to transform their waste into valuable energy and materials. Our smart and reliable collection, recovery and recycling solutions help protect our environment and make our communities more sustainable.
- With operations across the entire resource recovery chain, we help local councils, businesses and residents work towards solving two of our largest environmental problems – managing waste and conserving resources.



Above: Highly engineered landfill at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park

key facts



SUEZ has operated the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park since 2011, we provide **essential waste management and recycling infrastructure.**



At the recovery park, we **process garden organics into composts, mulches and other soil conditioning products.**



Where waste is not recycled, we treat and dispose of it in our **highly engineered landfill** and then capture landfill gas to produce renewable energy.



We give back to the Sutherland Shire by supporting a range of **local community initiatives and sporting teams.**

*SUEZ Recycling and Recovery (referred to as SUEZ) [ABN 70 002 902 650] is the new business name of SITA Australia Pty Ltd. SITA Australia Pty Ltd is part of the SUEZ global group of companies. SUEZ Recycling and Recovery is a joint venture with Sembcorp.



we're investing in essential waste management and recycling infrastructure

We plan to increase capacity at the **New Illawarra Road Landfill** by 8.3 million cubic metres and extend operations at the site for 12 years until 2037.

- We will also upgrade the landfill gas capture system to reduce a source of odour, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate more renewable energy.
- We plan to relocate and expand our existing garden organics facility that recycles garden waste into a range of nutrient-rich compost products and diverts these valuable resources from landfill.
- We will invest in additional infrastructure for our garden organics operations, including covering active phases of the composting process for better odour management. The capacity will be increased from 55,000 to 80,000 tonnes per year and activities moved to the western side of the site near Heathcote Road, further away from residential areas.
- We are seeking approval to build a fully enclosed \$90 million state-of-the-art Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility in the future. This facility would process up to 200,000 tonnes of general solid waste per year and recover valuable resources that can be used to create compost or alternative fuels. The facility would divert up to 70% of waste from landfill.



- The Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park will ultimately be returned to the community as parklands for everyone to enjoy. As part of the proposal, the parklands would be approximately 25 hectares larger in area than the currently approved parkland, providing more area for recreation and community use.
- SUEZ will also contribute \$100 million in funding over 15 years to Sutherland Shire Council which will be used by Council to fund a range of new projects and facility upgrades in Sutherland Shire.

key features



Increase landfill capacity by 8.3 million cubic metres



Invest in and extend operations until 2037



Improve and relocate the garden organics facility



Invest in a \$90 million resource recovery facility to divert up to 70% of waste from landfill



Better environmental outcomes through best practice prevention, mitigation and rectification measures



No significant impact to the environment or the community



Establish community parklands after closure



Provide \$100 million for community facilities in the Sutherland Shire

Far left: SUEZ will upgrade the landfill gas infrastructure at the New Illawarra Road Landfill

Left: Compost



advanced **resource** **recovery** technology

Recovering and recycling valuable resources
back into the economy

Our Advanced Resource Recovery Technology (ARRT) facilities **transform household waste** into compost that can be used in rehabilitation projects to **replenish degraded soils**.

- These facilities also turn mixed plastics, timbers, textiles and other dry combustible materials into fuels which can replace gas and coal in cement kilns.
- SUEZ owns and operates more than half of all alternative waste treatment facilities in Australia and in 2014 recovered over 399,000 tonnes of materials that would have otherwise gone to landfill.
- As part of the Lucas Heights proposal, the onsite ARRT will be a fully enclosed facility and be able to divert up to 140,000 tonnes of waste from landfill.



Above: An ARRT facility which recycles waste that would have otherwise gone to landfill

Top: Nutrient-rich compost used to replenish degraded soils



community engagement is an essential part of our operations

Community and stakeholder engagement is an **integral part of our operations** in the Sutherland Shire.

- We are committed to actively engaging and listening to the community and our stakeholders throughout the planning process, including by offering guided tours of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park.
- We will continue to seek input from the community through our Lucas Heights Community Reference Group, which is made up of local residents and business neighbours. The CRG meets regularly to discuss our operations.
- We will also continue to help educate the local community about resource recovery, recycling and waste management practices.

For further information we encourage the community to have their say on this proposal during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) exhibition period.

Visit majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au



Above and right: Councils, residents, community groups, schools and businesses are encouraged to visit our facilities to learn how we recover valuable resources from everyday 'waste'

timeline

01

SUEZ submits State Significant Development Supporting Documentation with the Department of Planning and Environment

02

Secretary of NSW Department of Planning and Environment provides environmental assessment requirements and community consultation begins

03

Development Application including EIS submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment for review

04

WE ARE HERE

EIS placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment which provides a further opportunity for community input

05

Department of Planning and Environment assesses the application



garden organics

Returning nutrients to the earth with high quality compost products

SUEZ's garden organics facilities **recycle garden waste** into a range of high-quality, nutrient-rich **compost products**, diverting these valuable resources from landfill in the process.

- Our facilities transform lawn clippings, leaves, branches and other green waste into high quality compost products.
- Once the garden organics material is received from council and commercial collections, all contaminants such as plastic bags, bottles and metals are removed. The organics are then ground into a smaller, more suitable size for composting.
- This material decomposes naturally with the help of the same micro-organisms found in any home compost bin.
- The composting process is aerobic, meaning the material breaks down in the presence of oxygen.
- Over the composting period the organic product is closely monitored for moisture, temperature and bulk density. When decomposition is complete, the material is screened into a variety of high quality compost, mulch and soil blends.
- SUEZ is investing in compost organics onsite, relocating and expanding our existing garden organics facility to the western side of the site.
- Capacity will be increased from 55,000 to 80,000 tonnes per year.
- We will also invest in additional infrastructure including covering active phases of the composting process for better odour management.



Left and below:
SUEZ's garden organics operations return nutrients to the earth with high quality compost products



By returning organic matter and essential nutrients to the soil, SUEZ contributes to a sustainable future for Australia's fragile soil systems.

engineered landfill

Renewable energy generation from biogas capture

Our first preference is always to **recycle or reuse** the waste we receive.

- Where waste is not recycled or reused, it is disposed of safely and securely at our engineered landfills.
- At SUEZ, our highly engineered landfills are divided into areas called cells. Before a cell can be filled with commercial and residential waste, many protective layers are installed. These consist of 900mm of compacted clay, a 2.5mm plastic liner, and perforated pipes which are laid down within a layer of drainage aggregate to capture the wastewater generated within the landfill known as leachate.
- Leachate is pumped out of the cell and into a Leachate Treatment Plant. It is then treated onsite using bacteria and forced aeration before being responsibly discharged into the sewer system in compliance with Sydney Water's requirements.
- Biogas generated from the waste as it breaks down is captured using a network of wells and pipes and converted into green electricity, which is fed into the power grid. In 2013, gas captured at our New Illawarra Road Landfill produced enough renewable energy to power 20,000 households.
- Long-term care, through ongoing monitoring of capped and closed landfills, is an important part of our commitment to environmental protection and rehabilitation programs.
- After the cell is capped it is then revegetated using local native plants and grasses. Rejuvenated landfills are often turned into public parks and gardens, golf courses or bike tracks for use by the community.



Above: A lined landfill cell at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park

As part of the proposal, we will invest in additional gas extraction operations which will assist in managing potential odour and **boost renewable energy production**, generating power equivalent to the needs of approximately **5,700 homes**.

we believe in giving back to the communities in which we operate

SUEZ is an **active supporter** of the **Sutherland Shire** community.

- Parts of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park are currently being used by local community groups such as the PCYC Mini Bike Club and the Sydney International Clay Target Association.
- Once operations cease in 2037, the site will be rehabilitated into parklands within two years for everyone to enjoy.
- SUEZ will continue to support a range of community initiatives and local sporting teams in the Sutherland Shire, including Menai Roosters Junior Rugby League, Menai Warriors Junior Rugby Union, Bangor Football Club, Bangor Cricket Club, Barden Ridgebacks Football Club and Barden Ridgebacks Netball Club.
- We are a major sponsor of the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation based in the Sutherland Shire and have contributed \$150,000 to programs supporting children living in families affected by mental illness.

Through the SUEZ Community Grants Program, we provide funding for **social** and **environmental projects** which create a more **sustainable future**.

- Over the last two years, the program has distributed over \$250,000 in funding to over 50 community groups across Australia, including \$25,000 in grants funding to Sutherland Shire community groups.



As part of the proposal, SUEZ will contribute **\$100 million in funding over 15 years** to a range of Sutherland Shire Council projects that benefit the local community.



Above and left: SUEZ has a long history of supporting the Sutherland Shire community



existing site plan



LEGEND

ANSTO buffer boundary	Sydney International Clay Target Association	Renewable energy generating facility
Internal access road	GO facility	PCYC minibike area
Approved landfill footprint	Resource Recovery Centre	Truck parking area
Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park boundary	Administration, operations and weighbridge	

proposed site plan



LEGEND

ANSTO buffer boundary	Proposed GO facility	Renewable energy generating facility
Mill Creek	Proposed ARRT facility	Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park boundary
Internal access road	Resource Recovery Centre	Landform reprofiling boundary
Existing access road	Administration, operations and weighbridge	Truck parking area

community parklands

Once operations cease in 2037, the site will be rehabilitated and **converted into community parklands** within two years for everyone to enjoy.

The parkland will have a total area of 149 ha. This is approximately 25 hectares larger in area than the currently approved parkland, providing more area for recreation and community use.

The parkland will include a range of features such as open grassed picnic areas, viewing areas, bridges, ponds, pedestrian and cyclist paths and a vehicle access route through the site.

There are also substantial undulating open spaces with areas suitable for a variety of activities.

For example:

- Running, jogging or walking
- Picnics
- Bicycling
- Dog training or off-leash dog areas
- Equestrian activities

The final uses of the each space would be determined in 2035 by Sutherland Shire Council with ANSTO approval based on community needs at the time.



Q&A

The Environmental Impact Statement addresses the full range of potential impacts from the proposal.

Q Will there be an impact on air quality?

A SUEZ has measures in place to prevent and mitigate odour from the facility and this will continue. As part of the proposal, SUEZ will also upgrade the landfill's gas capture system to further reduce a source of odour.

The garden organics operations will be moved to the western side of the site further away from residential areas, and the active phases of the composting process will be covered for better odour management.

Through the proposal, odour from our operations across the precinct will be **reduced by more than 40%** compared to current levels. These improvements will be achieved as early as 2016.

SUEZ has also committed to strict air quality targets beyond its statutory requirements.

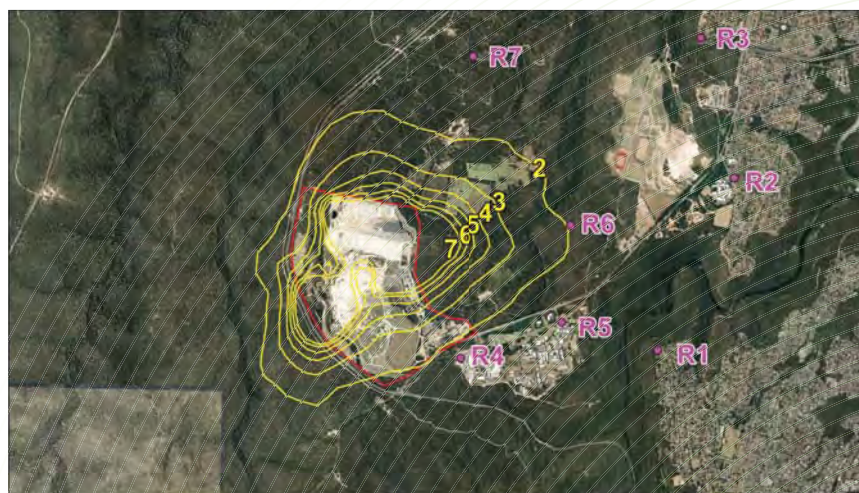
other topics

Visual impact

Whilst the site is operational, the perimeter will be screened by planting. There will be **no significant visual impacts** to the community.

Noise

The noise assessment concluded that the proposal would have **no significant impacts** on the community or environment.



Left: Odour modelling shows the facility will achieve the 'two odour units' performance criteria at the nearest residential receptor. Typically, odour less than two odour units is not perceived as a nuisance

Detailed information can be found in our Environmental Impact Statement. Visit majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au



Q&A

The Environmental Impact Statement addresses the full range of potential impacts from the proposal.

Q Will there be an impact on traffic?

A The Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Precinct accounts for **only 1.3% of all vehicles** on New Illawarra Road at the present time. As part of the proposal, there will be marginal increases to traffic volumes along New Illawarra Road and Heathcote Road.

The year 2027 is expected to be the peak year in terms of traffic generation at the facility. If all facilities are operating at maximum capacity, the forecast increase in vehicles using New Illawarra Road during peak hour periods is approximately 1.6%, or a **maximum of 63 additional vehicles** at this time. Modelling indicates that 96% of vehicles using New Illawarra Road are not associated with this proposal.

For waste delivered from the SUEZ network of facilities, we have invested in High Mass Load trailers which can carry approximately **20% more waste** than older trailers. These trailers allow efficient waste transport and reduce the number of truck movements to the park.



other topics

Leachate

Leachate is water that has come into contact with waste.

The new landform design will **increase rainfall run off** from the surface of the site, reduce water infiltration and prevent unplanned ponding from occurring. Less leachate reduces the potential impact on the local environment.

Litter

Existing controls to manage and mitigate litter such as portable litter nets and regular patrols will continue.

Waste delivered to the Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility would occur within enclosed buildings therefore the potential litter impact is low.

SUEZ will contribute to a **\$300,000 fund over five years** aimed at preventing and combatting illegal dumping in the Sutherland Shire.

Left: SUEZ have invested in High Mass Load trailers which can carry approximately 20% more waste than older trailers

Detailed information can be found in our Environmental Impact Statement. Visit majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au



Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park
Community mailout material

we plan to invest in **essential** waste management and recycling **infrastructure** at **Lucas Heights** resource recovery park

key features of the proposal



Increase landfill capacity by 8.3 million cubic metres



Invest in and extend operations until 2037



Improve and relocate the garden organics facility



Invest in a \$90 million resource recovery facility to divert up to 70% of waste from landfill



Better environmental outcomes through best practice prevention, mitigation and rectification measures



No significant impact to the environment or the community



Establish community parklands after closure



Provide \$100 million for community facilities in the Sutherland Shire

SITA Australia is now SUEZ



The Environmental Impact Statement is now on exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Have your say on the project or register your support by visiting **majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au**



**Visit us at the Menai Marketplace
from XX October to XX November**

Monday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm
Tuesday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm
Wednesday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm
Thursday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm
Friday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm
Saturday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm
Sunday	XX.XXam - XX.XXpm

For more information about the project or a guided tour of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, visit or contact us at:

 suez-env.com.au/lucasheights

 lucas.heights@suez-env.com.au

 **1800 810 680** Project Hotline



Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park
Advertisement

we plan to invest in **essential** waste management and recycling **infrastructure** at **Lucas Heights** resource recovery park

key features of the proposal



Increase landfill capacity by 8.3 million cubic metres



Improve and relocate the garden organics facility



Better environmental outcomes through best practice prevention, mitigation and rectification measures



No significant impact to the environment or the community



Invest in and extend operations until 2037



Invest in a \$90 million resource recovery facility to divert up to 70% of waste from landfill



Establish community parklands after closure



Provide \$100 million for community facilities in the Sutherland Shire

The Environmental Impact Statement is now on exhibition by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. **Have your say** on the project or register your support by visiting **majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au**

For more information about the project or a guided tour of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, visit or contact us at:

 **suez-env.com.au/lucasheights**

 **lucas.heights@suez-env.com.au**

 **1800 810 680** Project Hotline

SITA Australia is now SUEZ



Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park
Call centre Q&A

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Expansion - Call centre Q&A

Note: Staff are not authorised to speak to or provide information to media and these inquiries must be immediately passed to the SITA Corporate Affairs team in line with the media policy. Direct media inquiries to Luke Schepen, 0400 798 786

Key features

What does the expansion of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park entail?

We plan to increase capacity at the New Illawarra Road landfill by 8.3 million cubic metres and extend operations at the site until 2037. 8.3 million cubic metres is equivalent to approximately 8.3 million tonnes of waste, assuming 1 tonne of waste utilises 1 cubic metre of waste disposal airspace. Landfill operation will extend for 12 years from 2025 to 2037.

We will upgrade the landfill gas capture system to reduce a source of odour, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate renewable electricity to power homes.

We plan to relocate and expand our existing garden organics facility that recycles garden waste into a range of nutrient-rich compost products and diverts these valuable resources from landfill. The capacity will be expanded from 55,000 to 80,000 tonnes per year and activities moved to the western side of the site further away from the closest residential areas. We will invest in additional infrastructure for our garden organics operations, including partially enclosing active phases of the composting process for better odour management.

We are also seeking approval to build a fully enclosed \$90 million state-of-the-art Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility in the future which would convert household waste into compost and alternative fuels and divert up to 70% of waste from landfill. The ARRT would be located on the western side of the site adjacent to the GO facility and would process and recover valuable resources from up to 200,000 tonnes of general solid waste per year, reducing the amount of waste disposed to landfill to approximately 60,000 tonnes per year.

Why is SITA proposing to increase landfill capacity?

Landfilling plays a necessary role in managing Australia's waste. Our landfills are designed to maximise the operational life of each cell and take up as little space as possible to reduce the environmental and social impacts of waste disposal. The Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park is an essential piece of waste management infrastructure for the Sutherland Shire and the Sydney region.

Landfill capacity in Sydney is reducing at a rapid rate. Belrose landfill closed in early November 2014, the Eastern Creek landfill will close in 2017 and the New Illawarra Road Landfill is expected to close in 2024. With the closure of these landfills, Sydney residents will lose over one million tonnes of annual landfill capacity. From 2025, there will **be only one landfill to dispose of Sydney's putrescible waste.**

The increase in landfill capacity will also help to achieve the best design for the final landform. Since acquiring the site in 2011, we have reviewed the design of the current landfill to ensure it will meet NSW EPA guidelines. We found that the final slope of the landform needs to be re-profiled to enable more effective rainwater runoff. The resulting landform will exceed EPA guidelines and lessen rainwater infiltration

and leachate generation. This will also result in better environmental outcomes and improvements in odour management.

SITA believes that the proposed expansion of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park is the best solution as it allows the diversion of recyclables and organics and the extension of the life of the existing landfill.

How much more waste will be disposed of/processed at Lucas Heights under the proposal?

As part of the proposal, SITA is seeking permission to increase the approved quantity of waste received for processing / disposal at the LHRRP from 730,000 tonnes of waste per year to 1,140,000 tonnes per year, an increase of 410,000 tonnes per year.

Site activity	Current approval	Proposal
Re-profiling (landfill disposal)	575,000 tonnes per year	850,000 tonnes per year
Resource Recovery Centre and Garden Organics Facility	55,000 tonnes per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden Organics Facility 80,000 tonnes per year* Resource Recovery Centre 10,000 tonnes per year
ARRT Facility	100,000 tonnes per year	200,000 tonnes per year

* In addition, approximately 37,000 tonnes of imported blending materials, such as sand will be used at the Garden Organics facility.

Environment

What impact will the expansion have on the environment?

SITA constantly strives for the best possible environmental outcomes and we have introduced significant operational improvements since acquiring the site in 2011. These improvements include:

- Construction of new landfill cells to best practice standards with a double liner system
- Improved stormwater controls
- Improved odour management
- Installation of portable litter nets and screens around the tipping face and introduction of regular litter patrols
- Investment in new landfill gas extraction infrastructure that produces renewable energy
- Investing in additional infrastructure for the garden organics facility, including aerating and covering active phases of the composting process for better odour control

As part of the planning and approval process, SITA has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement in consultation with key stakeholders including Sutherland Shire Council, ANSTO and the community. The Environmental Impact Statement included comprehensive assessment of potential environmental impacts the proposal has on the environment in the short and long term. With the implementation of best practice application of a range of mitigation measures, the Environmental Impact Statement concluded that there would be no significant impact on the community or environment.

The proposal also contributes to better **environmental outcomes compared to “business as usual” approach**. The expansion of the landfill enables the final slope of the landform to be re-profiled to enable more effective rainwater runoff which would also improve odour management. The resulting landform will be compliant with EPA best practice and lessen rainwater infiltration and leachate generation, resulting in better environmental outcomes. Key areas of improvement include reduced odour emissions, reduced leachate generation and significant contribution to initiatives in the Sutherland Shire to combat litter and illegal dumping.

The proposal also includes upgrade of the Garden Organics facility which incorporates technology to reduce odour emission. The Garden Organics facility will also be relocated further away from existing residential receptors.

An Advance Resource Recovery Treatment facility is also part of this proposal. This facility processes and recovers valuable resources which diverts waste away from landfill.

Community

Does SITA intend to consult with the community?

Yes. Community and stakeholder engagement is an integral part of our operations in the Sutherland Shire. We have undertaken initial consultation with the community during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and will continue our commitment to actively engage and listen to the community and our stakeholders throughout the planning process.

Throughout the exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement, we will continue to advertise the process in local newspapers provide static display at Menai Marketplace. Our project team members are also available during peak traffic times to assist to respond to questions about the proposal. Posters are displayed at key Council locations and flyers have been sent out to local residents.

We also continue to maintain our community information phone line and community input email address to take questions and feedback from the local community and any other interested stakeholders. The email address is lucas.heights@SUEZ.com.au and the phone number is 1800 810 680. We also keep our dedicated project website updated and it is available at:

<http://www.SUEZ.com.au/developments/lucasheights/>

Throughout the Environmental Impact Statement preparation process, we have sought input from the community through our Lucas Heights Community Reference Group, which is made up of local residents and business neighbours and meets regularly to discuss our operations. This is going to continue on a regular basis.

We will also continue to help educate the local community about resource recovery, recycling and waste management practices. We continue to offer guided tours of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park and information of the tours are available through contacting (02) 9708 7824 or at gareth.jones@suez-env.com.au.

We encourage the community to have their say on this proposal during the Environmental Impact Statement public consultation period.

Will there be any benefits for the community?

The proposal would have a number of improved environmental and amenity outcomes for the community. A comprehensive study undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement concluded that by investing in landfill gas capture systems, relocating and upgrading the garden organics facility and implementing best practice, odour potential will be reduced compared to current activities.

Economic and social benefits include more employment opportunities. SITA will advertising jobs associated with the project in local newspapers.

Under the proposal and following the closure of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park in 2037, the site will be returned to the community and rehabilitated into parklands within two years for everyone to enjoy. The parkland will have a total area of 149 ha, which is approximately 25 hectares larger in area than the currently approved parkland, providing more area for recreation and community use.

As part of the proposal, SITA will contribute \$100 million in funding over 15 years to Sutherland Shire Council which will be used by Council to fund a range of projects or facility upgrades in the Sutherland Shire. SITA will also contribute to other environmental initiatives in the Sutherland Shire, including contribution to a \$300,000 fund over five years aimed at preventing and combatting illegal dumping in the Sutherland Shire

SITA will also continue to support a range of community initiatives and local sporting teams in the Sutherland Shire, including Menai Roosters Junior Rugby League, Bangor Football Club, Bangor Cricket Club, Barden Ridgebacks Football Club and Barden Ridgebacks Netball Club.

When will the site be returned to the community?

Parts of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park are currently being used by local community groups such as the PCYC Mini Bike Club and the Sydney International Clay Target Association.

Under the proposal and following closure of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park in 2037, the site will be returned to the community and rehabilitated into parklands within two years for everyone to enjoy.

Are there any economic benefits?

As part of the proposal, SITA will contribute \$100 million in funding to Sutherland Shire Council which will be used by Council to fund a range of projects or facility upgrades in the Sutherland Shire. SITA will also contribute to other environmental initiatives in the Sutherland Shire, including contribution to a \$300,000 fund over five years aimed at preventing and combatting illegal dumping in the Sutherland Shire

SITA is also seeking approval to build a fully enclosed \$90 million Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility at the site which would process household waste, including organics and divert up to 70 per cent of this waste from landfill. The ARRT facility would boost the local economy through approximately 100 full-time equivalent jobs during construction and 50 full-time equivalent jobs during operations.

Amenity impacts

Will there be increased odour?

SITA has measures in place to prevent and mitigate odour from the facility and this will continue. Since SITA has taken over the operation of the site, the level of odour complaints has reduced significantly. For instance, from 2012 to 2013, odour complaints fell by 53 per cent. From 2013 to 2014, odour complaints fell by a further 57 per cent. 2013 and 2014 have seen the lowest number of odour complaints in the last 10 years.

By investing in landfill gas capture systems, relocating the garden organics facility and covering the active phases of the composting process, odour potential will be reduced compared to current activities. The state-of-the-art Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility SITA is seeking to build will be fully enclosed to minimise the potential for an additional odour source on site. In addition, the re-profiling of the landform will help to improve odour management.

A comprehensive air quality assessment has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. It was concluded that through the proposal, odour from our operations across the precinct will be reduced by more than 40% compared to current levels. These improvements will be achieved as early as 2016. In addition, **odour modelling shows the facility will achieve the 'two odour units' performance criteria** at the nearest residential receptor. Typically, odour less than two odour units is not perceived as a nuisance.

What about litter around the facility?

SITA has measures in place to reduce litter from the facilities on site. Waste disposed at the landfill is compacted and covered daily. In addition, portable litter nets and screens have been installed around the tipping face and portable litter fences are used during periods of high winds. Regular litter patrols of the site, the boundary and roads leading to the facility are also conducted. Trucks transporting material from the premises are also covered and tailgates are securely fixed.

As part of this proposal, existing controls to manage and mitigate litter such as portable litter nets and regular patrols will continue. Waste delivered to the ARRT would occur within enclosed buildings therefore the potential litter impact is low.

In addition, SUEZ will contribute to a \$300,000 fund over five years aimed at preventing and combatting illegal dumping in the Sutherland Shire.

Will it cause traffic congestion?

The Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Precinct accounts for only 1.3% of all vehicles on New Illawarra Road at the present time. Under the proposal, there will be marginal increases to traffic volumes along New Illawarra Road and Heathcote Road.

The year 2027 is expected to be the peak year in terms of traffic generation at the facility. If all facilities are operating at maximum capacity (worst case), the forecast increase in vehicles using New Illawarra Road during peak hour periods is approximately 1.6%, or a maximum of 63 additional vehicles at this time. Modelling indicates that 96% of vehicles using New Illawarra Road are not associated with this proposal.

For waste delivered from the SUEZ network of facilities, we have invested in High Mass Load trailers which can carry approximately 20% more waste than older trailers. These trailers allow efficient waste transport and reduce the number of truck movements to the park.

A comprehensive traffic assessment has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. It was concluded that the proposal would have no significant impact to traffic in the local area.

Will there be a significant visual impact?

We believe the proposal will have minimal impact on the visual amenity of the area. Views are generally limited due to the distance and vegetation providing screening. In addition, while the site is operational, the perimeter will be screened by planting.

The final height of the landform will increase by up to eight metres when compared to the current approved landform at the highest point. The increase in height of the proposed landform would be visible from some surrounding areas. However, the proposal would also see the landform progressively revegetated and rehabilitated to reduce visual impacts.

A full visual impact assessment has been as part of the Environmental Impact Statement, using photo montages. The assessment shows that the difference in appearance compared to what it would look like in 2025 under the existing approval, is not significant. The landfill can only be seen from a distance of a few kilometers away.

GENERAL

Who is SITA?

SITA Australia is the nation's leader in the provision of sustainable waste and recycling solutions. Our first preference is always to recycle the waste we receive and in NSW we divert more than 370,000 tonnes of waste from landfill each year.

What activities currently take place at Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park?



Operated by SITA since 2011, the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park provides essential waste and recycling infrastructure. We make it easy for locals to drop off recyclable materials such as plastic and cardboard and reusable materials such as scrap metal and household rubble which can be processed for re-use.

At the recovery park, we also process garden organics into composts, mulches and other soil conditioning products. Where waste cannot be recycled, we treat and dispose of it in our highly engineered landfill cells and then capture landfill gas to produce renewable energy.

Why can't you build another one somewhere else?

Landfilling plays a necessary role in managing Australia's waste. Our landfills are designed to maximise the operational life of each cell and take up as little space as possible to reduce the environmental and social impacts of waste disposal.

Continued operation of an existing facility is preferred over establishment of a new facility. There are a limited number of sites in Sydney which are permitted to accept putrescible waste, and none of them other than Lucas Heights have sufficient capacity to be expanded. While the landfill will increase in height, all works will be undertaken within the current boundaries of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park. In addition, the proposal, with the revised final landform, would improve existing environmental outcomes at the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park.

SITA believes that the proposed expansion of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park is the best solution as it allows the diversion of recyclables, processing of organics and the extension of the life of the existing landfill.

Are you trying to buy approval for this project by giving money to Council?

No. SITA understands that as a regional facility, the landfill assists a much larger area than the Sutherland Shire, but has the most impact here. That is why through a Voluntary Planning Agreement, SITA will also contribute \$100 million over 15 years in funding to Sutherland Shire Council which will be used to fund a range of projects or facility upgrades in the Sutherland Shire. The community, through Council is the beneficiary of these funds. In addition, SITA has guaranteed capacity for Sutherland Shire Council for the disposal and treatment of their waste to the LHRRP.

The proposal would have a number of improved environmental and amenity outcomes for the community. By investing in landfill gas capture systems, relocating the garden organics facility and covering the active phases of the composting process, we believe potential odour will be reduced compared to current activities.

Under the proposal and following the closure of Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park in 2037, the site will be returned to the community and rehabilitated into parklands within two years for everyone. In addition, the re-profiling of the landform will help to improve odour management.

It is also important to note that this project represents a State Significant Development. State Significant Developments can include a range of development types such as mines, manufacturing plants and waste facilities. As such, this project will be subject to a specific assessment system under the New South Wales Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

SITA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
ABN 70 002 902 650
CORPORATE OFFICE
LEVEL 3, RIDER BOULEVARD
RHODES NSW 2138
PO BOX 3500
RHODES NSW 2138
PHONE + 61 2 8754 0000
FAX + 61 2 8754 0199
SITA.COM.AU



**THE LEADER
IN RESOURCE
RECOVERY**

Therefore, while Council is the beneficiary of the contribution under the Voluntary Planning Agreement, this project will be separately and independently assessed by the NSW Government, and ultimately the Minister for Planning, as the consent authority.

I can provide you with a flowchart that shows the pathway for a State Significant Development if you wish.
[Action - Provide document].

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery
Park **CRG Meeting Minutes**

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 11/12/2014)

Monday, 24 November 2014 at 5:30pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Lucas Heights RRP – New Illawarra Rd, Lucas Heights

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- Phil Carbins (PC) – Sydney Landfills Manager
- Kim Ross (KR) – Landfill Manager
- Gareth Jones (GJ) – NSW Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- Michael Ulph (MU) – Consultant (GHD)
- Anna Cosgrave (AC) – Consultant (GHD)

Community

- Ian Kolln (IK) – Oyster Bay
- Dawn Emerson (DE) – Illawong
- Jane Rouvray (JR) – Menai

Menai Wildflower Group

- Lloyd Hedges (LH)

Apologies

- Greg Hoy – Cronulla Model Aero Club
- Melanie Gibbons MP – State Member for Menai
- Graham Patterson – Barden Ridge
- John Ross – Menai
- Peter Towell – Sutherland Shire Council
- Nicole Greene – Illawong

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed all in attendance. Apologies were noted as listed above. All present introduced themselves.		

2. PRESENTATION

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	<i>PC delivered a presentation to the group. A summary of the information provided is included with these notes as Appendix 1.</i>		
2.2	PC explained that the information provided in tonight's meeting was being issued to CRG members before the general public, to recognise the ongoing time commitment of those present. SITA considers CRG members to be important conduits between the facility and the broader community. The information would be made available to the general public through newspapers the day after this meeting, and a brochure was being delivered to residents in Woronora Heights, Engadine, Menai and Barden Ridge.		
2.3	IK asked what the height increase of the landfill would be. PC replied that the landfill would increase in height by up to 7m, which was not a significant increase within the overall scale of the site.		

-
- 2.4 IK asked if the access to the new facility would be from Heathcote Rd.
- PC replied that the current proposal is to continue to use the current access from New Illawarra Rd, but SITA are undertaking traffic studies which may indicate a need for a new entrance on Heathcote Rd. The existing weighbridge and related entry infrastructure close to New Illawarra Rd makes that entrance more desirable for ongoing access unless traffic modelling shows otherwise.
-
- 2.5 IK asked if emergency access had been discussed with ANSTO.
- KR replied that the site already had emergency exits placed along the Heathcote Rd boundary, on the opposite side of the site from ANSTO.
- PC added that ANSTO are two-thirds landholders of the site and are supportive of the project along with Council.
-
- 2.6 JR asked why other landfills were being closed and Lucas Heights was being expanded.
- PC replied that Belrose been operating for 50 years and had reached its full capacity, while Eastern Creek had already been extended and is now also reaching its full capacity. The alternative to using Lucas Heights would be to transport Sydney's household waste to Goulburn by rail. Lucas Heights still has capacity available and is in a good location in relation to urban areas and road infrastructure. The reprofiled landfill would be vertically higher than the current profile, but would not extend beyond its current horizontal footprint.
-
- 2.7 JR said she hoped that the \$100m community investment contribution would be spent in the local area rather than further away in the Shire.
- PC replied he recognised this as a valid concern, however SITA has no control over where Council decide to spend the funds – this is a decision for Council alone.
-
- 2.8 IK asked what percentage of Sydney's waste comes to Lucas Heights at present, and how much would come in the future.
- PC replied that this was difficult to answer exactly, but that SITA would be seeking to increase landfill inputs from 575Ktpa to 850Ktpa and garden organics processing from 50Ktpa to 85Ktpa.
- IK asked if the additional waste would come from the Alford's Point direction or from the Liverpool direction.
- PC replied that since much more development is underway in western Sydney, it would be likely that a large proportion of the increase would come from those areas in years to come.
- PC added that he recognises no-one wants a waste facility in their backyard, however the opportunities at Lucas Heights are unique and SITA's commitment is to ensure it has zero impact on the community.
- MU added that moving the garden organics facility further away would reduce odours in Barden Ridge and Menai. Enclosing the operation would also help. Reprofiling the landfill and reducing infiltration rates would reduce leachate generation and subsequently odour.
-

-
- 2.9 DE asked how many councils sent waste to the Lucas Heights facility.
NR replied that the question would be answered at the next CRG meeting.
-
- 2.10 JR acknowledged that SITA had done a good job with regard to odour over the last three years, but questioned why Lucas Heights had to be the landfill that gets extended for 13 years when the parklands could have been available earlier after a 2024 closure. Perhaps a new tip could be built in the western suburbs instead.
- PC replied that it was considered more appropriate to use existing landfill facilities to their maximum capabilities rather than creating new landfills on other land.
- JR asked if the new long transfer trailers would replace the existing trailers.
- PC replied that these new trailers had four axles and could carry a much higher payload, and were being phased in to replace the old trailers which are used to move waste from transfer stations to landfills. The physical number of trucks is being reduced since these trailers can carry more in each load, reducing SITA's environmental footprint from transportation of waste. 31 of the new trailers are now on the road, with the rollout having commenced this month.
- PC added that SITA had commenced the traffic studies and analysis, and that as part of the EIS there would be a significant portion devoted to discussing these impacts. SITA's trucks currently only contribute a very small percentage to the existing traffic levels on New Illawarra Rd.
-
- 2.11 JR asked what the operating hours would be for the new facility.
- PC said the waste receival hours would be the same as they currently are for the landfill, being 6am to 5pm. Indoor operations at the new facility would be 24 hours, but the receival hours would not be extended beyond the current hours. This would prevent traffic impacts during the late night and early morning.
-
- 2.12 DE asked what safety precautions would be taken in the organics facility, as she had noticed a man in the video not wearing a dust mask.
- PC replied that air quality was and would be assessed on an ongoing basis. Composting operations in open air didn't present hazards in terms of moulds and other pathogens, as these only normally developed inside bagged compost products.
-
- 2.13 DE asked if SITA would be interested in hosting an Australia Day sailing event which involves many South Sydney sailing clubs and 9 councils.
- PC and GJ asked DE to send a detailed sponsorship proposal to GJ.
-
- 2.14 JR asked if the proposed Heathcote Ridge development would be likely to suffer additional impacts from SITA's relocated operations.
- PC replied that the studies in the EIS were examining impacts on what is there today and what might be there in the future.
- JR said this proposed development would need to be considered as SITA could be opening themselves up to more complaints.
-

-
- 2.15 DE said that the prevailing wind in the area is predominantly westerly, and asked if, in winter, odour would still be carried towards Illawong.
- PC said that the current garden organics facility is located on top of a hill in the open air. The new facility would be lower in altitude and the compost would be covered in breathable membranes during the early and most odourous part of the process. The proposed ARRT would process all waste in a fully-enclosed facility.
-
- 2.16 JR asked how SITA would make sure the increased landfill height wouldn't create more odour.
- PC replied that the landfill gas extraction infrastructure would be installed during the filling phases, and that waste would continue to be covered at the end of each day.
-
- 2.17 JR said she assumed that the household garbage processed in the ARRT could potentially have a lot of odour if not managed properly.
- PC said that this was true, which is why the facility would be fully enclosed. The process used would be different to that used at similar facilities at Kemps Creek and Eastern Creek.
-
- 2.18 JR asked if Heathcote Rd would be able to handle the additional traffic?
- KR replied that parts of Heathcote Rd were already being upgraded, including the bridge over Dead Mans Creek.
- MU added that City of Sydney were currently looking at waste-to-energy options, and that it was possible more councils would progress down this route, which will reduce overall waste to landfill from Sydney.
-
- 2.19 JR asked why councils on the opposite side of Sydney need to send their waste through the city to Lucas Heights.
- PC replied that a group of North Shore councils were seeking to build a similar facility at Kimbriki in Terrey Hills, and were looking to manage their waste in their own area.
-
- 2.20 IK asked who the consent authority was.
- PC replied that the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) were the consent authority. SITA have submitted documentation to the Department for their review. This was the first step in the process – DPE would soon respond to SITA to specify what needed to be considered in the EIS.
- PC added that while Council were joint applicants, Council had been very active in holding SITA to account through the development of the Voluntary Planning Agreement, which specifies a range of conditions relating to SITA's operations and environmental performance. All of these documents would be available on the Council and DPE websites.
-
- 2.21 JR said that she assumed the development would be approved, but wants to ensure that the outcome for local residents is the best they possibly can get – with traffic, odour, money for community development being used locally – taking into account the 13 year extension.
- PC said there were no guarantees that the project would be approved.
-

	<p>Residents have opportunities to provide feedback and comments to the company and the council as part of the assessment process.</p>
2.22	<p>DE asked if the developments on the Heathcote Rd side of the site would impinge on the conservation area.</p> <p>PC replied that they would not, as the conservation area is further north and outside the LHRRP land.</p>
2.23	<p>IK asked if the development would enter into the SICTA land.</p> <p>PC said that it would, but not on the firing areas. That land may not even be required in reality but SITA were entitled to develop on a small section if required. The detailed building designs had not yet been finalised.</p>
2.24	<p>MU explained consultation program. Community drop-in sessions would be conducted on Tuesday 2 December, Thursday 4 December and Saturday 6 December. The video shown tonight would be shown at these sessions, and SITA staff and representatives would be available to answer any questions. There will be a range of ways in which input can be provided. All input received from the community would help improve the project, and more feedback would result in a better project.</p>
2.25	<p>IK suggested adding dates to the aerial photos showing the current and future site layout.</p> <p>MU agreed that this was a good idea.</p>
2.26	<p>JR asked how the development would contribute to local employment.</p> <p>PC replied that the key large employer in the development would be the ARRT, which would require a larger workforce than the other operations.</p> <p>JR asked if SITA supported apprentices, trainees etc.</p> <p>KR replied that this was the case.</p> <p>JR added that this was important as young people need support finding employment and developing their careers.</p>
2.27	<p>DE asked how runoff would be channelled.</p> <p>PC replied that a full stormwater analysis would form part of the studies involved in the EIS.</p>
2.28	<p>LH asked if the cover would have to be scraped off the existing landfill surface.</p> <p>KR replied that some capping would need to be scraped back for new waste to be deposited on top. New capping (clay and similar materials) would be brought in from offsite.</p> <p>JR asked if dust would be an issue during this process.</p> <p>KR replied that the process does not generate excessive amounts of dust, and is controlled by water carts to further reduce the potential for this to occur. Small tipping faces were also already being used to reduce potential for odours.</p>

-
- 2.29 IK asked if questions asked during public presentations would be tabulated and analysed.
- PC replied that this is one of the reasons for which GHD had been engaged, being community engagement specialists. The purpose of the process is to gather as much information from the community as possible. The timing was not great, but SITA had needed to have extensive discussions with ANSTO and Council before today could happen.
-
- 2.30 MU said that SITA considers CRG members a conduit to the community, and invited CRG members to bring back questions from the broader community to the next CRG meeting. The brochures being distributed have an email address, hotline and website address which can all be used to receive further information on the proposal. SITA are trying to tell everyone as much as they can about the project and receive as much feedback as possible during these early stages.
-
- 2.31 JR said it would be hard to sell the project to the community unless there would be significant investment in improving the local area.
- DE agreed and added that the community has had to deal with “being a rubbish area” for a long time and had hoped it would be ending in the next decade.
- JR added that SITA needs to understand this is disappointing news for local residents.
- PC acknowledged JR’s comment, and explained that this was the reason SITA are trying to get out as early as possible and explain their plans as fully as possible.
- MU added that in coal projects in the Hunter Valley, the coal companies pay royalties to the State Government. Local Hunter communities often push for this to be used in their local area. SITA is ensuring its community development funds would be spent locally by donating these to the Council rather than the State Government.
-
- 2.32 PC thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and explained that tonight’s conversation would be the first of many to come, with the next regular CRG meeting scheduled for Thursday 11 December. Many other forums can also be used for these ongoing conversations. The landfill’s lifespan may be a little longer than anyone had originally planned, but the CRG members’ time and feedback are greatly appreciated.
- DE replied that CRG members do appreciate having the opportunity to have an early overview of the project ahead of the broader community.
- JR agreed with DE’s comment.
-

MEETING CLOSED 6:41PM

Next meeting: Thursday 11 December 2014, 5:30pm

Venue: Club Central Menai – Allison Crescent, Menai

Appendices 1) Lucas Heights proposal brochure

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 12/03/2015)

Thursday, 11 December 2014 at 5:30pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Club Central Menai – Allison Crescent, Menai

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- Kim Ross (KR) – Landfill Manager
- Pat Keating (PK) – Organics Manager
- Nicolas Rampelbergs (NR) – Project Manager
- Gareth Jones (GJ) – Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- Michael Ulph (MU) – Consultant (GHD)
- Anna Cosgrave (AC) – Consultant (GHD)

Community Groups

- Lloyd Hedges (LH) – Menai Wildflower Group
- Greg Hoy (GH) – Cronulla Model Aero Club

State Member for Menai

- Melanie Gibbons MP (MG)

Residents

- Ian Kolln (IK) – Oyster Bay
- Dawn Emerson (DE) – Illawong
- Nicole Greene (NG) – Illawong
- Graham Patterson (GP) – Barden Ridge

Apologies

- Jane Rouvray (JaR) – Menai
- John Ross (JoR) – Menai
- Greg Smith (GS) – Sutherland Shire Council
- Emi Skopal (ES) – Sutherland Shire Council
- Phil Carbins (PC) – SITA
- Peter Hunt (PH) – SITA
- Adam Philip (AP) – SITA

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed all in attendance. Apologies were acknowledged as listed above. All present introduced themselves.		

2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	<p>Minutes from the meetings held on 16 October and 24 November were accepted with one amendment:</p> <p>DE noted that she had asked a question during the 24 November meeting regarding the number of councils sending waste to Lucas Heights, but this was not included in the notes.</p> <p>GJ advised that this question would be answered during tonight's meeting, and that the notes from the 24 November special meeting would be amended accordingly.</p>		
<i>Action</i>	<i>Amend the notes from the 24 November special meeting to include DE's question regarding the number of councils delivering to Lucas Heights.</i>	<i>GJ</i>	<i>Next meeting</i>

- 2.2 GJ reported that JR had expressed in an email that her feelings regarding CRG members receiving information before the rest of the community had changed after reading about the development in the newspaper the day after the meeting. JR now feels that CRG members should have been informed earlier, before journalists were briefed about the proposal.

3. OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENT UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
3.1	<i>New Illawarra Rd Landfill</i>		
3.1.1	<i>KR presented the Operations and Environment Update included with these notes as Appendix 1.</i>		
3.1.2	GP asked why odour management performance had been better recently. KR replied that a number of measures had been put in place, including new aerators in leachate ponds, better gas extraction infrastructure, and improved compaction rates as a result of better computerised systems in compaction machinery. New gas wells had also been added to increase the amount of gas extracted from the landfill.		
3.1.3	IK asked if the groundwater well which had run dry was the same well that had been obstructed previously. KR replied that it was a different well, but was located higher topographically and was currently above the level of the water table.		
3.2	<i>Lucas Heights Organic Resource Recovery Facility (ORRF)</i>		
3.2.1	PK reported that Summer is the busiest time of the year for the organics operation. There is a higher rate of incoming garden organics due to increased rainfall in August and September and again over the last couple of weeks. Local councils also order a lot of topdressing material around this time of year. Odour results lately have been very good, generally due to attention to detail in processing, and the dry weather experienced prior to the recent rainy period had also helped. Safety toolbox meetings are conducted every week with site staff, along with safety observations, in which supervisors and managers observe staff at work and ensure compliance with procedures. The site had received several visits by the EPA, who had been very focused on their licence requirements but had found no recent issues.		

4. DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
4.1	<i>NR delivered a presentation included with these notes as Appendix 2. NR's presentation followed up from PC's presentation delivered at the 24 November Special Meeting.</i>		

-
- 4.2 In addition to the information contained in the slides for the presentation, NR reported the following:
- SITA had conducted three open community information sessions in Engadine and Menai, with five visitors to the Engadine session, four to the first Menai session and zero to the second Menai session.
 - The project is still in its very early stages, and is by no means a “done deal.” During the current phase, SITA wants to engage as effectively as possible with the local community, receive comments on the proposal, and integrate these into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Development Application (DA).
 - SITA hopes to lodge the Development Application with the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) in early April. An exhibition period will follow, during which time the community will be able to make further comment to the DPE for SITA to address.
 - SEARs were previously known as Director-General’s Requirements (DGRs), are issued by the DPE, and specify what information SITA needs to include in the EIS.
 - SITA are operating a dedicated web page, hotline, and email account for community members to ask questions and receive further information about the proposal.
 - SSDSDs were previously known as Preliminary Environmental Assessments (PEAs).
 - The Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) acknowledges SITA’s financial contribution to the community and outlines SITA’s obligations to Council in terms of environmental performance and management systems to minimise potential community impacts.
 - SITA’s Environmental Management Plans for the facility, outlined in the VPA, include how complaints are to be handled and what corrective actions are to be taken when complaints are received.
 - SITA would report to Council as required under the VPA on complaints received.
 - The ARRT Facility will be fully enclosed and under negative pressure, using biofilters to treat and clean odourous air. The facility would recover organic components from the waste for composting, and a variety of other materials which would be suitable for manufacturing processed engineered fuels (PEF).
 - The VPA specifies that an appropriate proportion of SITA’s \$100m community contribution is to be made available for projects in nearby suburbs. These funds are not to be allocated to maintenance, roads, drainage, footpaths or stormwater management.
-
- 4.3 IK noted that GJ had sent the link to the relevant page on the DPE website to all CRG members by email.
-
- 4.4 MU added that the negative pressure system used in the ARRT does not mean a vacuum environment, but that instead of air and dust escaping through the doors, air and dust would be sucked in from outside.
-

-
- 4.5 GH asked if the ARRT facility would be decommissioned in 2037.
NR said this was the case, and at that time all waste receipt would cease.
-
- 4.6 GP reported that in 1996 the CEO of Waste Service NSW had categorically stated that the Lucas Heights landfill lifespan would not be extended beyond 2016. The facility would become a transfer station. During a subsequent mediation process between the community and Waste Service NSW, known as the Woodward Mediation, a 7m height increase was negotiated. There were concerns held by some community members at the time that a 7m increase in height would result in a significant increase in velocity of rainfall runoff, which could lead to erosion of the surface and further damage to the banks of Mill Creek.
- KR replied that this had already been examined extensively in the EIS preparation process. A new landscape plan had been developed to minimise erosion resulting from runoff. There would be more grassland areas, which would result in a different outcome with minimal potential for erosion. Smaller trees and thicker soil cover would protect capping.
- GP returned to his statement regarding the 1996 statement that the landfill lifespan would not be extended beyond 2016, and asked how the community could be sure that 2037 would be the real end date. The mediation had received significant backing from local sporting groups, representing some 20,000 members in the local area. It was considered a good deal at the time for local residents. The Woodward Mediation succeeded on the basis that landfilling would cease in 2016, and local residents could visualise that end point at the time of the mediation.
- GH echoed GP's sentiments, and added that the Woodward Mediation report was commissioned by the then Environment Minister as a directive to Sutherland Shire Council and the then Waste Disposal Authority. By 2016, 65ha was to have been returned to the community. Now there would be no recreational area available until 2039. The community could not be sure that the landfill would not later be extended beyond 2037.
- KR said that he wasn't involved in the Lucas Heights 1 redevelopment, but understands that the facilities are of a very high standard.
- GP agreed, and noted that Waste Service NSW supported the redevelopment greatly even though the works went well over budget. The concern this time is that the community support won't be there when Lucas Heights 2 is to be redeveloped.
-
- 4.7 GP asked why the community consultation period only appeared in the calendar after the EIS was to be released.
MG explained that the community consultation period on the calendar was to focus on the EIS. SITA is also conducting extensive early community consultation prior to the preparation of the EIS, and this meeting is one of SITA's early consultation measures.
-
- 4.8 GH said he was concerned that SITA's two multinational parent companies are too big to care about the Sutherland Shire community.
-
- 4.9 DE and GP said that the low attendance at the community information sessions may be due to people being busy in the lead-up to Christmas.
-

MU replied that the aim had been to conduct the sessions prior to the start of the Christmas period – admittedly it is December already, however the brochure containing the information about the sessions had been distributed to 11,000 households, and hopefully the low attendance actually means the information provided has been comprehensive enough for a significant portion of the community.

- 4.10 GH said he had been overseas and did not see the article in the Leader. He also had difficulty finding the article online, and had called SITA but was not able to speak to anyone who knew anything about the proposal.
- NG, GP, GH and DE said that they also had not received the brochure.
- MU said that the people who came to sessions all said that they had received the brochure.
- PK added that SITA would rather see more people at the information sessions than fewer, as better attendance would mean SITA had engaged the community and received legitimate feedback.
-

- 4.11 IK noted that the \$100m community contribution would be made in quarterly payments over 15 years, with interest if payment was late.
-

- 4.12 DE said she had heard from Cllr Steve Simpson that \$20m was allocated to the Menai area, with the rest to the remainder of the Shire.
- MG added that the distribution of the funds was still in discussion.
- GP said he was concerned that Sutherland Shire Council is not adequately supporting the community by ensuring the funds stayed in the local area.
-

- 4.13 KR said he had not been aware of a 2016 closure date. The current approval for landfill operations permits continuation until 2025.
- GP replied that the Woodward Report states landfilling is to continue only until 2016, with a transfer station operating on the site thereafter.
- GH added that at 2015, three quarters of the site was to have been returned to the community.
- KR said that a 2000 amendment had granted extra tonnages and lifespan.
- GP said he was disappointed that this amendment had slipped through without community awareness.
- KR said his understanding was that the community were aware of the amendment and had accepted it.
-

- 4.14 GH asked why SITA were only applying for 15 more years and not 22.
- NR responded that the timeline was related to the rate of asset depreciation. When the ARRT was built, it would also take 20 years to pay off the investment, giving an end date of 2037.
-

- 4.15 GH said that the Shire is facing an ageing local population, degenerating existing facilities, and mountain bike groups and others all having need of facilities and land. \$100m at this point in time is not sufficient to cover the sporting/recreation and other community outdoor activities taking place. GH would like to see a breakdown of exactly how the funds will be spent, and believes that the Council are cutting themselves short.
-

MU replied that in various parts of the state where coal mining takes place, mining companies pay a tariff to state coffers. Many communities affected by dust, traffic, noise and other impacts are crying out to have some of that levy put back into their local areas, but this very rarely happens. This is a different situation – it is not a coal mine, but it is a facility with local impacts. In this case the company involved is giving money straight back to one local government area – not the state government, but the local council.

GH said he was still disappointed, given that the company is very large and \$100m does not seem like much.

MU replied that while SITA is a large company, this is just one site. Other landfills in Sydney are closing, with more waste being sent outside Sydney, and the extra cost of transport inevitably results in higher fees to ratepayers. In a sense, the Sutherland Shire community was being insulated from that cost, and being compensated in the form of a direct \$100m contribution towards community facilities.

KR added that SITA continues to support a number of community groups already located on the site, including the Menai Wildflower Group nursery, the PCYC Minibike club, and four clay target shooting clubs.

GH noted that those groups had been there well before SITA came along.

KR replied that there are long term agreements which SITA has supported.

-
- 4.16 GH asked if there is an existing traffic flow benchmark which will be documented as part of the increased traffic impact modelling.
- NR replied that this will be incorporated in the modelling and included in the EIS, including the annual increase in traffic forecasted by the RMS over the next 20 years. RMS would also have input into the SEARs.

-
- 4.17 GH noted that litter and illegal dumping had been significant problems along Heathcote Rd over the last few years.
- DE added that it was also an issue in nearby suburbs.
- PK agreed that the problem was rampant throughout the Illawarra region.
- KR said that the VPA specifies new initiatives for SITA in terms of environmental management.
- GH said he suspected that if there wasn't a tip in the area there wouldn't be such a big illegal dumping problem.
- NR replied that the VPA specifies SITA's obligations in regards to litter collection along New Illawarra Road and Heathcote Road. SITA and Council are in the process of finalising lease arrangements for the use of Little Forest Road. The funds arising from the lease will be used for litter collection campaigns and purposes.
- KR added that new legislation had been introduced by the State Government on 1 November which gave much greater powers to the EPA and council inspectors, and also brought about a dramatic increase in fines for illegal dumping. Several councils including Sutherland Shire Council are now embarking on new campaigns to catch illegal dumpers. There has been a number of recent high-profile prosecutions by NSW EPA, and these are increasing in frequency. More rangers are being employed. Tackling illegal dumping is the EPA's responsibility, not that of
-

any private operator – SITA can report and assist with investigations, but it is ultimately up to regulators and government.

MG said that most of the heavily dumped areas on Heathcote Rd are owned by the Gandangara Aboriginal Land Council, who are currently under administration. Due to this, MG has not been able to get in touch with Gandangara to request their permission for crews to enter the property to clean up illegal dumping.

A member highlighted that the definitions of 'litter' and 'dumping' required clarification.

KR noted, on the issue of gate fees, that the State Government receives waste levy for each tonne of waste received at landfill.

- 4.18 GH asked about the recycling tonnages coming to Lucas Heights.
- GJ explained that no recyclable material from council collections was delivered to Lucas Heights.
- GH asked if other councils had recycling systems.
- GJ replied that all Sydney councils had kerbside recycling collections.
- GH asked if the number of residents from each Council could be supplied so that CRG members could see the amount per capita and assess which councils were the best and worst recyclers.
- DE said that she thought the number of councils delivering to the site used to be 28, and had fallen to 4, but had now risen back to 14.
- All agreed that there was confusion regarding that slide of NR's presentation – the left column contained the names of councils, while the right column contained the names of SITA's transfer stations, rather than actual council names.
- GJ explained that several councils will tip at a transfer station, from which some tonnes would come to Lucas Heights, some would go to Eastern Creek, and some would go to other sites. It is not possible to determine how much waste from each council comes to Lucas Heights via transfer stations.

5. LUCAS HEIGHTS I UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
5.1	<p>GJ advised that GS and ES had sent the following update by email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The dam at Barden Ridge is currently at 50% capacity.</i><i>Sutherland Shire Council have recently applied wetting agent to the fields and golf course fairways to reduce water usage.</i><i>The contract documents for the construction of the BMX track should be advertised in February 2015.</i><i>The off-leash dog park proposal is still under consideration for next year's budget.</i>		

6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By			
6.1	From 16 October meeting:	AP	Next meeting			
	<table><tr><td>4.2</td><td>Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.</td><td>AP</td></tr></table>	4.2	Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.	AP		
4.2	Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.	AP				

AP was not present at the meeting to address this action.

ACTION CARRIED OVER.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
7.1	<p>The meeting dates for 2015 were set as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 12 March Thursday 11 June Thursday 10 September Thursday 10 December <p>All meetings would be held at Club Central Menai commencing at 5:30pm, except for the September meeting which will be held on site at SITA's Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, commencing at 9am and including a tour of the site.</p>		
7.2	<p>A member related that in times gone by, CRG members could show their membership card and come to inspect any part of site unaccompanied.</p> <p>All agreed that this would no longer be a safe practice for SITA to allow.</p>		
7.3	<p>MG asked how long the exhibition period for the EIS would be.</p> <p>NR said that SITA would advise the community when this information was available, but it was likely to be between 30 and 60 days.</p> <p>MU added that the preliminary Environmental Assessment is already on the DPE website and is available for public viewing. This is a draft EIS in a sense. SITA are open at all times for queries and suggestions.</p> <p>Note to members: The Preliminary Environmental Assessment and other documents are currently available on the Department of Planning & Environment website at http://goo.gl/ci9LPR.</p>		
7.4	<p>GH asked if there was any update on ANSTO's agreement to SITA's proposal. GH said he was concerned that ANSTO may place requirements on the development that will result in changes to the proposal.</p> <p>NR replied that as far as ANSTO are concerned, SITA is only seeking an extension of the current lease under current terms.</p>		
7.5	<p>DE said she expected that the gun clubs would likely expand in the near future as a small bore rifle club at Peakhurst is soon to close, and</p>		

members need to maintain their activities to keep their licence.

- 7.6 GP asked if SITA would be adding more landfill on top of the PCYC area.
- KR showed a map of the site, which illustrated that the proposed landfill overtopping would be limited to within the footprint of the existing landfill, and would not encroach into the PCYC area.
-

- 7.7 GP said he believed that the older sections of the landfill which had been grassed were meant to be handed over to Council in 2016, and that he was disappointed that he spent so much time lobbying through the Woodward Mediation to find out now that the outcome of that mediation is no longer relevant. GP said he understood that the Council needs SITA's funding, and that Sydney needs facilities like this, but feels that he can't trust Council or the authorities after finding out that the long term plans for the site changed in the early 2000's without community advice.

GH added that the change in the early 2000's brings into question the Members of Parliament who were involved in the Woodward Mediation.

GP said he felt sorry for SITA having picked up such a "hot potato."

GH and GP said that many community groups were likely to be very disappointed that the grassed areas were no longer going to be handed back to the community in 2016, and said that SITA and Council would need to come up with a better offer for the community.

KR reiterated that the development proposal was still only in its very early stages, and that there would still be plenty of time for further consultation.

MU added that Council came to the table to negotiate with SITA thinking about the community, and that the \$100m figure is what the Council came up with – this is much more than would be expected normally from a development of this nature. MU said he had never heard of such a significant figure being donated to a local community. This contribution was to be spent on community related assets, and would not be given to any specific individuals in Council to curry favour.

GP said that most of the community's disappointment would be with Council and the State Government rather than with SITA.

GH added that SITA could give \$200m to the community and this still wouldn't fix the land handover issues.

- 7.8 NG said that local community sporting groups are in need of support, noting that she has been trying to get a \$10,000 grant for resurfacing her netball club's courts, but has had a lot of trouble with Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in trying to achieve this.
-

- 7.9 DE and IK asked who came to the Lucas Heights tour organised for Sutherland Shire Councillors.

NR replied that there had been two attendees.

MEETING CLOSED 7:15 PM

Next meeting: Thursday 12 March 2015, 5:30pm – Club Central Menai (Allison Crescent, Menai)

LUCAS HEIGHTS RRP

COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP



SITA ENVIRONMENTAL FEEDBACK HOTLINE: 1800 368 737
NSW EPA ENVIRONMENT LINE: 131 555

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Issue	Action	By
2.1	Amend the notes from the 24 November special meeting to include DE's question regarding the number of councils delivering to Lucas Heights.	GJ	Next meeting
6.1	Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.	AP	11/12/2014
Appendices	1) Operations & Environment Update presented by KR. 2) Presentation delivered by NR.		

APPENDIX 1 – OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENT UPDATE 11 DECEMBER 2014

SITE OPERATIONS

- Daily landfilling operations cell 5.2 west.
- Cell 5/3 Stage 1 West liner works completed - Contract value in excess of \$2.3m
- Contractors are attending two or more EQS toolbox meetings each month.
- Monthly EQS meeting are taking place with contractors to ensure a high standard of environmental and safety management/compliance is undertaken on site.
- Site has acquired its own UHF closed channel and installation of a repeater station is scheduled to improve communications within the site.
- New Site LTI board has been erected to reflect the separate divisions on site (located at entry of site, on right)

PCYC MINI-BIKE CLUB

Sutherland PCYC is now closed for the summer break.

For further details if required:

Michelle Nelson, Sutherland Club Manager
T 02 9521 5690 | F 02 9545 1352 | M 0458 486 690
Waratah Park, Eton Street (South), Sutherland NSW 2232

LANDFILL GAS MANAGEMENT

Ongoing maintenance works on site to repair and upgrade underperforming gas infrastructure is continuing. Increased maintenance on areas of intermediate cover, and around gas wells where possible emissions could occur.

NURSERY/PLANTING

The nursery would like to remind the community that they still donate plants. The nursery can be contacted via the Menai wild flower group with the below contact details:

Contact	Lloyd Hedges (Vice President) – 0406 901 631
Website	http://menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au/
E-mail	menaiwildflower@austplants.com.au

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Odour Notifications

The chart below illustrates odour notifications received from the community through our Environmental Feedback Hotline and the EPA pollution line. There were 1 for October, 1 for November and currently 0 complaints for December 2014.

The odour complaints per month for 2014 can be seen below in Figure 1.

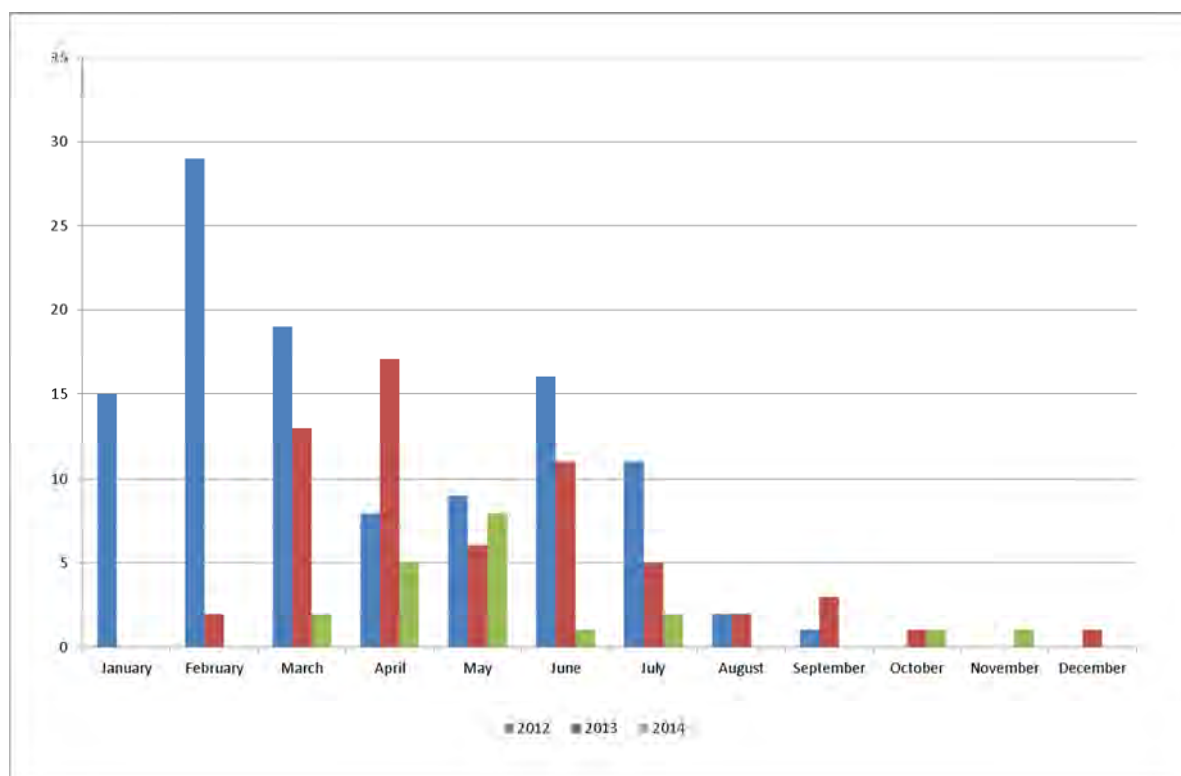


Figure 1: Odour complaints for 2014.

To mitigate any odour which may be present at LHRRP, the tip face has been reduced in size, waste is covered at the end of each day, deodouriser is being used on site and continuously operating during turning the organics products. The leachate and organics dams are being aerated and weather conditions are monitored for when possible odorous works are undertaken. Additional odour monitoring is undertaken in the mornings in and around the site to identify possible odour.

Gas and odour monitoring

The last landfill and organics monitoring rounds for gas and odour were undertaken in October 2014. The site was found to have low levels of surface gas with no area exceeding the EPL limit of 500 ppm methane.

Dust

Dust has been monitored each month at six (6) locations around the site. The 12 month average is currently below the limit aimed for of 4 g/m²/month as seen in Figure 3.

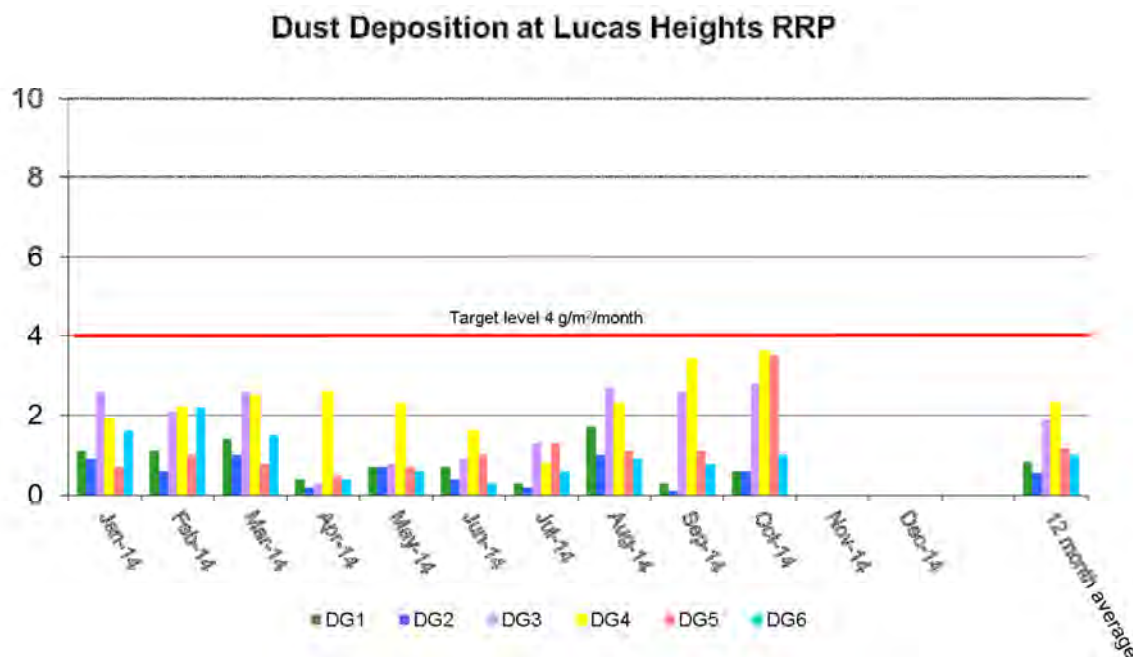


Figure 3: Monthly dust gauge readings from Jan 2013 – Present for LHRRP.

Leachate

The total volumes of leachate treated and sent to sewer during the reporting period were below the volumes agreed with Sydney Water of 1,200 m³/day as seen in Table 1 below.

Month	Quantity	Units
Aug 2014	500	m ³ /day
Sept 2014	707	m ³ /day
Oct 2014	598	m ³ /day
Nov 2014	565	m ³ /day

Table 1: Average volume of leachate treated per day at LH2.

Ground water

Analytical and field results from groundwater sampled during the September 2014 monitoring round were consistent with those from previous rounds with the following results shown in Table 2 below. No exceedances were detected in the boundary bores.

Monitoring Well	Turbidity		Total alkalinity		Total Dissolved Solids		Sulphate	
	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)	Jun 2014 (mg/L)	Sept 2014 (mg/L)
MB034	31	220	21	18	190	200	9	8
MB035	2300	4900	7	<1	180	200	9	12
MB038	1300	270	<1	<5	290	280	35	11
MB040	1900	200	17	16	190	190	8	7
MB041	57	49	<1	<1	200	180	51	52
MB306	45	120	5	5	200	240	8	7

Table 2: Ground Water Parameters from June - Sept 2014

Analytical results of typical indicators of leachate in groundwater (Ammonia as N and TOC) are shown in Table 3 below. The level of ammonia was found not to have exceeded the licence limit of 1 mg/L in the ground water bores.

Monitoring Well	Ammonia (mg/L)	Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)
MB008	<0.01	7
MB032	0.011	3
MB033	<0.01	1
MB034	<0.01	<1
MB035	0.038	2
MB038	0.022	2
MB039	Nt	Nt
MB040	0.014	39
MB041	0.073	3
MB305	<0.01	<1
MB306	<0.01	<1

Table 3: Groundwater readings of ammonia and total organic carbon from September 2014.
(Nt = Not Tested due to well being dry)

Access to Environmental Monitoring Reports

All environmental monitoring reports can be located at:

<http://www.sita.com.au/facility-reports/new-illawarra-road-environmental-reports>

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 11/06/2015)

Thursday, 12 March 2015 at 5:30pm

Chaired By: Gareth Jones

Club Central Menai – Allison Crescent, Menai

Note Taker: Gareth Jones

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia

- Phil Carbins (PC) – Sydney Landfills Manager
- Peter Hunt (PH) – Sydney Resource Recovery Manager
- Kim Ross (KR) – Landfill Manager
- Adam Philip (AP) – Compliance Officer
- Gareth Jones (GJ) – Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- Elle Davidson (ED) – Consultant (GHD)

Community Groups

- Lloyd Hedges (LH) – Menai Wildflower Group
- Greg Hoy (GH) – Cronulla Model Aero Club
- Warren Kay (WK) – Sutherland PCYC

Residents

- Jane Rouvray (JR) – Menai
- Ian Kolln (IK) – Como
- Nicole Greene (NG) – Illawong
- Dawn Emerson (DE) – Illawong
- Cliff Emerson (CE) – Illawong

Apologies

- John Ross (JoR) – Menai
- Graham Patterson (GP) – Barden Ridge
- Graham Miller (GM) – ANSTO
- Melanie Gibbons (MG) – Menai
- Nicolas Rampelbergs (NR) – SITA

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	By
1.1	GJ welcomed all in attendance. All present introduced themselves.		

2. ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
2.1	Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted with the following amendments: Item 4.6 GH noted that in the fourth paragraph, rather than '...as a directive from Sutherland Shire Council...' this phrase should read '...as a directive to Sutherland Shire Council...'. Notes to be corrected accordingly. Item 4.17 GH noted that during this part of the meeting it had been highlighted by a member that the definition of 'litter' required clarification. Notes to be changed to include this point. Item 7.2		

GH noted that the comment attributed to him had been made by another member. Notes to be changed from 'GH related that...' to read 'A member related that...'

3. OPERATIONS & ENVIRONMENT UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	By
3.1	<i>New Illawarra Rd Landfill</i>		
3.1.1	<p><i>KR presented the Operations Update included with these notes in Appendix 1.</i></p> <p>KR also reported that a couple of recent power station outages had occurred, during which time gas was flared rather than being used to power the engines. Also advised that there was a new corporate requirement to display statistics at the front gate identifying the current capacity and breakdown different waste.</p>		
3.1.2	LH reported that 3,000 plants were currently available for donation to local schools and community groups from Menai Wildflower Group's on-site Native Seedling Nursery at SITA's Lucas Heights facility. It was noted that the nursery is always looking for volunteers.		
3.1.3	<i>AP presented the Environment Updated included with these notes in Appendix 1.</i>		
3.1.4	DE reported that she had noticed an odour at the Menai Rd/New Illawarra Rd traffic lights at 9:45am on Monday 9 March, but did not report this to SITA's Environmental Feedback Hotline.		
3.1.5	<p>JR asked what additional measures are put in place during the odourous period from March to August indicated on the odour complaints graph.</p> <p>AP replied that during this time of the year additional odour patrols are conducted, and the size of the tip face is kept to a minimum. A new deodoriser chemical is also currently being trialled, along with a new system for covering the waste on the tip face. Gas collection infrastructure has also been recently inspected.</p> <p>KR added that new gas wells would soon be installed, which would improve gas capture rates and further reduce potential for odour. Any issues that arise are being rectified as soon as possible.</p> <p>DE added that increased odour was a problem every winter, with atmospheric effects keeping odour close to the ground.</p> <p>JR added that this also affects Engadine and Woronora heights.</p>		
3.1.6	<p>JR said that she had noticed in the site's Environmental Management Plans that the landfill EMP referred to 'no odour,' while the ORRF EMP referred to 'minimising' odour. Why can't 'no odour' apply to organics?</p> <p>KR replied that the EMPs available from the Department of Planning & Environment website, to which JR was referring, were still in draft form.</p>		

PC added that garden organics are odourous even before the point of collection. SITA's process is aimed at collecting and managing the impact of those odours to the best possible extent.

JR acknowledged that the situation has improved since SITA took over, but is not happy with the existing odour situation if it is expected to continue until 2037.

KR added that SITA were 'not just putting [their] hands in [their] pockets' –significant capital investment had been committed towards improving the site's environmental performance. Issues that may have been overlooked by previous management are now being addressed as soon as possible.

3.1.7 GH asked what other information about complaints is recorded.

GJ replied that SITA's complaint management system stores information regarding the location of the observation and the subjective strength rating (which can vary greatly between individuals), and that AP's investigations involve analysis of the wind strength and direction at the time of the odour observation.

KR added that SITA staff try to get out to the location of the observation immediately. Complaint reports are received instantly on completion of each call, enabling fast response. All complaints are reported by SITA to the EPA, even if false names or contact details are given by the caller.

3.1.8 DE asked if a map of the gas wells, dust monitors and groundwater bores could be provided.

AP explained that the locations of the groundwater bores don't correlate to odour.

KR added that there were over 550 gas wells currently in operation across the site, and approximately another 130 which were not currently operational.

KR explained that the gas flow and composition is monitored on each well, and individual wells showing unsuitable gas composition are turned down or switched off from time to time in order to maintain a constant fuel mix for the engines. Low methane levels can reduce the efficiency and affect the operation of the engines. Gas wells can also stop functioning for various other reasons including atmospheric pressure, physical collapse, blockage etc. Some are dual wells, which collect both leachate and gas. Having offline gas wells does not equate to any negative impact on the overall performance of the gas field.

3.1.9 AP demonstrated the locations of the groundwater bores on a large aerial photograph.

Note: Due to potential security and vandalism concerns, the exact locations of the groundwater monitoring wells, many of which are outside the site boundaries, cannot be disclosed to the general public. The map presented at the meeting is available to CRG members but will not be publicised more broadly or included as an appendix to meeting notes.

3.1.10 GH reported that he observes odour near the site every Sunday, but doesn't report it, as it is not common public knowledge which number

to call to report odours. GH suggested that SITA approach neighbouring community groups to assess their odour observations and increase awareness of feedback hotline.

SITA representatives and other members pointed out that the odour hotline is advertised on roadside signage along New Illawarra Rd.

3.2 Lucas Heights Organic Resource Recovery Facility (ORRF)

3.2.1 PH reported that summer is the peak period for garden organics, with grass growing quickly etc, and that this would slowly taper off over the next few months. As previously mentioned however, the peak odour season is now beginning due to weather impacts. SITA's focus is now on trying to get material in, keep it moving and maintain aerobic composting conditions in order to control and minimise odour. Safety toolbox meetings are being held every week, and regular odour patrols are being conducted. Several EPA visits have occurred recently, focusing on licence requirements, and had found no major issues. SITA are working closely with the EPA, who are happy with the operation of the site.

IK asked if the EPA conduct scheduled visits or unannounced checks.

PH replied that they do both, and that this happens at all similar sites around Sydney, not just SITA's Lucas Heights ORRF.

3.2.2 GH asked for the locations of the dust gauges to be added to AP's map for the next meeting.

Action	<i>Add the locations of dust gauges to the aerial photograph currently displaying groundwater monitoring wells.</i>	AP	Next meeting
---------------	---	----	--------------

4. DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
4.1	<p>PC reported that a significant amount of community engagement activity had taken place over recent months. The key topics discussed were traffic, odour and litter. All identified local community groups had been contacted and offered a meeting with SITA to discuss the proposal and any concerns and receive answers to any questions they may have.</p> <p>PC provided an update on the progress of the development timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) had been submitted in late November, at which point SITA immediately announced the proposal to the community and invited feedback. The SEARs had been issued in February and are publicly available on the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) website. Over December, January and February, SITA have been continuing to prepare the technical studies that support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which are now being finalised by GHD. 		

- All EIS documentation and studies will next need to be approved by Sutherland Shire Council as the joint applicant for the development, and also by ANSTO as the landholder of two-thirds of the site. SITA is currently engaging with both of these parties.
- When agreement is received with Council and ANSTO, the Development Application (DA) and EIS will be submitted to the DPE. DPE will then conduct an initial assessment to review and ensure all requirements had been covered in the EIS, or address any other identified issues.
- DPE will then announce a public consultation period (45-60 days) for the community to respond to the EIS documents. That exhibition period is a regulatory requirement – SITA commenced with a process of additional voluntary consultation in late November 2014.
- The DA and EIS are expected to be submitted in late April, with the regulatory exhibition period commencing in May. Depending on the DPE review and engagement with the community, the decision will be made at DPE's timing (outside SITA control).
- As members are aware, the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA), Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) between SITA and Sutherland Shire Council, and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) were all made publicly available very early in the development planning process. All of these documents, in updated form, will form part of the EIS documentation. The DPE will take into account the DA, EIS, VPA and EMPs.

4.2 JR said that while she couldn't make it to the previous meeting, she wants to have her great disappointment with SITA placed on record. JR feels 'hoodwinked' that SITA had told journalists and Council about the proposal before they told the CRG. JR feels that this is very poor practice, and like SITA was just 'ticking a box' in telling the CRG.

DE added that she felt that this was out of character for SITA, as they normally let the community know in advance of any developments.

PC said SITA will take these comments on board. The intention was to inform people of what was going on as early as possible. The process of seeking approval for the project still has not even started, as the DA still has not yet been submitted. The process of discussion and engagement with the community, DPE etc. is still continuing. Nothing will be triggered to create the project until the DA is submitted.

JR repeated her feeling that the CRG should have been informed earlier.

GH said that when the DA goes on public exhibition, there will be a lot of public comment against it, and not enough engagement has happened to date. There had been very little attendance at SITA's community information sessions. GH feels that SITA are only applying 'spin,' and noted that operating the CRG is a ministerial requirement.

The CRG should not be seen therefore simply as a gesture of good will, undertaken as a SITA initiative.

A CRG member noted that the newspaper coverage of SITA's proposal had been very noticeable.

4.3 GH reported that he had suggested an extraordinary meeting be held to discuss the SEARs following their release on 3 February, but that SITA had declined this request.

GJ explained that this had been declined due to the fact that the next regular meeting would be taking place very soon, and calling an extraordinary meeting would require members to attend at very short notice with no real benefit in moving the meeting earlier.

JR commented that SITA had called members to an extraordinary meeting at short notice to announce the proposal in late November.

4.4 DE asked if the \$100m community development contribution had been provided to Sutherland Shire Council yet, noting that she had recently observed road resurfacing works taking place near her home.

PC replied that this would not happen until after approval is given. The next step in the process is submission of the DA, and until consent is granted no further progress could occur. PC added that the money can only be spent on community service projects rather than routine maintenance.

JR noted that the schedule of community development contribution payments is outlined in the VPA.

4.5 NG commented that it would be good if someone from council could attend CRG meetings.

GJ replied that council representatives are always invited to CRG meetings, but on this occasion had not been able to attend.

4.6 GH reiterated that in the closing statements of the last meeting, he had stated that local community groups weren't averse to the project, but not at the expense of the community. Such groups are always willing to discuss proposals like these in a collaborative manner, and Cronulla Model Aero Club (CMAC) want to work with SITA as part of the CRG. GH does not believe this engagement process has been particularly effective.

4.7 KR noted that SITA had mentioned in previous meetings that some options for development of the site were being considered, including an advanced resource recovery technology (ARRT) facility, which had already received approval previously under WSN. There had been several conversations about an ARRT in previous meetings.

JR said she remembered those conversations but thought the idea had been taken off the table.

KR added that ANSTO had later withdrawn permission to use the land originally proposed for construction of the AWT.

4.8 GH said he felt there was no guarantee that ANSTO wouldn't decide to use the land currently proposed for parkland, preventing the parkland from being developed.

WK commented that this stage of the process is a good opportunity for the community to lobby for that to be part of the DA – this is where the CRG can contribute effectively in that manner.

-
- 4.9 JR said that the important issue was that the CRG and community had never heard anything about an extension to 2037. As a result, the surrounding areas have been significantly developed over recent years.
- PC noted that as of today, based on the current consent conditions, the site will close in 2025.
- JR said she had no doubt that the development would be approved, since there were no other practical options for disposal of the waste.
-
- 4.10 GH said he had been surprised that in a previous meeting SITA had said they were unaware of the Woodward report, given that the Woodward report is extensively referenced throughout SITA's own submission documents.
-
- 4.11 JR reported that she had received positive feedback from other members of the community for writing a letter to the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader. Members of the community had told her that they were not happy with SITA's engagement or the proposal, and felt that Lucas Heights will become the destination for the whole city's rubbish. The community are angry that the proposal is underway, and raised litter issues along Alfords Point Rd and Heathcote Rd, asking why SITA aren't picking it up. Community members had also raised concerns about odour and traffic. JR does not doubt that the technology used in the ARRT would be state-of-the-art, however the proposal 'came out of the blue.' The community feels that they have been tricked, and don't want the landfill's lifespan to be extended. Council's distribution of SITA's community development contribution also needs to be discussed with Council separately.
-
- 4.12 IK said that considering Council is a joint applicant and the local representative body, it was disappointing that Council had not consulted with the community before negotiating the VPA.
-
- 4.13 GH said he would like to see all community issues put on the table and worked through properly. The issue is how SITA's monetary contribution to Sutherland Shire Council would benefit local people in Menai who will have to put up with the ongoing impacts of the landfill. CMAC for example are in need of a longterm site and amenities. GH sees SITA's contribution to the Council as a way of satisfying the Council rather than properly addressing the issues at hand.
-
- 4.14 DE noted that when the Bangor Bypass was constructed, the RTA paid for the installation of air conditioning for local residents who would be adversely affected by traffic noise.
-
- 4.15 JR said that there were many community groups in the area who were in need of funding and support. JR just wants to make sure that the broader community receives a good deal.
- GH agreed that he thinks this is what the CRG is about. Money doesn't solve everything. Many groups in shire don't have appropriate space, and even with millions of dollars would not be able to buy a block of land big enough for their activities. Engagement is about consultation and collaboration, not just 'spin.' SITA should work with the community,
-

not against them, otherwise a barrage of opposition to the development will go from the rest of community directly to the government.

PC asked what processes GH would recommend to improve SITA's level of community engagement.

JR suggested SITA hold a stall at the local community markets or in shopping centres to be more visible.

NG suggested SITA attend local railway stations in the mornings to hand out information about the proposal.

GH said that rather than asking people to come to a consultation, SITA should try to be in the places that people are already visiting.

PC said that he accepted these points of view, but at the same time SITA had been working hard to ensure the information was widely broadcast. The proposal was featured on the front page of the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, which most people should see, and also advertised through letterbox drops to 11,000 households. The four Community Information Sessions, and the six scheduled community facility tours, were also advertised in the Leader. All of this however is only part of the engagement process – not the entire process – and there was more to come.

NG said she suspected people might wait until the DA was lodged before saying anything.

JR agreed and added that people are concerned but reluctant to say anything, as they feel that the community is 'stuck with it.'

GH said that many present at the meeting had been part of process for many years, and that the right people were in the room to avoid the discussion becoming an adversarial situation.

5. LUCAS HEIGHTS I UPDATE

Item	Discussion	Action	By
5.1	<i>No representatives from Sutherland Shire Council were present to provide an update on the Lucas Heights 1 / Barden Ridge site.</i>		

6. ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	By
6.1	From 11 December meeting:		
4.2	Provide map of monitoring points and wells to GH via email, and include same map with future Environmental Updates.	AP	

This action was addressed in Item 3.1.9.

ACTION CLOSED.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Item	Discussion	Action	By
7.1	GJ advised that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 11 June at Club Central Menai, followed by a meeting on Thursday 10 September at SITA's Lucas Heights facility, which would include a tour.		
7.2	<p>DE asked if a litter collection could be conducted along Alford's Point Rd.</p> <p>WK suggested 'work for the dole' programs might be able to do this.</p> <p>DE asked if this could be done on a regular basis.</p> <p>WK replied that such an activity would be up to Council.</p> <p>DE noted that WSN used to send litter collection crews out every month. More rubbish on roads leads to other degradation of local aesthetics.</p> <p>PC replied that SITA's responsibility in litter collection is limited to the site's immediate boundaries. These are roads controlled and maintained by Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) and as such are not even Sutherland Shire Council's responsibility. PC said he had seen crews doing litter collections recently. The State Government now have \$20m available for litter control programs, and a similar amount to combat illegal dumping.</p> <p>KR added that he communicates regularly with RMS, Council and the EPA regarding illegal dumping in the vicinity of site. The EPA recently introduced higher penalties, and have a new litter reporting app.</p> <p>WK said dumping and litter were similar issues in that if they were not cleaned up quickly, other people would dump/litter in the same place. WK has never seen Heathcote Rd as bad as it is now.</p> <p>DE said she was more concerned about litter being blown out of trucks travelling to the tip.</p> <p>JR said that while it might not be SITA's responsibility, the community sees it as SITA's responsibility.</p> <p>GH noted a recent ABC radio comment that increasing tip fees are the reason for increased dumping.</p> <p>PC noted that when the State Government are allocating \$20m to address litter issues, they are recognising that it is not just a local issue. Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) was also announced last month, which is another sign that litter is recognised as being a statewide problem.</p> <p>PC added that there is a perceived correlation between illegal dumping and the location of landfills, but in reality illegal dumping occurs all over the city, not just near landfills.</p> <p>WK noted that the Australian Federal Police (AFP) had been doing a lot of patrols to catch dumpers on ANSTO property.</p> <p>DE said she always used to report illegal dumping in the past and this did keep the problem under control to some extent.</p>		

GH suggested that fines and surveillance need to be increased, and said he would like to know when litter and dumping patrols took place and how many people were being prosecuted.

DE asked if SITA still conduct litter patrols.

PC replied that KR and AP drive around local roads every day and note any environmental issues, with any dumping reported to Council.

KR added that just before Christmas a customer with a load of garden organics didn't want to pay the disposal fee. Another customer followed them out of the site and observed them dumping the load on a nearby road. Unfortunately the dumper could not be prosecuted, but was given a strong warning by the EPA. Recently the Highway Patrol had also followed a vehicle in with an insecure load and issued a \$1200 fine. SITA often reports dumping to EPA, RMS and Council.

DE said she had seen paper being blown out of trucks with canvas covers.

JR noted that Sutherland Shire residents receive two free garden organics drop-offs every year.

- 7.3 WK said he had heard that a proposal was put through for an off-leash dog area near the PCYC site, and pointed out that dogs and motorbikes do not mix. On 3 out of every 4 Sundays, 30-60 riders can be on the PCYC endurance and skills training track at any time. There would need to be a significant buffer zone.

PC replied that a location within the Barden Ridge complex had been proposed for the off-leash dog area, rather than near the PCYC site.

MEETING CLOSED 7:15 PM

Next meeting: Thursday 11 June 2015, 5:00pm – Club Central Menai (Allison Crescent, Menai)

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Issue	Action	By
3.2.2	Add the locations of dust gauges to the aerial photograph currently displaying groundwater monitoring wells.	AP	Next meeting

Appendices 1) Operations & Environment Update presented by AP & KR.

MEETING NOTES (APPROVED 09/07/2015)

Thursday 11 June 2015 at 5:30pm	Chaired By: Gareth Jones (SITA)
Club Central Menai – 44-60 Allison Crescent, Menai	Note Taker: Gareth Jones (SITA)

ATTENDEES

SITA Australia / SUEZ environnement

- Phil Carbins (PC) – Sydney Landfills Manager
- Kim Ross (KR) – New Illawarra Rd Landfill Manager
- Pat Keating (PK) – Lucas Heights Organics Manager
- Adam Philip (AP) – Compliance Officer
- Nicolas Rampelbergs (NR) – Project Manager
- Luke Schepen (LS) – Corporate Affairs Manager
- Gareth Jones (GJ) – Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Community Groups

- Lloyd Hedges (LH) – Menai Wildflower Group
- Greg Hoy (GH) – Cronulla Model Aero Club

Sutherland Shire Council

- Ian Drinnan (ID) – Principal Environmental Scientist
- Gregor Smith (GS) – Building Assets Manager
- Cr Steve Simpson (SS) – E Ward / Liberal
- Cr Peter Towell (PT) – E Ward / Shire Watch Independents

GHD

- David Gamble (DG)
- Michael Ulph (MU)

Residents

- Jane Rouvray (JaR) – Menai
- Ian Kolln (IK) – Como
- Nicole Greene (NG) – Illawong
- Dawn Emerson (DE) – Illawong
- John Ross (JoR) – Menai

State Member for Heathcote

- Lee Evans MP (LE)

Apologies

- Graham Patterson (GP) – Barden Ridge

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

1 WELCOME AND AGENDA

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
1.1	GJ welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies were noted.		

2 ACCEPTANCE OF NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
2.1	Notes from the previous meeting were accepted, incorporating amendments suggested by GH prior to the meeting.		

3 OPERATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT UPDATES

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
3.1	The Operations updates and Environment update was tabled and provided to members in hardcopy. The document is included as Appendix A.		

4 MAJOR DISCUSSION: LUCAS HEIGHTS RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK PROJECT

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
4.1	<p>MU explained that GHD has been engaged to prepare the EIS for the project, and also to assist with the stakeholder engagement and community consultation process, which is part of MU's role. DG has been overseeing the development of the EIS along with SITA staff and Council staff, which has involved many months' work to date. This meeting forms another part of the community consultation process, with the purpose being to receive further feedback now that the draft EIS has been prepared.</p> <p>PC provided a summary of the key milestones and progress of the project to date. The expansion project had been developed by SITA and presented to Council for endorsement to proceed in April 2013. These earlier stages were confidential negotiations with council. The outcome was the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), an early draft of which is included with the draft EIS. The State Significant Development (SSD) support documentation was also prepared at the same time – these documents describe the project, announce the intentions to the Department of Planning & Environment (DPE), and request EIS requirements from the DPE (known as the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements or SEARS). The document could become public knowledge on 24 November, which was the day of the special CRG meeting to announce the project and its progress at that point. The community consultation process began that day. 10,000 brochures were sent out to the immediately surrounding suburbs. Three community information sessions were advertised and held at the beginning of December. Significant work has been undertaken by consultants over the last 6 months to prepare the EIS. Engagement had taken place with council on the suite of documents. SITA are now finalising the EIS and seeking to obtain Council approval so that they can sign the DA as a joint applicant. The VPA includes a number of benefits to council, including price preferential treatment, reserved landfill input capacity, first right of refusal for processing of garden organics, and a range of environmental commitments. Upon reaching final capacity, it is proposed that the site be turned into parkland similar to the existing development consent, however under the new proposal the size and scale of the parklands will be 25ha larger than what is currently approved. SITA will also need ANSTO consent to proceed as the owner of approximately two thirds of the site. The documents distributed thus far are in draft form only and not to be considered final. After submission of the EIS, the final documents will be available on the DPE website for exhibition and accessible to everyone for review. At that point DPE will be able to receive submissions and assess the project for approval. There is now a significant period of work ahead to finalise the technical studies and analysis. There is still some way to go yet before the project may be submitted for approval by the State Government.</p>		
4.2	<p>JaR noted that while SITA had commissioned the distribution of 10,000 brochures, she and many others didn't receive these.</p> <p>PC replied that this was a known issue and had been followed up with Australia Post.</p> <p>JoR and NG said they received the brochure.</p> <p>MU added that he had made and paid for the Australia Post bookings, and organised for the printers to deliver to the Australia Post distribution centre.</p>		

-
- 4.3 JaR suggested that the number of people who attended the community information sessions be added to the slides.
NG noted that this information was included in the EIS.
DE added that the timing of these sessions had been bad, not long before Christmas.
MU replied that the sessions were on the 4th & 6th of December, which is not that close to Christmas. The sessions were also advertised through local newspapers. The proposal did receive a lot of media interest, and was featured on the front page of the Sutherland Shire Leader.
JaR said that the newspaper image should have shown the garbage in the active landfill rather than the parkland proposed for the landfill after closure.
PC noted that the photograph in the newspaper was taken on site.
-
- 4.4 JaR added that she felt the special CRG meeting held on Monday 24 November was an insult, as the Council and local journalists were already aware of the proposal. The meeting was called at very short notice.
PC replied that the VPA agreement between Sutherland Shire Council and SITA committed specific benefits to council, and required confidentiality until the proposal could be announced to the public. The CRG were informed of the proposal before any other members of the public.
-
- 4.5 JaR asked what percentage of the waste brought to the site would be from other councils.
PC replied that the waste sources were discussed in the EIS, however exact waste volumes and sources in the future were not known as it is a competitive market. This facility will provide services to Sydney – not just the Shire.
-
- 4.6 PT asked when the Eastern Creek landfill is expected to close.
PC replied that the Eastern Creek landfill is expected to close in 2017. The next closest landfill for putrescible waste is Woodlawn, which is approximately 200km south.
PT asked what percentage of Sydney's waste Lucas Heights would be taking as of 2017.
PC said he would take this question on notice.
-
- 4.7 JoR said that holding the information sessions during day was not inclusive enough.
MU replied that the sessions were held at different times on different days of the week, including on a weekday evening and on a Saturday, in order to give opportunities to as many people as possible.
-
- 4.8 GH said he was concerned by the consultation process, particularly in that consultation is discussed in the EIS but the underpinning information was not present.
PT added that he was unable to attend any of the sessions due to work, council and family commitments.
MU replied that these factors were the basis for also having a website, a dedicated 1800 information number, and a dedicated email address.
GH reported that he had called the 1800 number and the staff didn't know anything about the information sessions.
-

-
- 4.9 SS noted that Council always gets blamed that consultation on projects is insufficient, and asked what members present would want to see as consultation, and how they would like it advertised. It is an ongoing problem. Yes, 9 people is not enough, but SITA have made genuine attempts.
- LS added that the consultation program was developed in conjunction with Council. SITA had been surprised at the limited attendance given the extensive advertising, letterbox drop etc. Community consultation is very unpredictable – sometimes hundreds of people will participate, while at other times only a small number of people will respond. The number of people who attended the Community Information Sessions and facility tours has been included in the EIS in the interest of full disclosure. More Community Information Sessions will be held later in the process, perhaps in shopping centres.
- JaR said she had previously suggested shopping centre stands.
- PT added that the proposal is as significant as the Bangor Bypass, for which the RTA rented a small shopfront as a drop-in information centre. This is what should be emulated. People need to understand what is going on.
- LS replied that appreciation needed to be given to the intricacies of timing, confidentiality with Council etc. SITA are taking this feedback on board.
- PT suggested a shopfront information centre would be appropriate, given the amount of money the State Government will receive in waste levies from the project.
- MU reported that a Community Information Session had been set up on a Saturday morning in the largest shopping centre in the community, and no-one had turned up despite extensive advertising.

-
- 4.10 PC explained that the community consultation activities relating to the Bangor Bypass development had taken place during the formal consultation process, which happened after the EIS was submitted for approval. The Lucas Heights development is at a much earlier stage in the process, and all of the community consultation that has taken place so far has been prior to the EIS being finalised and submitted. This is an ongoing consultation process that will continue after the EIS is submitted and the formal consultation takes place. What has been done to date is unusual and in addition to what would normally take place for a development of this nature. The process also still has a long way to go.

-
- 4.11 GH said he felt that the language used in the EIS to describe the response to community consultation efforts should include words like “regrettably”, “unfortunately” etc.
- SS said that while he keeps hearing about who didn’t turn up, and who didn’t have the opportunity to participate, the reality is that the process was in place to provide opportunities for people to get there and get information. That’s what Council and corporations like Woolworths do for their developments.
- GH replied that SITA are constantly talking about the efforts they have made, but not acknowledging that the process hasn’t seemed to work so far.
- PC replied that perhaps SITA did get it right and that the reality may be that there is not that much willingness to engage.
-

SS suggested that the CRG discuss the consultation process and agree on the process before it commences.

4.12 PC advised that the EIS is now developed in draft, and the goal is to meet the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which were received in February following SITA's submission of the preliminary State Significant Development proposal documents. CRG members had been provided with Volumes 1 and 6 of the draft EIS. Volumes 2-5 contain the details of the technical studies, including methodologies, assessments and outcomes. These volumes are summarised and consolidated in Volume 1, which has been provided to CRG members as a starting point.

4.13 PC explained the modelled traffic impacts, which showed that there would not be a significant increase in traffic, and that the development would not affect the performance of Heathcote Rd or New Illawarra Rd, nor create any additional delays. An impact had been forecast on the waiting time required when trucks turned out of the facility, and it had been found that longer delays may result if all 3 facilities were simultaneously operating at their maximum capacity, however the delays would not exceed acceptable standards.

4.14 JaR noted that the report had found that there would be increased traffic during construction, and asked how long this period would last. Also, the report had only examined peak hour traffic over a 1 hour period, and didn't include any information on the Bangor Bypass intersection. The report also didn't examine exhaust braking noise which is already a problem. How many of the additional vehicles will be the new large green trailers? These are noisy and uncomfortable to drive around.

MU replied that this was very good feedback.

PC advised that there was insufficient time in this meeting to address these important issues properly, but that they would be taken on notice for the next meeting.

GH added that the number of additional trucks seems like a lot, and asked if this meant a large increase in incoming waste.

JaR added that if people knew it would be 32 more trucks per hour, all of which were to be large trailers with loud exhaust braking noise, they would not be happy and would start objecting.

PC replied that there would be traffic growth all over Sydney in the future, and that this development would only make a very small and insignificant impact to existing traffic levels, however the feedback is being taken on board.

4.15 PC reported that extensive analysis and modelling had been conducted to a very high level of detail, well beyond the level analysis that has been done for any other waste facility he knows of. This is partly because of the current concerns around odour, and partly because of the use of a range of different techniques. Volume 1 of the EIS demonstrated that compared to current operations, the proposed development will actually reduce the odour impact on the surrounding community. Improved operations would be implemented on the site, with additional ongoing gas capture, and completion of final capping. The garden organics facility will be relocated to the Heathcote Rd side of the site, further away from residents, and upgraded from an open windrow system to a concrete bunker construction with aerated floors and breathable membranes covering the material. This represented a significant change from current operations, and would result

in a significant reduction in odours. The ARRT facility will be fully enclosed and under negative air pressure, with all air from inside the building being treated through a biofilter. The odour modelling had been conducted based on a 'worst case scenario', assuming all facilities were operating at full capacity, and assuming 99th-percentile worst weather conditions.

- 4.16 JaR asked why odours had not been modelled using a receptor at Menai. DE asked why a receptor in Engadine North had been used as the basis for the odour survey when the report indicated winds were mostly SE and SW. The modelling should be done using receptors to the NW and NE. PC replied that a number of receptor locations had been simulated in different residential areas, including Barden Ridge and Menai. PC explained that the odour modelling considers all wind directions, not just one; night time, day time; adverse weather conditions etc. There are two parts to the modelling – how the odour is generated (including its character and strength), and where it goes. The odour modelling assessed the situation at a number of phases, for example when the garden organics facility is still located on the western side, after it is moved to the eastern side, and when landfilling operations are in progress at various different locations around the site. The modelling shows that the strength of the odour (measured in Odour Units) decreases with distance from the site. ID added that 252 pages in the EIS had been dedicated to air quality.
-

- 4.17 PC explained that the VPA outlines a unique and comprehensive complaint management process, under which certain numbers of complaints will trigger internal investigations at different levels. This represented significant and strong commitments by SITA, and had been negotiated and agreed with Council.
-

- 4.18 JaR asked what is meant by "landfill over previous landfill areas." Does this mean the landfill will be excavated and refilled? PC explained that the proposal involves overtopping existing landfill surface. This will require removal of the capping material, but would not involve disturbing or removing the waste already present.
-

- 4.19 PC explained that litter and illegal dumping is an issue which affects everyone everywhere and has challenging impacts. Council has significant concerns around this issue too. SITA will be ensuring that the active tipping face continues to be covered at the end of daily activity. Portable litter nets will continue to be used around the tip face. Regular litter patrols are and will be carried out around the boundary and nearby roads. All trucks accessing the site must be covered with their tailgates secured. DE commented that litter can be spilled from trucks, and she has also observed a significant amount of illegal dumping in Illawong. PC replied that any trucks dumping waste illegally are not SITA trucks and not carrying waste for SITA. SITA are nevertheless working with Council to develop strategies to try to manage this. JaR commented that if the tip closed then illegal dumping would not be such an issue. SS replied that if the tip closed the Sutherland Shire would have a very rapidly increasing waste bill, and ratepayers would have to fund it. We need to have access to a landfill, and since the Lucas Heights landfill is here we need to use it and make the most of it.
-

GH replied that while this was the case, increased landfill costs would be shared among ratepayers across Sydney.

DE said that local residents are proud of the area and their homes, and don't like their friends seeing illegally dumped rubbish when they visit.

NG added that there is a lot of other litter around, and not all is related to the Lucas Heights landfill.

GH noted that there is a significant amount of illegal dumping rather than litter on Heathcote Rd.

PC said that the State Government are investing \$58m in programs to combat litter and illegal dumping across the state.

ID reported that Council has recently joined the 'RID Squad,' a regional program to manage illegal dumping, and is partnering with adjoining Councils to help improve surveillance and prosecution on a regional basis. Sutherland Shire Council are developing better intelligence and operational relationships with adjoining councils as a result of the program, which involves a \$150,000 per annum commitment, shared 50/50 between Council and the State Government. The program has been running for a number of years.

DE said she had been informed that dumping is 'not a Council problem.'

SS replied that this was the case for main roads, which are not Council's jurisdiction, but rather that of the State Government.

GH commented that illegal dumping is an issue which will not go away anytime soon, and Council, SITA and the State Government need to work together. Fines need to be issued and people need to be caught so precedents are set and a deterrent exists.

PC added that the EPA received new powers late last year to help combat illegal dumping.

GH said he had observed that dumping was more prevalent around the tip and in lower socio-economic areas.

4.20 JoR asked for an explanation of the process by which garden organics enters and leaves the concrete bunkers.

PC explained that garden organics will be shredded and placed in the bunkers, which will be fitted with aerated floors, and the material will be covered with breathable membranes. This system assists with the management of odours and degradation during the early phases of composting.

JoR asked if a spike in odour would be released when the covers were lifted to allow new material to be added.

PC replied that the technical study examines the process by which wastes will be received and handled. Volume 1 of the EIS is only a summary. The key outcomes are identified in the summary document, and when the EIS becomes publicly available then the full suite of documents will become fully available for comprehensive review.

4.21 PC provided a summary of the noise study, which had found that noise would not be a significant issue at any time during construction or operation.

4.22 PC explained that as the landfill is completed and capped, the surface will be grassed and blend in further with surrounding landscapes.

JaR asked if this will take place in 2037.

PC said that the finished parts of the landfill will be progressively revegetated during operation as each area is completed.

- 4.23 PC explained that the reprofiling of the landfill surface will improve environmental outcomes by shedding stormwater and reducing leachate generation. Flooding and other impacts on Mill Creek have been assessed. DE asked if drainage has been improved on site following a recent accident. PC replied that the past drainage issues have been resolved. Lessons learned at Lucas Heights recently have also resulted in improvements at other SITA sites.
-

- 4.24 PC explained that the final landform will incorporate grasslands with landscaped sections. The overall size of the site is about two thirds the size of Centennial Park (149ha). Under the current approval, the garden organics facility will continue to operate forever, even after the parkland is developed on the rest of the site. Under the new proposal the garden organics facility will stop operating when the landfill closes. JaR asked what guarantee exists that the landfill's lifespan won't be extended again in the future. SS replied it is impossible to know what the future holds on these matters.
-

- 4.25 GH commented that the community has been waiting for the land to be made available for recreational use but the date keeps getting pushed back. SS replied that Sutherland Shire already has many playing fields and something like 97 recreational parklands. There is not a shortage of playing fields – this land is what we're talking about, not playing field availability.
-

- 4.26 PC presented cross-sections of the proposed final landform, indicating that the slopes will be very gentle. 35% of the park area will be at a 5-10% grade, 24% will be at a 10-18% grade, and 3% will be at an 18-25% grade. DE asked what height the peak would be above sea level. PC replied that the peak would be 180m above sea level. PC added that two identified possible future uses include aeromodelling and dog training, but future use is subject to ANSTO and Council requirements. These uses could also include archery, equestrian, off-leash dog areas etc. Aeromodelling will be specifically allocated an area along the northern boundary, and this is documented in the EIS.
-

- 4.27 JaR said that her reading of the draft EIS has led her to conclude that there would be more pain than gain for the local community. NG added that Council should commit something to the community, perhaps in the form of a specific dollar amount from contribution that could be allocated specifically to the Menai area. SS reported that \$20m has been allocated to the local area for new capital works. Many items have been brought forward for consideration but no decisions have been made on individual projects to be funded. When the previous landfill was closed, it was turned into a \$122m sporting complex that the area would never have received if it wasn't for the tip.
-

DE commented that the Menai area has to put up with 100% of the problems that come with having a landfill nearby, and are only receiving 20% of the money.

SS replied that if a new entertainment centre was built in Sutherland, Menai residents would benefit from this even if it wasn't in Menai.

IK commented that the State Government will receive \$100m in landfill levies per year, and that some of this should come back to the Menai community.

GH said that the issue around allocation of funds is something that needs to be discussed in a separate forum between the community and the Council, as it is outside of the scope of SITA and GHD.

-
- 4.28 GH said he had many questions on the EIS, including the cost of maintaining such a large parkland area, and the reasoning behind shutting down the garden organics facility in 20 years if it is something that provides a service. Such a facility could be ongoing concern for community, providing jobs etc.

ID replied that in the VPA, a clause says that in 2035 SITA and Council would sit down again and review the longterm plans. The opportunity does exist to consider keeping the garden organics facility going, among other longterm possibilities.

-
- 4.29 GH said he had noticed in the consultation section of the EIS a claim that 18 local community organisations had been contacted by email, however he knows of several organisations listed who say they haven't been contacted.

LS replied that all correspondence has been logged and recorded, and the details of letters and emails sent can be provided.

GJ added that the publicly advertised contact details for all of these groups had been used.

-
- 4.30 JaR asked why the Eastern Creek or Spring Farm facilities were not being expanded, and why Councils on the Northern Beaches for example weren't building their own facilities.

PC replied that the Eastern Creek landfill will close in 2017 when it reaches its final capacity, and no opportunities remain for further expansion. The Spring Farm landfill does not take putrescible waste and as such is not suitable for the same type of waste received at Lucas Heights. The Belrose landfill reached its final capacity in 2014. Veolia's Woodlawn landfill, near Goulburn, still has capacity for some time into the future. A group of Northern Beaches Councils are in fact examining the possibility of building a new waste processing facility at Kimbriki which would accept and process the same type of waste that Lucas Heights currently receives.

PC added that he recognised the question of "where's it coming from, and why is it coming to Lucas Heights?" SITA have looked at this in terms of ensuring that the solution for Sydney has as minimal impacts on the local community as possible going forward. No-one wants to manage waste in their own local area, but Lucas Heights is an appropriate location.

SS commented that in some ways the landfill is similar to the desalination plant – it could have gone to 1,000 different areas but it came to the Shire because the State Government chose the location. The Council could have said no and fought against it, but the needs of the State overrule the needs of the Shire. Not every deal is a good outcome for everyone. It is necessary

to balance competing needs of different parties. Council can negotiate on specifics, but it's a democratic process.

PC noted that the outcomes of the development will be far better than what would have been achieved to date without Council's involvement. Council has worked very hard to achieve a much better outcome than what SITA had originally envisaged.

-
- 4.31 JaR said that she feels like the Council and the State Government have "just rolled over" on the community.
- ID said that his objective in the project, if it proceeds, is for Lucas Heights to be the best-run waste management facility in Australia.
- MU added that the State Government still need to assess the proposal and will need community input. Community submissions are encouraged during the exhibition period.

-
- 4.32 JoR asked what proportion of the EIS had been based only on desktop assessments.
- DG replied that analysis of this level can't be done simply from a desk. GHD had fauna & flora experts survey the site, noise auditors assess various locations, and air quality experts examine the processes used on the site. Baseline levels were required in order to do the modelling, which involved an exhaustive program of collecting data. This is one of the most comprehensive EIS processes ever undertaken in the country. The measurements on odour and other impacts far exceed any other EIS DG has ever seen. Council has had a significant role in assisting the process to reach the necessary level of detail. There is a long way yet from the finish line however. GHD are listening to the comments today, and will go back and think about anything that needs more detail and/or needs to be incorporated into the EIS.

-
- 4.33 JoR asked when the exhibition period is expected to start.
- PC replied that the document is being fine-tuned now with Council, and will incorporate tonight's comments and others. The final draft will then be put to Council, who will need to support it and approve the signing of the DA as the joint proponent. Submission and exhibition is getting closer now and could be as early as July. The DA cannot be submitted without Council support. Any landfill activity, under waste legislation, must be assessed by the State Government as a State Significant Development. The host council at that point can support or oppose it as a stakeholder, but in this particular project Council's input is addressed upfront and this strengthens the overall outcomes of the project.

-
- 4.34 PT said he was under the impression that the State Government could continue with it even if Council didn't agree with it.
- PC replied that this is not the case – the project relies on Council to proceed, and cannot go ahead without Council support. This is a follow-on from the Commission of Inquiry, which required that any future development on the site must be jointly applied for by Council.
- SS added that under the new proposal, Council is a partner in the DA, and as such has a say in how the development goes ahead.
- PC recommended PT seek clarification on this issue from within Council.

-
- 4.35 GH asked what SITA will personally do for the local community.
-

PC replied that SITA is providing a \$100m contribution to the Council, some of which will be allocated to the Menai community.

GH responded that in SITA's Community Grants program, only \$3,000 went to the local community last year.

LS replied that a new round of grants is now being assessed. Many applications have been received from the Sutherland LGA.

GJ added that approximately \$100,000 was supplied to the Sutherland community every year in the form of sporting and other community sponsorships, approximately half of which is targeted to the Menai area.

- 4.36 JaR asked if there is still a chance of real change being brought about by the community if the consultation takes place after the EIS is submitted, or if consultation at that point would really just be about providing information. ID explained that the EIS needs to be fully developed before it is provided to the wider community so that all of the relevant information is available. At this stage only bits and pieces are ready and much material has not yet been publicly released. A small amount of consultation is being conducted beforehand to make sure the EIS is covering the issues of most concern to the community, but the main consultation will start after the EIS is submitted when the information can be made available to the community. The community will then provide feedback to DPE, who will crystallise submissions and return them to SITA and Council in the form of requirements for modifications to the DA in response to these submissions. The proposal will then be modified, and that is what will be submitted to DPE in the end for final approval.
- JaR asked if people will have to go through the whole EIS.
- MU replied that if anyone has a particular concern they will be able to find the right information within the EIS without reading the entire suite of documents.
- ID added that the proponent is required to respond to all feedback received during the consultation phase. A further report will be prepared assessing how the proposal has been modified to address community concerns. The issues raised by the CRG are the issues the rest of community will raise, and the same issues Council has been raising too. SITA may also be required by DPE to make further revisions to address any concerns not properly addressed in the revised DA.
-

- 4.37 JaR requested that before the next public consultation happens, the details of venues and times of consultation sessions could be made available, and the information in the EIS could be put into accessible form for people to review.
- LS said that much work had already been done on attempting to make the details of the proposal accessible for as many people as possible. More information is also on the SITA website.
-

- 4.38 GH said that Councillors are waiting for feedback from CRG members. Providing information on the EIS in "drip feed" form makes it hard to evaluate the overall project. The CRG should have been informed about the proposal earlier.
- PC replied that the draft EIS was only prepared in the form that was sent to CRG members the same week that it was distributed – as soon as it was ready. CRG members have the document before anyone else has it, in a form that makes sense. Prior to that it was various interlinked studies. The
-

preparation of such a significant document can't happen overnight and couldn't happen without the SEARs, which were only received in February.

LS added that there were very tight time frames around the initial announcement – the CRG were briefed before anyone else in the community, but admittedly we would have liked to have been able to do it earlier.

DG added that the process of preparing an EIS is quite complex. It starts with the general idea of the proposal for the site – a document was initially issued to Council explaining the proposal to overtop of landfill, build an ARRT and move the garden organics facility. Since then, SITA and GHD have been refining the original idea, testing it against odour/noise modelling etc, and if it didn't meet criteria we had to go back and adjust the design to meet community expectations. It has been a continuous process of refinement – that's why the full information hasn't been available until now. It has taken months to finalise the studies. The documents issued now are result of all of those efforts. The technical studies are very detailed – Volume 1 provides enough information for people with some knowledge to understand, while people with greater technical knowledge will be able to get the information they need from the studies. Consultation requires us to answer all questions received, and no question is unreasonable. A link will be placed on the SITA website to the DPE website at the appropriate time, along with more detailed and up-to-date information on the proposal.

4.39 IK asked if Council will make the EIS available in physical form, as these would be much easier to read than digital documents.

ID replied that hardcopies will be available at Council and local libraries, which is the standard process. Significant development applications are usually lodged with DPE, who send copies to the host Council for public exhibition.

MU added that the DPE will receive submissions during the exhibition period and these would then be sent back to the proponent for responses.

4.40 JoR said he would like to have input into the consultation plan for the exhibition period, and asked how the CRG could do this if the next CRG meeting is after submission of the DA.

MU replied that forward-thinking organisations consult early and often, and this is the basis on which GHD have worked with SITA. Getting feedback now means can it be incorporated into EIS before exhibition, rather than just waiting until exhibition.

LS added that a section in the community consultation report in the EIS has a summary of the issues raised. If you feel as a stakeholder that your concern is not raised, bring it up and we will put it in.

SS replied that the issue is more about how and where you consult.

LS noted that the proposed exhibition period community consultation plan is summarised in the EIS, and invited feedback from the group.

NG suggested consulting at train stations.

LS said that shopping centres were often good options.

DE suggested sandwich boards advertising drop-in information sessions.

LS noted the previous newspaper advertisements and mail drop.

DE said sandwich boards could be more effective as mail drops are often thrown out as junk mail.

DE added that perhaps theatre ads would help reach more people.

JaR suggested advertising on Facebook.

PT suggested renting a shopfront as an ongoing information centre, and said that this doesn't seem unreasonable given this was done for the Bangor Bypass. This would be always open, and people would know they can come in anytime.

LS said the group will consider this, but will need to balance cost with effectiveness.

JaR said that many people will be upset about the proposal but will be reluctant to participate in consultation. Representatives need to be in a public place and be visible.

PT suggested setting up a stand in a shopping centre on a weekend. People are busy with work and family commitments. The consultation measures so far have been difficult for people to access, and it would be easier to reach people when they're doing their grocery shopping. It is important to get people properly informed.

LS replied that if the exhibition period looks like it will happen prior to the next CRG meeting, SITA will find another way to consult on the consultation plans prior to exhibition period.

4.41 GH said he had previously proposed that CRG meetings be made monthly rather than quarterly.

PC replied that he would be happy to take this suggestion on board on the basis that questions could be provided to SITA in advance of the meeting, so that time was available to examine the questions and develop responses.

PT suggested that the CRG be invited to put forward items for discussion.

PC said that the process of broad engagement can happen through exhibition of the EIS. The EIS cannot be made publicly available until it is finished.

PC proposed that the community consultation process undertaken during the exhibition period be agreed with the CRG at next meeting, which would be moved forward so that it was prior to submission of the EIS. Then when the full set of documents can be publicly available, the agreed community consultation process would commence.

4.42 PT asked what the point of the earlier Community Information Sessions and other activities was if the final information was not yet known.

PC replied that purpose of those early engagement efforts was to announce the overall intention of the project and get a sense of community reactions, concerns, questions etc. Admittedly there was not a strong response, but that doesn't change the next steps. The normal practice is to develop the EIS and submit DA, and then start consulting – we chose to consult earlier.

LS added that the purpose was also to raise awareness of the proposal, which it did seem to do. Everyone was surprised at the limited response received, given the very strong communications plan.

IK said he was not surprised at the lack of response, since most people in the broader community don't care about council plans like this.

4.43 GH commented that there were fundamental differences between community consultation and collaboration, which involves working together

to agree on the best outcome for all parties. It is better to have consultation in the CRG than to go to the State Government and lodge an EIS which doesn't address those concerns and then be bombarded in the exhibition period.

4.44 GH asked if the site will be fenced and gated to prevent access by unauthorised persons.
PC replied that this is currently the case and will continue to be the case.

4.45 GH asked what is proposed for the nearby nightsoil landfill area.
ID replied that this is partly within the ANSTO buffer, and as such is owned by ANSTO. There are several lots to the east which were also at one time subject to nightsoil filling – these are Crown land, and were under Council control at one point but are now under Crown control again.

4.46 GH asked if the Environmental Feedback Hotline could be advertised more widely, as there was only one sign outside the site displaying this number.
GJ advised that there were at least two signs along New Illawarra Rd which advertised this number. A national signage overhaul is also underway, and it is expected that the Environmental Feedback Hotline will be more prominent on the new signs for all of SITA's NSW facilities.

4.47 SS commented that it appeared that SITA have had more time to present their information than to hear the views of the community representatives. A more collaborative approach should be taken by both sides.

4.48 PC advised that the next meeting would be brought forward to Thursday 9 July. Questions provided in advance will be responded to prior to the meeting, so that the responses can be discussed at the next meeting. We will agree on a communication program at that meeting which will take place after the DA is submitted. Questions should be provided by Thursday 18 June. Responses will be issued by Thursday 2 July, and then responses will be discussed at the meeting on Thursday 9 July.
LS invited all CRG members to examine the issues mentioned in the EIS, and provide any additional areas of concern to SITA as soon as possible.

5 ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Discussion	Action	Due
5.1	<div> 3.2.2 Add the locations of dust gauges to the aerial photograph currently displaying groundwater monitoring wells. </div>	AP	11/06/15
5.1.1	AP provided an updated aerial photograph displaying the locations of the dust gauges. ACTION CLOSED		

MEETING CLOSED 8:50PM

NEXT MEETING

Date:	Thursday 9 July 2015, 5:30pm
Venue:	Club Central Menai – 44-60 Allison Crescent, Menai

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Item	Description	Action	Due
No actions are outstanding.			

APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Related Section
A	Operations & Environment Update	3
B	Presentation 1: Introduction	4
C	Presentation 2: EIS Review	4
D	Presentation 3: Final Landform	4

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery
Park **CRG Formal Written Questions
and Responses**

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

The following questions have been submitted in writing since the last CRG meeting on 11 June 2015. They have been answered by SITA and GHD as completely as possible. Commonly used abbreviations are as follows:

- LHRRP – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Project
- EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
- ARRT – Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility
- OEMP – Operational Environmental Management Plan
- GO – Garden Organics
- SSC – Sutherland Shire Council

The questions have been grouped into specific topics, and the author of the question has been identified by assigning them a number. These numbers and the corresponding author are listed at the end of this table. It is however intended that the author's identity would not be shown outside the CRG, so the identifier section would not be included if these questions and answers were to be distributed outside the CRG.

Question number	Question	Answer	Submission ID
1. STRATEGIC JUSTIFICATION AND PROJECT SCOPE			
1.1	<p>The EIS makes reference to the land filling operation ceasing in 2037 and being available for community parkland in 2039.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o In what ways can you guarantee that no further changes will occur between 2016 and 2037 to alter the operation?o Is it only the landfill operations that will cease? Or will the garden organics (GO) and ARRT continue?o If the garden waste will continue where will the non-compostable waste be disposed?	<p>It cannot be guaranteed that further changes would occur at some time in the future, but once this EIS is approved, any further changes (such as retaining the ARRT facility beyond 2037, which was suggested by a CRG member) would require modification of this EIS or another EIS to be prepared.</p> <p>The proposal involves ceasing all operations on the LHRRP site, including the GO facility, ARRT facility and landfilling, in 2037. The proposal also includes the rehabilitation of the LHRRP and construction of a park that would be available for community use in 2039.</p>	101

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

1.2	I could not see clearly connections with the LHRRP operations outlined and the development of Menai West. Impacts, timing etc. Was there a reason for this? If so what was the reason?	The location of the proposed Gandangara development has been taken into account as a future potential receptor in the odour and noise modelling.	101
1.3	The EIS makes reference that the ARRT and GO facility are consistent with Government Policies and objectives to increase resource recovery - can you identify these and provide links to them?	These policies are mentioned in Section 2.3 of the EIS (Waste Resource and Recovery Act 2001) and Section 8.1 (NSW Waste avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-15)	101
1.4	I noticed that the OEMP is fairly generic. Will this be fine-tuned once the EIS is complete and the consent authority has signed off on the proposal? I am confused in the OEMP 9-3 when it refers to 2014 EIS is this the same EIS that is now dated 2015?	The OEMP's will be fine-tuned to make them consistent with the EIS. This will occur once the EIS text is finalised and ready for exhibition. When the OEMP refers to the 2014 EIS, it is actually referring to the 2015 EIS. This reference will be changed in the OEMP. This reference would be changed in the final OEMP's submitted in the EIS.	101
1.5	I see that the EIS will go on display for 30 days. Discussion last week suggested that the EIS will go on display in a few weeks' time. Will any part of this 30 day time period be within the school holidays? If so can you defer the display until after the school holidays?	The Department of Planning is ultimately responsible for determining the period of exhibition. If the exhibition period happens to fall within school holidays, the Department of Planning usually extends the exhibition period by the duration of the school holidays.	101
1.6	I am still uncomfortable with a contribution being given to SCC.....but I do realise while this is part of the overall project it does sit outside the actual project	Noted.	101
1.7	Why has a "possible" breakdown scenario at Woodlawn been used as a justification for this <u>massive</u> development when any "breakdown" would be temporary?	If there is only one remaining landfill serving Sydney (at Woodlawn) and a breakdown occurs there, then there would be no alternative facility for the waste to be disposed of whilst the problem is resolved. Lucas Heights is the only site in Sydney that has the correct licence and sufficient airspace to provide this "emergency landfill" role.	105
1.8	GO development is not needed here but is a business development for SITA.	The existing GO facility which already exists on site currently receives Sutherland Shire's green waste and processes it into compost materials. As the existing GO facility is operating at capacity it is proposed to be expanded and upgraded to utilise best practice technologies such as aeration and covering of the early phase compost windrows, which are normally the primary source of	105

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

		odours. It would also be relocated further away from residential areas.	
1.9	The Goulburn alternative is feasible and would not impact our area. SITA's desire for expansion is driving this proposal, not altruistic desire to solve Sydney's waste issues.	<p>Goulburn (Woodlawn) is not an alternative to using Lucas Heights. The Woodlawn landfill has limited waste input capacity and the logistics of transporting waste long distances mean that not all of Sydney's putrescible waste can be transported to Woodlawn.</p> <p>In addition, the current competitive pricing situation would not be guaranteed if there is only one major landfill serving Sydney. Higher gate fees would mean waste charges would rise for Sutherland residents. The proposal includes "reserving" a certain amount of space for waste from the Sutherland area, until 2037. No other Councils are being accommodated in this way.</p> <p>The proposal, with the revised final landform, would improve existing environmental outcomes at the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park.</p>	105
1.10	Why only a "partial enclosure" of the new GO facility?	<p>The current Garden Organics facility operates in open air windrows. The first stages of composting, with fresh garden organics have the most potential to cause odours. There is also a possibility of anaerobic conditions occurring in the compost windrows due to lack of oxygen, creating odour issues.</p> <p>The proposed GO facility, with partial enclosure, with covering of the early stage compost, and active aeration of all windrows would address these issues and make the proposed GO facility one of the most technologically advanced GO facilities in Australia.</p>	105

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

1.11	<p>EIS Vol 1 states that short term pain (25-4) by local residents is needed for long term gain. No case has been made for this long term gain as the local community gets its community parklands 20 years later (again and again).</p> <table><tr><th>Short Term</th><th>Long Term</th></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">More trucks & carsDustOdourLoss of parklands for 20 yearsLitter/dumping</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">There are no benefits for the local community. This is a business plan for a multinational company solving a waste problem for a government which has not spent the time or resources to find alternatives.</td></tr></table>	Short Term	Long Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">More trucks & carsDustOdourLoss of parklands for 20 yearsLitter/dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are no benefits for the local community. This is a business plan for a multinational company solving a waste problem for a government which has not spent the time or resources to find alternatives.	<p>EIS vol 1 does not use the terms short term pain and long term gain. It states that there are long term benefits to the community from the proposal. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preferential treatment<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Preferential price treatment◦ Landfill capacity reserved for Sutherland Shire Council waste◦ An offer to Council to enter waste processing contract with SUEZ for the ARRT facility◦ First right of refusal for processing of garden organics from Sutherland's collections at the GO facility• Environmental undertakings<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Management of the landfill, ARRT facility and GO facility in accordance with the OEMP's (the draft OEMP's are a negotiated outcome between SUEZ and Council)◦ A higher level of commitment in the OEMP's that would normally be provided (i.e the odour complaint mechanism)• Parkland<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The landfill reprofiling would increase the area available for future passive recreation following site closure from 124 ha (existing approved parkland) to a total of 149 ha, an increase of approximately 25 ha. Under the current approval the GO facility was to remain in its current location. As part of the proposal, the GO and ARRT facilities would cease operating in 2037 and be provided to the community as additional parkland• Monetary contributions<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ \$ 100 million payable over 15 years	105
Short Term	Long Term						
<ul style="list-style-type: none">More trucks & carsDustOdourLoss of parklands for 20 yearsLitter/dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are no benefits for the local community. This is a business plan for a multinational company solving a waste problem for a government which has not spent the time or resources to find alternatives.						
1.12	<p>What is the degree of the slope? [addressed]</p> <p>Fig. 6.1 & 6.2 – cross-section needed [addressed]</p> <p>Fig. 6.14 – how high is the peak? [addressed]</p>	<p>This question is answered in 1.13 below.</p>	105				
1.13	<p>A condition of the existing consent requires that landform</p>	<p>SITA has shown at the CRG meeting of 11 June that the slope steepness would</p>	106				

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	and final contours are in keeping with existing land form profiles. SITA are seeking to increase landforms to a height of 14 metres with “hills” (mountains) similar to those Sydney Park. Such profiles are not always conducive to recreational activities because of the potential for steep slopes. Such dramatic landform contours may conflict with future recreational uses. In addition, such high hills are not in keeping with the existing local topography/ landscape. How can SITA justify this final landform other than to maximise profits?	not exceed slopes similar to parkland at Cronulla Park. The following analysis was used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38% of the future parkland (55.4ha) is not currently landfilled and is therefore not part of the proposed reprofiling area • 35% of the parkland (52.4ha) has slopes between 5%-10%, which is equivalent to the grades at the Barden Ridge Sporting Complex playing fields • 24% of the parkland (35.6ha) has slopes between 10%-18%, which is equivalent to the grades at Centennial Park • 3% of the parkland (4.6ha) has slopes between 18%-25%, which is equivalent to the grades at Cronulla Park <p>NOTE: Slides from the CRG presentation (11 June) are attached and provide a visual overview</p>	
1.14	With the increase in slope gradients, what is being done by SITA to ensure levels will not result in pooling, boggy soils, mass run-off, flash flooding or erosion downstream?	A comprehensive surface water management study has been undertaken as part of the EIS addresses these concerns. Issues such as pooling and boggy soils (leading to infiltration of water into the landfill) would be avoided by the reprofiling work that is proposed. However the increased slopes arising from reprofiling are not steep enough to cause uncontrolled run off and erosion. No flash flooding issues are predicted from the new profiles. Drainage infrastructure w installed on the landform would allow for effective stormwater management.	106
1.15	What will be the average gradient of the sides of the slopes leading to the peak and also what would be the maximum possible gradient of slopes at its final landform. What is being provided as indicative reference indicators for bulk, size and scale and where is this reflected in the EIS.	This question is answered in 1.13 above. The landform report in Appendix C of the EIS provides diagrams that show the scale of the proposed reprofiled landfill.	106
1.16	With the ultimate size of the facility being as large as or larger than Centennial Park, what is the current and predicted costs of maintaining such as large parkland?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkland is the currently the proposed end use for the LHRRP. Maintenance of the parkland would be part of Council's ongoing budget requirements. • The parkland would be approximately two thirds the size of Centennial Park. • Costs to maintain the park would be determined in the future. The parkland has been designed to keep costs at a minimum in the future by the choice of species and grasses etc. Part of the \$100 million contribution that SITA is 	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

		providing to Council could possibly be invested to provide funds in perpetuity for maintaining the park. NOTE: Slides from the CRG presentation (11 June) provide a visual overview of the parkland size and design.	
1.17	Will the final recreational area have lighting/electricity/sewer? Without such services it will be difficult to use the land for recreational activities. How will recreational groups ensure safety and limit unsocial behaviour?	The parkland, its design and the type of species to be planted there have been agreed to in principle between SITA and Council, and are shown on the Landscaping plan included in the EIS. In 2035, 2 years before closure, there is a specific opportunity to discuss the detailed infrastructure requirements (lighting, electricity etc.) for the site, before landscaping commences. It is too early to nominate now what the infrastructure needs will be in 2035. The topic of safety and anti-social behaviour is not one for this EIS to address.	106
1.18	What is the projected annual management and maintenance cost of the site to Council after closure? (both as now costs and as indexed for inflation)	See question 1.16	106
1.19	What percentage is the \$100 million dollars granted to Council of the projected revenue from the extended operations?	The \$100 million contribution is part of a commercial agreement between Council and SITA. Revenues from the site from extended operation of the site are commercial in confidence, and in any case, it is difficult to predict revenues from 2025 onwards, so any figures provided would possibly be inaccurate. The Section 88 landfill levy makes up a significant component of the costs charged to Council, and it's level in 2025-2037 is unknown. The costs associated with SITA providing the high level of environmental management that is proposed here are also quite significant.	106
1.20	The EIS document shows that Heavy Vehicle Operations will double? Is this correct or an error in the EIS?	The number of heavy vehicles entering the site would increase between 2017 and 2027, as waste quantities increase. Table X suggests that it may possibly increase from X to Y during this period. The actual waste flows and vehicle numbers depend upon a number of factors, including the amount of waste that needs to be disposed of. If new technologies are implemented widely in Sydney in the next few years, the predictions made may not eventuate.	106
1.21	Why can't Kemps Creek and Port Stephen's take the waste of all sorts from their surrounding councils?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfills in NSW are licensed to either accept either only dry waste, or putrescible waste & dry waste 	105

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regulations, engineering and cell construction differ for both <p>Whilst Lucas Heights is licensed to accept putrescible waste & dry waste, the Kemps Creek landfill can only accept dry waste, but does accept such waste from all over Sydney. Household waste is classified as putrescible waste and thus cannot be accepted by the Kemps Creek landfill. The Port Stephens (Raymond Terrace) facility already takes waste from surrounding councils, and is expected to continue to do so for years to come. There is also an ARRT facility on the site, and a garden organics processing facility.</p>	
1.22	<p>Sita's own website states that SITA "has tailor designed solutions for the LGA in which the council is located."</p> <p>Please supply evidence for each Sydney LGA of SITA's attempt to solve the waste issues (of all types) for councils without resorting to the easy solution of bring it to Lucas Heights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SITA can offer councils processing and/or disposal options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARRT facility for processing (Kemps Creek & Spring Farm) Commercial & Industrial recycling (Chullora) Landfilling (Eastern Creek & Lucas Heights) Garden Organics (Eastern Creek & Spring Farm) <p>In addition, other SITA facilities established across NSW include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rockdale (resource recovery centre) Alexandria (transfer station) Artarmon (resource recovery centre) Belrose (resource recovery centre) Ryde (resource recovery centre) Auburn (resource recovery centre) Wetherill Park (resource recovery centre) Seven Hills (resource recovery centre) <p>Councils decide their own waste solutions via tendering processes, which depend upon their willingness to pay for waste processing solutions rather than landfilling, and their sustainability policies and objectives. SITA is not the only waste solutions provider in the market, and it is not for SITA alone to solve all these issues for Councils.</p>	105
1.23	<p>What % of each councils waste is now AND will come to lucas heights.</p>	<p>The current tonnages entering the site are as follows. This information was presented at the CRG meeting on 11 December 2014.</p> <p>Direct deliveries occur from the following councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bankstown 	105

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hurstville Kogarah Randwick Rockdale Sutherland Total direct council deliveries: approximately 135,000 tpa <p>Deliveries are also made in bulk from SITA's internal transfer station network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artamon RRC Auburn RRC Belrose RRC Chullora RRC Lucas Heights Organics Rockdale RRC Seven Hills RRC Total internal transfers: approximately 133,000 tpa <p>The future tonnages delivered to the facility from any given council are impossible to predict and depend on individual Council's preferred waste management solutions and the competitive nature of the waste management market.</p>	
1.24	<p>Could you please let me know the capacity of this excavation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from natural ground level to bottom of pit, please check this against the volume of new excavated material removed (as surveyed before breaking it up) this will cover the sloping or benching of the sides. the volume to expected fill height under current approval at the finished ground level volume to new fill height under the proposal with Sutherland Council to be submitted for approval 	<p>The existing approval is for filling of the existing void to the currently approved final profile.</p> <p>The proposal is about reprofiling the existing landfill with new waste. A comparison of the proposed future landform with the current landform is shown in the Landform, Settlement, Staging and Capacity Assessment Report which is included as Appendix C of the EIS.</p>	107
1.25	<p>P xviii paragraph 3 re landslip. There is a geological fault (tectonic joints?) under ANSTO, which is a concern if there is any earth movement.</p> <p>Questions: Does it run through the SITA/SUEZ site?</p>	<p>We are not aware of any fault line under the site. The final landform has been designed in accordance with EPA guidelines and the slopes nominated are as low as possible to permit easy maintenance of the finished areas, as well as maximise their suitability for future recreational use. Waste that is landfilled</p>	103

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

		would be highly compacted and create a relatively stable landform. As such, the possibility of a landslip of any significance is negligible.	
1.26	Page 2-8 2.3.1 Pipelines Act 1967; Licence to construct and/or operate a pipeline Question: Where is a pipeline to go to and from and why?	The Pipelines Act has been included here for completeness, but as there is no pipeline proposed for the project, this reference may be deleted.	103
1.27	Fig. 4.3 Question: What are the marked rectangle areas in the top right hand corner, just outside the Ansto Boundary?	It's not clear which areas you are referring to. There is an area of protected transition forest shown on Figure 6.14 in approximately this location.	103
1.28	Will the final landforms have access roads build on top to allow vehicle access to the high areas of the landform. If not, then it is unlikely that the areas will be effectively used because the community will not want to "lug" all their picnic items up a hill. Will SITA be addressing this issue?	The proposed park master plan is shown as Figure 6.14. The visualisations provided in the EIS show motor vehicles accessing these areas.	106
2. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION			
2.1	In terms of the sweeping statement that extensive stakeholder and community consultation was undertaken for the proposal....you may want to review this. A recent ruling by the NSW Supreme Court has determined what constitutes 'effective consultation' and the numbers and reach of your consultation would not satisfy the determination	The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements, received in February 2015, outline consultation requirements during the development of the EIS. SITA commenced consultation for the project in November 2014, and continues to consult above and beyond the requirements. CRG members are informed about the consultation to date, and have been a part of it. CRG members will be informed consultation that is proposed by SITA during the exhibition period. Again this is above and beyond the requirements of the Department.	101
2.2	I do look forward to seeing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A detailed community consultation plan clearly identifying all stakeholders requiring consultation o The determined level that you will be engaging 	A draft consultation plan will be shown to the CRG at the next meeting. This will identify the consultation that is required by regulation, and the additional steps that SITA proposes, to consult more widely and thoroughly than required.	101

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	<p>with stakeholders and the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will be appointed that is qualified, experienced and respected to provide the consultation/engagement moving forward, particularly now that you have a "hostile" audience with the CRG and SCC. How you address specific challenges (e.g. the establishment of a particular opposition to the project); and In what ways will you persist with community consultation despite the consultation not necessarily resulting in persuasion of the community to support the project. 		
2.3	Will there be available a draft CEMP that the CRG members can have input into prior to construction? Is so will we be able to influence practices that could be improved?	The CEMP is a technical document outlining the different construction phases of a facility. SUEZ will advise the CRG members at the time that the CEMP is being written and take any comments into consideration.	101
2.4	Once the CEMP is finalised will this be available to CRG members and other community members? If not why?	This is to be determined at the time if the project is approved.	101
2.5	With the complaints process, I was under the impression that SITA was pursuing a process when people complain that they receive a job reference/complaint reference in case they want to follow up the complaint. Should this be included in your OEMP?	This process was put in place some time ago. Reference numbers can be provided to the caller on request when SITA staff make a return call. Reference numbers are not provided by default for every caller as very few callers ever ask about this. Reference numbers cannot be provided during the initial call as the reference number is only assigned after the call is logged. Callers who wish to receive a reference number should provide their contact details so that a SITA representative can make a return call.	101
2.6	I would like to suggest that SUEZ think strategically about the OEMP. This means to be transparent and proactive. It would be worthwhile to consider setting up an OEMP steering committee that would meet and receive	The arrangement with the CRG that is currently in place would continue.	101

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	<p>information on a regular basis about the progress across all aspects of the OEMP. The life of this OEMP steering committee will need to be determined (perhaps initially for 2 years). What this does is to provide assurances to Government stakeholders that there is a level of 'practical' governance. You already have a number of people on this CRG that would transition well. True transparency would be to appoint an independent chair person. (SUEZ reps would of course be part of the steering committee). I am happy to talk about how this has worked with another major project in Sydney where the community and local governments were hostile</p>		
2.7	<p>Consultation - Draft community consultation plan will take into account feedback from CRG so that is good. I did mention but would just like to add that handing out flyers at Sutherland, Jannali and even Padstow stations would be a good idea. A pop up stall in Menai Marketplace would also be a good idea or out front of the Community Centre. Maybe also some big flyers posted up in the shopping centres and around the area. Bus stops as well. I don't believe SITA and Council would have done so much work on this if wasn't going to be approved. The residents need to work with SITA and Council to make the best of a bad situation not against them.</p>	<p>The draft consultation plan will be presented to the CRG members at the meeting on 9 July.</p>	102
2.8	<p>I have located the Minutes of the 2 Council Meetings where the SITA proposal was discussed and a minimum of 20% of revenue generated be allocated to new works within a 10km radius of the site. This is good news. This should be transparent for residents in this area during the Consultation process. I have attached a copy.</p>	Noted	102
2.9	<p>Summary of submission: Complaint regarding attitudes of Suez towards stakeholders. Condescending information</p>	Noted	103

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	transfer and lack of transparency.		
2.10	SITA never met to my knowledge met with the West Menai Action Group.	<p>During the early consultation phase (November 2014) an individual email was sent to West Menai Action Group's published email address (to Allan Green). This has not been responded to.</p> <p>The group's website describes the Action Group as "local Sutherland Shire residents who are concerned about overdevelopment of the West Menai area, currently owned by Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (the development known as "Heathcote Ridge")."</p> <p>As this proposal is not directly related to the group's core purpose, this may explain why no response was forthcoming.</p> <p>We understand that at least one CRG member has links to the group and can act as a conduit to that group if it is interested in the proposal.</p>	105
2.11	The community has not been provided any simplistic information in terms of bulk, scale and angles of terrain that allows the lay person to fully understand the shape or contours of the final landform. All diagrams have been simple "artists impressions". There have been no contour diagrams provided, nor has there been side or end elevations drawn with vehicle or persons are a scale indicator. How can the community be assured that the final landform will be suitable for community recreation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contours were visually presented to the CRG members at the meeting on 11 June The same physical model that was shown on 11 June would be made available during the next CRG meeting Contour plans are included in Figure 6.2 and Figure 6.3 of the EIS. The Landform, Settlement, Staging and Capacity Assessment Report which is included as Appendix C of the EIS also contains additional details. The response to Question 1.13 provides additional details regarding the slopes and suitability of the final landform. 	106
2.12	The establishment of the CRG and ongoing meaningful community engagement and consultation is a condition of the 1999/2000 consent. SITA must acknowledge that to date the consultation has been minimal and to a degree "lip service", without little meaningful public engagement. How does SITA plan to undertake meaningful community engagement to ensure that the community and local community groups are fully informed about the proposal	<p>We have undertaken consultation at the end of 2014 and pre-exhibition pro-actively. There would also be a formal consultation process post lodgement.</p> <p>We understand the consent required the establishment of the Community Environment Liaison Committee (CELC) to meet on a quarterly basis and "discuss matters of concern associated with the environmental impact of the development and to promote mutually satisfactory solutions". Our interaction with the CRG is to serve the above purposes.</p>	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	and that the information provided is not misleading or misinterpreted?		
2.13	It was a serious concern that at the Council meeting presentation, the presenter, (Phil Carbins) stated to the Mayor when questioned about the impact to future development of the area, (ie Gandangara development), that SITA have been consulting with Gandangara! When quizzed further by Mayor Johns, it was established that there had in fact been no direct dialogue however, a mere “review” of what had been posted on the Gandangara website. This is indicative of how SITA have been dealing with local community groups?	The Gandangara development (which is not yet approved), has been taken into account in the odour and noise modelling work, as a potential future receptor.	106
2.14	Page 3-2 West Menai Action Group denies that there has been any recent consultation. Question: When did it occur?	Refer question 2.10 If CRG members are in contact with this group, then one avenue of consultation is working in this instance. WMAG can choose to source their information from CRG members if that is preferred.	103
2.15	Page 3-3 Question: Why has there been no meeting with the member for Miranda, as Illawong is part of his electorate? Why has there been no meeting with the member for Heathcote? (However I noticed he was present for a short time at our last SITA CRG mtg.)	SITA contacted Mr Barry Colliers office twice in 2014. SITA was informed that the office would contact SITA if constituents showed interest.	103
2.16	4.3.1 5 th para 26th July, 2010: Question: Why were we not informed that SITA had applied to council to have a modification to the current consent for up to 32 waste collection vehicles, associated internal roads, administration office and utilities. This would have led us to query what the plans were for future expansion.	The modification to the existing consent is part of the existing approvals and is required for existing operations. It does not relate to the proposal.	103

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

2.17	The EIS does not provide any indicative scale to the final landforms. The photo montages provided in various presentations have all been taken from several kilometres away. However, when standing next to the current mound, it is evident the final height will be significant. Will SITA be providing diagrams with a basic reference indicator such as a car or person so the community can fully understand the bulk, scale and height of the final landforms to be included in the EIS? If not, why not?	The final landform is only about 8m higher than the existing proposed mound. The visual assessment has been done at a location where the landfill can be seen, which happens to be a few kms away.	106
3. CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS			
3.1	Increase during construction – “temporary disturbance” – for how long?	Construction of the ARRT would take approximately 12-18 months in total.	105
4. FLORA/FAUNA			
4.1	Para 7: Comment: I have often seen micro bats swooping and diving, at night, on insects at the traffic lights on the Bangor Bypass, using the night lights to attract the insects.	Noted.	103
4.2	Pxix para 3 Comment: Bushfires: Experts will tell you that unlike lightning, bush fires will often follow the same path. Check with the locals where the fire paths are.	A bushfire assessment has been done, which identifies the adjacent Holsworthy site as the most likely source of bushfire. Asset protection zones have been allowed for in the design, to protect the buildings as much as possible. The buildings will be designed to resist fire.	103
5. TRAFFIC			

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

5.1	The figures discussed talked about increase in traffic movements, does this only relate to garbage trucks, or all vehicles that will be using New Illawarra Road. I think any projections should incorporate the total traffic flow.	Chapter 9 discusses traffic impacts, including the growth in vehicles predicted to occur even in the absence of the proposal. This growth far outweighs the increase in vehicle movements associated with the proposal.	101
5.2	Heathcote Road and New Illawarra Road can get congested, what strategies will SUEZ develop to transition traffic flows to avoid 4-5 trucks travelling in convoy formation?	Trucks operated by SITA are being loaded at the transfer stations. 1 or 2 trucks at most are being loaded at the time. Same rationale applies for when the trucks unload their waste at the landfill. As soon as this occurs, the trucks leave the site.	101
5.3	I think Jane mentioned the traffic study was done for 1 hour. In the documents it says it was done over a few hours and they were the times assessed as peak. It would appear to only impact in peak times. Workers to the site would be arriving prior to AM peak and leaving before PM peak. BUT could this stretch the timeframe of the peak period to say 1.5 hours or could we then end up with essentially 2 peak AM periods and 2 peak PM periods.	Traffic studies are designed to cover more than one hour. The morning and evening peak hours are normally analysed to determine if the predicted traffic movements are likely to exceed the capacity of the roads or intersections. The number of additional vehicles associated with the proposal is small compared with the overall growth in traffic predicted by RMS.	102
5.4	In regards to extra noise from trucks would the trucks from other Council's be coming via Alfords Point Road, Heathcote Road and Bangor bypass? There is a wall between New Illawarra Rd and the residential area at Barden Ridge. Could the impact be minimised by allocating set hours for the trucks to come in and out?	The allocated hours are the waste receipt hours for the landfill (Page 6-5 EIS main volume 1) which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday – Friday 6 am – 5 pm Saturday and Sunday 8 am – 5 pm 	102
5.5	How long will the increased traffic during the construction period would last?	The extra traffic associated with the construction period is quite insignificant, compared with existing traffic volumes. The total increase (operations and constructions) is quite insignificant and represent a 1.4% and 1.8% increase in vehicles for New Illawarra Road during the AM peak and PM peak respectively.	105

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

5.6	Has peak hour traffic only been examined over a 1 hour period?	Yes – that is the normal practice for traffic modelling. The busiest hour is examined.	105
5.7	Asked about traffic impacts on the Bangor Bypass intersection.	Refer to question 5.11. Bangor Bypass intersection at New Illawarra Road is 4 km away from the site.	105
5.8	Has exhaust braking noise had been examined?	Traffic noise modelling has been undertaking using typical (average) values nominated in Australian Standard.	105
5.9	How many of the additional vehicles would be the new large green trailers?	Table 5.2 in the Traffic report contained in Appendix D provides a complete breakdown of extra traffic predicted for the proposal. This shows the number of heavy vehicles and light vehicles, but does not break down the heavy vehicle traffic to separate the extra-long vehicles from other trucks. All SITA vehicles comply with RMS guidelines.	105
5.10	9.9 – Peak hour assessment period insufficient – 1 hour is not sufficient time to gauge impact.	Refer question 5.6.	105
5.11	No information on Bangor Bypass intersection and the impact of [exhaust] brake noise at the lights from <u>more long heavy trucks</u> .	The Bangor Bypass intersection (which is over 4 km away from the site) has not been analysed, but Heathcote Road and New Illawarra Road (which about the site), have been included in the traffic assessment.	105
5.12	432 extra vehicles – how many are the long trucks?	It is not clear where the 432 extra vehicles reference comes from. Please refer to question 5.9 for answer regarding additional vehicles.	105
5.13	Traffic may not increase in the short term, but what the community will see is larger triple boogied articulated trucks on their streets, which will be longer and heavier to carry more loads. What noise impacts will this have on the local community and what impact will this have on local roads?	The large trucks would only use arterial roads, not local roads.	106
5.14	Whilst the SITA consultants state that traffic will not increase, what assurance does the local community have	As per the traffic study, traffic would slightly increase during the AM and PM peaks. The idea of increasing the size of the vehicles is that it would minimise	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	that the size of vehicles will not increase? What measure is going to be used to determine any increase in vehicular traffic or any increase in the size of those vehicles?	the additional traffic impacts on the road, as the waste inputs (tonnes per year and total tonnes would be limited to those mentioned in the EIS)	
5.16	The EIS states that the studies were not able to properly assess Koala habitat and numbers to limited tree available in the survey area. With the increase traffic numbers, how is SITA/SUEZ address the increased potential of fauna deaths/declines (Road Kills) in their attempt to cross busy roads as a result in higher vehicle numbers and traffic increases. Where is this addressed in the EIS?	The extra traffic associated with the construction period is quite insignificant, compared with existing traffic volumes. The total increases represent less than a 3% increase in vehicles for New Illawarra Road and Heathcote Road.	106
5.17	How many trucks will travel to the tip each day ...please give hourly distribution and size of trucks?	Heavy vehicle traffic on Heathcote Road accounts for approximately 10% of the daily traffic volumes. In addition, weekday peak hour traffic is approximately 10% of the total daily traffic volumes. The predicted increases in daily traffic are of the order of 75 heavy vehicles per day in 2017 to 145 heavy vehicles per day in 2027. Refer to Table 9.7 in the EIS for annual totals.	105
6. ODOUR, AIR QUALITY AND GAS			
6.1	In terms of odour, more waste = more odour, I cannot see any innovative ideas proposed to address the odour issues... it seems to be much of the same. Why?	<p>Odour modelling shows that as a result of progressive final capping of the existing landfill areas, after reprofiling and remedial works prior to this occurring, that odour emissions from the surface of the landfill would decrease from current levels.</p> <p>Potential odour impacts associated with the GO facility would also be reduced compared to its current situation because of covering of the most active composting phases, aeration of all windrows and relocation of the facility further away from residential areas.</p>	101
6.2	I mentioned the other evening that housing garden organics or general waste in a shed/under cover is good, but the odour can be dispersed in concentrated form	The ARRT facility buildings will have negative pressure ventilation systems, so odours are unlikely to escape when doors are opened. All collected air would be	101

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	(plumes) once the building is opened (this could be when trucks come and go) Examples of where this was an issue was with the sewage sludge at the treatment plants....additional odour mitigation was required to address the odour plumes. I cannot see any mention about the likelihood of this happening at LHRRP and if so what is going to be done about it. Why?	treated through a biofilter before discharge.	
6.3	The “landfill over previous landfill areas” – the impact of this on odour has not been presented in a format that means anything to the average reader.	The wording of Section 12.3 will be made clearer in the next version of the EIS. The proposed reprofiling works (landfill over previous landfill areas) would not expose previously landfilled waste, as only the intermediate soil layer would be scraped away before refilling of specific areas.	105
6.4	“Gas” & “other odour” during construction – how much and how long?	Construction only applies to the GO and ARRT facilities, as landfilling is an existing operation, and would continue as it does currently, as part of the proposal. Landfill gas and odour emissions would not increase as a result of these construction activities, as no waste would be disturbed by construction works.	105
6.5	Why had no odour receptors been modelled at Menai?	Menai was one of the receptors for which specific odour levels were calculated. However odour levels at other locations can be estimated by looking at the contours on Figure 8-3 in the EIS.	105
6.6	Table 7.3 – likelihood of odour “higher” – how do they then say “odour impacts expected to reduce” in their comments – evidence?	As part of the proposal, the GO facility would be moved west to a location further from residential areas, and the final capping of large areas of the site would reduce odour emissions from large areas that only currently have intermediate cover. In addition, a couple of areas where localised emissions of landfill gas currently have been observed would be remediated. The overall effect would be to reduce overall odour impacts of the LHRRP. Figure 13 shows current odour levels, whilst Figure 8-3 shows predicted future levels, which are lower than those shown in Figure 13.	105
6.7	The odours associated with the current operation have not decreased. Rather, it is merely that younger generations appear to not be bothered reporting or do not know how or who to report such odours. Many a Saturday and Sunday	From SITA's interaction with the community during site tours, the overwhelming feedback is that odours from and around the site decreased significantly when SITA acquired the site. No feedback which contradicts this has been received. Odour complaints at the LHRRP from January 2004 to the end of 2014 have	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	as a local club member we smell the waste tip but do not report it. We will report accordingly. There needs to be improved signs advising the community to report. What about a SITA “report it” APP for odour and illegal waste littering /dumping?	<p>been reviewed. 2013 and 2014 saw the lowest number of odour complaints in the last 10 years with 28 and 16 complaints respectively. It is expected that these reduced number of complaints are due to the adjustments SITA have made to the operations of the facility which took time to realise due to the scale of the facility.</p> <p>A summary of the odour complaints record is provided in the Air Quality assessment report (Appendix G of the EIS)</p>	
6.8	<p>The Rockdale site managed by SITA is causing ongoing odour issues for local residents.</p> <p>How can SITA guarantee that further dev't here will not cause even greater odour problems here?</p>	<p>Odour emissions are expected to decrease in comparison to the current operations due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Additional works being undertaken to address existing odour sources (additional gas infrastructure is being installed on site) o Progressive final capping of the site o Continuous upgrading of the landfill gas capture system o Relocation of the GO facility further from current and future residential receptors o Use of new processing techniques including concrete bunkers and covering of the most active composting windrows with semi-permeable covers and aeration of the garden organics. <p>The complaint mechanism agreed between SITA and Council should prevent any potential ongoing nuisance of odours (a copy of which can be found in Appendix R – Draft Landfill Operation Environmental Management Plan)</p> <p>Rockdale operates in a completely different way to any existing or proposed facilities at Lucas Heights. It was built over 40 years ago – odour control technologies and design principles have come a long way since then.</p>	105
6.9	How will organic material get into and out of the new GO system without odour? Please supply evidence of the success of this elsewhere and contact details so i can follow up.	<p>All phases of the GO facility operations were modelled as part of the air quality assessment.</p> <p>The partially enclosed proposed facility is the work of SITA's French engineers that have designed similar facilities in Europe within higher density populated areas.</p>	105
6.10	<p>4.4.4 3rd para, line 3</p> <p>Question: If the wind direction is predominantly from the</p>	Menai was one of the receptors for which specific odour and dust levels were reported in the EIS. Illawong and Bangor are in the same direction as Menai, but	103

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	South west and south east, why was Engdaine chosen as a study area for odour and dust from the tip? The odour and dust would be going in the opposite direction and Engadine would not get any smell or odour from the tip, so it is pointless using it for a control study. Illawong and Bangor are in the line of direction for the prevailing winds and it would be more sensible to have these suburbs as your control study, to see if the control methods you are using are working.	further away.	
6.11	4.6.1 Para 2 lines 5 and 6 Question: Which gas monitoring point repeatedly had a methane reading? This was reported to us in previous years but not recently. Why?	Regarding the monitoring bore, a detailed study was undertaken and provided to the NSW EPA to rectify the gas monitoring point. Landfill gas monitoring results are publicly available online. The existing landfill gas extraction system would be expanded with the reprofiling works. The phased reprofiling works would also increase the final capped and revegetated areas. By increasing the slope of the final landfill, stormwater run-off would be more efficient and thereby would reduce leachate generation and the potential for leachate to interfere with the efficient performance of the landfill gas extraction works. These would all result in better landfill gas management.	103
7. WASTE AND CONTAMINANTS			
7.1	Could we possibly invite a representative from the EPA to attend? I don't believe that the illegal dumping along Heathcote Road is solely because the "tip" is there. People would still dump if the tip wasn't there. It's a stretch of road next to the bush that would have little if any through traffic in the middle of the night. It does need to be addressed as this is a major concern for a lot of people in the community. On the EPA website it says 1 or 2 trailer loads of illegal dumping is to be reported to Council and anything over that to the EPA. There needs to be more communication around this so people know who they have to call.	SSC obtained funding from the NSW EPA as part of the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squad program. RID Squads are regionally based teams that specialise in dealing with illegal dumping and illegal landfilling. The squads are funded by the NSW EPA and the member local councils who opt to work together and pool resources to tackle illegal dumping.	102

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

7.2	What percentage of Sydney's waste will Lucas Heights be taking as of 2017?	In 2017, Lucas Heights would likely take a similar percentage of Sydney's waste as it does currently. Once Eastern Creek closes (which may be in 2017), this percentage would increase. The total amount of waste able to be received under the proposal would rise from 730,000 tonnes per annum currently to a maximum of 1,070,000 tonnes per annum from 2017 to 2037 (Refer Table 6.1) , whilst Sydney's total waste would rise from approximately 12.7 million tonnes to almost 18 million tonnes (refer Figure 5.1 in the EIS). Therefore the percentage of Sydney's waste taken to Lucas Heights would rise from 5.7% to 5.9% from 2017 to 2037.	104
7.3	Why are we taking rubbish for the entire city?	Refer response to question 7.3 above.	105
7.4	What will be happening with other identified areas of the waste tip, such as the night soil areas and liquid waste tip? Will they be remediated or made suitable by SITA for public recreational or public open space use. Or will SITA/Suez just depart and leave these areas for the Sutherland Community to resolve and fund?	As mentioned during the previous CRG meeting, these areas are not in SITA ownership.	106
7.5	Given that you and council are applying for this devlt and extension and you SITA especially will make huge profits why aren't you responsible for the rubbish dropped on local roads and illegal dumping?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SITA and SSC are discussing additional funding arrangements to support illegal dumping management within the Shire As clearly stated in the OEMP's, SITA will take additional responsibilities for littering activities adjacent to the landfill. 	105
7.6	Liquids and hazardous waste e.g. septic tanks, grease traps. Why is Lucas Heights dealing with a city wide issue when smaller centres could be set up in relevant LGA's?	No liquid waste or hazardous waste is permitted to landfilled at Lucas Heights. Waste management facilities exist right across Sydney – refer question 1.22	105
7.7	Does this have implications for sealing off leachate from aquifers, and gas wells?	Question not clear.	103
7.8	Para 8. Comment: Liquid waste: There has been past liquid waste contamination. During the 70's and 80's trucks use to come into the bushland and just let their waste go, and	Noted.	103

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	no one policed it.			
7.9	Pxx lines 1 and 2: Question: Will this cause acid soil disturbance? What will be the effects on the oysters downstream near Oatley? The ferry owners often report soil fines at the intersection of Mill Creek and Georges River, but Sita has always denied culpability.	The surface water monitoring work undertaken for the proposal (Section 13.2.4 of the EIS) shows that impacts on Mill Creek associated with the LHRRP are minimal, but that current recreational and historic land uses downstream of the LHRRP may be having an impact on the LHRRP.	103	
7.10	4.4.2 Soils Question: Are there any acid soils, near Mill Creek, Barden Creek and the unnamed Creek which might affect the oyster beds further down the Georges river, if they are disturbed?	No acid sulfate soils would be disturbed by the proposal.	103	
7.11	4.6.3 Line 7 The Georges River keeper reported that leachate was flowing into Mill Creek during a heavy rain event, in the late 90's early 2000, as it was reported to the GRCCC, and I reported back to the CRG. SITA denied the incident, but the River keeper took photos at the time. The ferry owner noted that there was a lot of muddy discharge from Mill Creek visible into the Georges river. This was also reported to the GRCCC.	Waste Service NSW, not SITA was operating the LHRRP at the times mentioned (late 1990's –early 2000's).	103	
8. SAFETY				
8.1	What evidence is there that research has been done by anybody including NSW Government, Council, etc. that another site for the so-called "safety valve" could not be found?	Providing a "safety valve" for Woodlawn is obviously not the main driver for this project, however it is sensible for a city the size of Sydney to have some emergency landfill disposal capacity within the Sydney region. There are no moves to identify an emergency landfill site for Sydney. Should a true emergency situation arise, it would be preferable to use a site that is approved for this use than for the Government to have to pass emergency legislation and	105	

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

		use a site which is not ready to receive large volumes of waste without much notice.	
8.2	Do the proposed increased contours (high hills) pose an increased potential for heightened security or terrorism threat to the ANSTO complex - from allowing elevated overview directly into ANSTO property, the Reactor and associated reactor support and work buildings? Do such contours potentially expose the residents of the Shire to undesirable acts of terrorism? Will such a risk may result in the possibility of increased secured zones being imposed by ANSTO, rendering the residue recreational land unusable for public use?	SITA has consulted with ANSTO about this matter, and ANSTO have confirmed that this should not impose any additional risk to their facility.	106
8.3	Following cessation of SITA operations, will there be access restrictions and/or fencing to prevent unsocial behaviours at night?	This will be discussed in 2035 when both parties discuss the detail of the final landform.	106
9. SOCIAL IMPACTS			
9.1	The recreational land that was to be returned to the community in 2016 - 2025 is no longer being made available to the community until 2040 – a significant delay. The only compensation being “offered” is monetary compensation to Council, to cover the extension period. Can SITA/Council guarantee that these funds will be afforded to the affected recreational/community groups?	SITA's understanding is that Council has resolved that 20% of the monetary contribution should go to the immediate local area. Environmental benefits from the proposal that would occur in the short term and continue throughout the project include reduced odour impacts and a better and more usable final landform that the currently approved landform. In the long term, a larger park would be provided than the currently approved park, and there would be no composting activities occurring alongside the new proposed park. Other questions regarding the monetary contribution should be addressed to Council.	106
9.2	The current draft VPA between Council and SITA does not clearly identify and accommodate the outstanding groups	SITA have included in the most recent version of the EIS that these facilities will be included in the future use of the site, subject to ANSTO and Council agreeing.	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	that were to be accommodated as part of the 1999/2000 tip consent - such as the Jenko Pony Club (Equestrian area) and Cronulla Model Aero Club. How will these groups be compensated by the delay in providing suitable facilities?	Our understanding is that the 99/00 consent did not specifically name any group as having claim to any land following closure (please advise further on the specific clauses you are referring to). In this EIS, we are going one step better than the existing consent by naming potential end uses in the EIS and nominated areas for specific uses.	
9.3	The Barden Ridge/Menai community have neither understanding nor assurance of the amount of funds which will be returned to the local area and what community activities will be provided or assured, despite having to endure the waste facility. The Barden Ridge/Menai community will have to bear the brunt of the development without any direct compensation - other areas of Sydney, including parts of the Shire will experience little or no impact at all – yet may reap the benefits (\$\$).	Refer question 9.1	106
9.4	The changes to the current consent (1999/2000) to tip, without accommodating the needs of community groups, dismisses the efforts of those persons of the community who previously invested significant time and effort prior in achieving a positive outcome for the community leading into the future. Are Directives made by MP's and development consents of State and Local Governments are binding in any way? What can give this community confidence that decision makers will stand by and such further agreements?	Development consents are binding agreements. If specific areas are described on the consent, it will be binding. The current agreement between Council and SITA states that all waste activities will cease in 2037. Ultimate future use depends on the owner of the land in the future (SSC and ANSTO)	106
9.5	What assurances does the community have that the portion of lands owned by ANSTO will be available for community use/ recreational use at the conclusion of waste tipping in 2039? What is to prevent this land from being used for other ongoing commercial activities? ANSTO's track record for allow community access to vacant lands is extremely poor and there is no evidence to suggest ANSTO will	By providing SITA landowner's consent prior to submitting the DA with the Department, ANSTO agrees to the information provided into the EIS. The EIS stated that the parkland will be returned to the community after 2039.	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	change their approach to the community.		
9.6	There is no information on what types of recreation can be undertaken on the final landform or whether it is actually suitable for recreational activities.	Refer question 1.13 regarding slopes. Noting the comment, suitable recreational activities are described in the EIS – Chapter 6, which has been expanded to provide this information.	106
9.7	What is the definition of “Passive Recreation”?	Passive recreation usually means walking, running and other uses not requiring sporting fields or specific site treatments. Examples of passive recreation facilities include picnic grounds, paved bicycle tracks, playgrounds, BBQ facilities etc. Sydney Park is an example of a similar type of park that has been established above previous landfilled areas.	106
9.8	In terms of employment, how many full time employees and full time equivalent (FTE) does the site currently employ for daily operations that will be based on site and how many of these reside in the Sutherland Shire. Where is this reflected in the EIS?	The current Lucas Heights Garden Organics facility employs 13 full time employees and one lives in the Shire. Community benefits are described in Section 22.4.2 of the EIS.	106
9.9	Once operational, how many employees (Full Time Equivalent) will be employed to run the new GO and ARRT. Will the employees to new employees or transferred from the current GO / recycle and sorting areas? Where is this information included in the EIS?	Section 22.4.2 of the EIS estimates that 5 additional staff would be needed for the expanded GO facility operations, and 50 new staff would be needed for the ARRT facility operations.	106
9.10	What types of infrastructure (ie benches, BBQ's, Lighting, Garden Furniture, watering systems, seating) will be installed on the parklands and who is paying for this equipment? To what numbers and how much will be spent on such equipment to make the area accommodating to the general public and end users? Are these costs paid for by	Please refer question 1.17	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	SITA/SUEZ or is this an expected expense to be borne by Council? Where is this in the EIS?		
9.11	The areas on the site that will allow building of structures such as shade shelters, utility blocks, club houses, appear to have not been identified in the EIS. Is construction on such permitted on the landfill and reformed areas of the site? Will these items be included in the EIS documents?	Please refer question 1.17. The masterplan includes two toilet facilities Additional infrastructure requirements can be discussed in 2035.	106
9.12	The Cronulla Model Aero Club provided information to SIAT/GHD on the impacts to our club. However, there have never been incorporated or addressed in the EIS. Why not? Will they be included?	This comment has been taken into consideration and text would be included in the EIS regarding allocating the northern portion of the site for Model Aero Club activities.	106
9.13	When will the aero modelling area be identified on plans contained in the EIS? When will SITA/Suez discuss the requirements of the aero-modelling club, given Council Resolution BDS129-15?	Refer question 9.12	106
9.14	There was a community assumption (rightly or wrongly) that the tip would be available for sport/recreation at the conclusion of the fill. That expectation is now overshadowed by an unusable landfill. This loss will be at the expense of the local communities and groups who operate in the area. What is the compensation?	Refer question 1.13 regarding slopes. At the previous CRG meeting SITA mentioned a great variety of sporting activities that could be done on the final landfill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aero-modelling ○ Dog training ○ Equestrian activities ○ Cycling ○ Running ○ Kite flying These are now included in the EIS	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

9.15	What provisions have been made for installation of utility services such as water, electricity and sewerage? What are the layout plans for such items? Where is this covered in the EIS? If not in the EIS will it be included? If not, why not?	Refer question 1.17	106
9.16	This project by SITA is not simply an expansion in size (up) but a diversification on the site to make this an even more profitable business. What benefits does it bring to the Menai area between 2025 and 2039?	The proposal would result in both short term (i.e. odour) and long term environmental improvements (improved final landfill and larger parkland). This is in addition to the monetary benefits.	105
9.17	Given that SUEZ is a foreign multinational company paying perhaps little tax in this country why should we as local residents trust them to really care about our everyday lives and the impact this dev't will have on us?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SITA would operate the facility to meet all regulatory requirements in its environmental licence and provide an essential service that would otherwise need to be provided at direct cost to ratepayers or taxpayers. As SITA Australia operates in Australia, all Australian taxation laws apply. SUEZ/SITA employs over 2,500 people in Australia The company values ethical and social responsibility It has considerable existing and ongoing investment in Sutherland Shire community through ~\$100K per annum in sponsorships and grants (approx. half of which is allocated to local sporting groups based at Barden Ridge and Menai), independent of and in addition to the proposed \$100m contribution to Council. 	105
9.18	With the increases in traffic (ie doubling) what provisions are being made for upgrading New Illawara Rd and Heathcote Rds? New Illawara and Heathcote Roads are currently a single lane roads. The traffic increases, particularly involving Heavy Rigid and Heavy Combination vehicles to the SITA waste facility will significantly make it unsafe for persons entering or exiting to/from side roads and driveways to New Illawara Rd and Heathcote Roads. Especially for small businesses and community areas, who already have difficulties entering / exiting their business or recreational site. This will ultimately cause financial	These are RMS roads, and most of the predicted traffic increases are related to general traffic growth, rather than to do with the proposal. Increasing the capacity of the roadway would be at the discretion of RMS.	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	hardship for the business as people will not wish to risk any attempts to enter the business and for the community group pose increases in unsafe driving situations. Where is this covered in the EIS and how do SITA proposed to ensure businesses and community groups are not affected by the increase large vehicle traffic both in financial and safety terms?		
10. EIS			
10.1	Grammatical corrections to EIS document	Noted	103
10.2	The proposal documents that were put forward by SITA do not fully outline existing adjoining land uses and neighbouring community activities and groups. This tends to give the false impression that such activities do not exist. This is misleading and gives the impression that there will be little or no impact to the community. SITA should outline the full impact of their proposal to the community as a whole.	Noted.	106
10.3	The proposed documents do not give clarity around what is considered as “litter” management versus “illegal” dumping. Illegal dumping in the locality is a significant problem driven directly by the high waste tipping fees and location of the site. The proposal does not address the illegal dumping along Heathcote Rd which is a direct result of the SITA operation. How will SITA manage the illegal dumping in the area without stating this is a State Government issue?	Please refer question 7.1 In addition, as clearly stated in the OEMP's, SITA will take additional responsibilities for litter activities adjacent to the landfill. SUEZ and SSC are currently discussing additional funding arrangements to support illegal dumping management within the Shire	106
10.4	Excluding the proposed new GO and ARRT what will be the proposed operating employee numbers (daily operations based on site) excluding contractors that are	Please refer question 9.9	106

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	needed to build the GO and ARRT. Where is this in the EIS?		
10.5	It has been stated by SITA that the area is suitable for a variety of recreational activities. These activities do not seem to appear in the EIS? How can such activities be suitable if there have been no provision made for sighting of the activities on the final landform and the operating requirements of those recreational activities have not been assessed or included in the EIS. How will such recreational activities such as soccer, football, Equestrian, aero-modelling be able to occur if the landform is not flat? Will Council/Recreational Groups be permitted to re-scape the land to make suitable for their activity at the conclusion of filling? Will information on this be included in the EIS documents?	Additional future uses have now been included in the EIS	106
10.6	The EIS does not fully outline all the recreational and operating groups in the area? This must be addressed and reflected in the EIS?	The exhibition period offers the opportunity for recreation and operational groups to identify themselves and their interest in the project.	106
10.7	Summary: Where in the EIS is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape gradient outline? • Flora/Fauna impacts due to increased traffic? 	The Landscape plan is in Chapter 6, whilst flora and fauna impacts are covered in Chapter 19. The extra traffic associated with the proposal is quite insignificant, compared with existing traffic volumes and future general traffic increases.	106
11. UNRELATED			
11.1	This is a question for Council. Has Council thought of maybe giving the resident's in the Menai, Illawong Barden Ridge, Bangor area's some kind of incentive like more vouchers for green waste? Currently we get 2 per year. Or a general waste voucher to be used at the tip as well? This	SITA will bring this to Council's attention	102

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

	could continue while the major works are being done or a set period of time. Or a reduction in rates for a period while the major works are being done.		
11.2	Why isn't Eastern Creek or Camden being expanded? Or another site found in the Northern Beaches?	Eastern Creek is currently going through an application to increase the volume at the landfill and extend the operational lifetime of the facility. The Richardson Rd landfill at Spring Farm (near Camden) is licensed to accept only dry waste rather than putrescible waste. The Kimbriki facility in the Northern Beaches area, operated by three local councils, is currently in the process of planning for the development of a facility similar to SITA's ARRTs.	105
11.3	Given there are 10 other resource recovery centres why aren't they expanded and utilised to serve their local areas into the future? Why Lucas Heights?	They are resource recovery centres, where waste is being segregated prior to sending it to landfill. These facilities are on very small footprints in dense urban areas and as such can operate only as transfer depots rather than landfills.	105
11.4	Why can't Camden, Epping and Eastern Creek be expanded or continued for organics? Why can't they be exposed to landfill over landfill and have large mountains of waste created?	Richardson Rd Landfill in Spring Farm (near Camden) receives dry waste as opposed to putrescible waste being received at Eastern Creek and Lucas heights. Eastern Creek is currently going through an application to increase the volume at the landfill and extend the operational lifetime of the facility We note that the Epping facility is in Victoria, not Sydney.	105
11.5	Why can't other existing sites be made to take putrescible waste?	Continued operation of an existing facility is preferred over establishment of a new facility. Considering that, there are a limited number of sites in Sydney which are permitted to accept putrescible waste. This proposal also offers improved environmental outcomes and social benefits for the local community	105

Stakeholder	Submission ID
John Ross	101
Nicole Green	102

Formal written questions & responses – Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park Project

Dawn Emerson	103
Peter Towell	104
Jane Rouvray	105
Greg Hoy	106
Ian Kolln	107

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery
Park **EPBC Act Referral Decision**



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

EPBC Ref: 2015/7432

Emmanuel Vivant
Executive Director, Infrastructure
SITA Australia Pty Ltd
Level 3, 3 Rider Boulevard
Rhodes NSW 2138

Dear Mr Vivant

Decision on referral

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Projects, Lucas Heights NSW

Thank you for submitting a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This is to advise you of my decision about the proposed action to re-profile the existing landform, relocate and expand the garden organics facility and construct and operate an Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility at the existing Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, Lucas Heights, NSW.

As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, I have decided that the proposed action is not a controlled action. This means that the proposed action does not require further assessment and approval under the EPBC Act before it can proceed.

A copy of the document recording this decision is enclosed. This document will be published on the Department's website.

Please note that this decision relates only to the specific matters protected under Chapter 2 of the EPBC Act.

This decision does not affect any requirement for separate state or local government environment assessment and approvals of the proposed action.

The Department has an active audit program for proposals that have been referred under the EPBC Act. The audit program aims to ensure that proposals are implemented as planned. Please note that your project may be selected for audit by the department at any time and all related records and documents may be subject to scrutiny. Information about the department's compliance monitoring and auditing program is enclosed.

If you have any questions about the referral process or this decision, please contact the project manager, Martin Henery, by email to martin.henery@environment.gov.au, or telephone (02) 6274 2284 and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Paula Stagg
A/g Assistant Secretary
Environment Assessment Branch
9 April 2015



Notification of

REFERRAL DECISION – not controlled action

Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Projects, Lucas Heights NSW (EPBC 2015/7432)

This decision is made under Section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Proposed action

person named in the referral	SITA Australia Pty Ltd ABN: 70 002 902 650
-------------------------------------	---

proposed action	To re-profile the existing landform, relocate and expand the garden organics facility and construct and operate an Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility at the existing Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park, Lucas Heights, NSW; as described in the referral received by the Department on 11/02/2015 [See EPBC Act referral 2015/7432].
------------------------	--

Referral decision: Not a controlled action

status of proposed action	The proposed action is not a controlled action.
----------------------------------	---

Person authorised to make decision

Name and position	Paula Stagg (Acting) Assistant Secretary Environment Assessment Branch
--------------------------	--

signature

date of decision	9/4/15
-------------------------	--------
