

David Schwebel
Planning Officer, Industry Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
4 Paramatta Square
12 Darcy Street, Parramatta
NSW 2150

20th May 2022

Dear David

Extended Operating Hours for Lucas Heights Landfill, Little Forrest Road, Menai – SSD 6835

As you are aware Lucas Heights Landfill is the only landfill in Sydney which is permitted to accept putrescible waste.

Further to our conversation earlier in the week Cleanaway are seeking approval to extend the approval for extended operating hours for a further 2 months as we seek to improve the current issues with regards to waste flow across the greater Sydney area.

Currently the temporary approval to for extended operating hours comes to an end on Tuesday 24th May. We are now proposing to work the following extended hours –

Monday – Friday – 2am – 4pm

Saturdays 5am – 4pm

Sunday 6am to 4pm

Cleanaway would like to propose that these hours would be in place for 2 months i.e until 24th July 2022.

The request for extension comes from a variety of factors affecting waste flow in the greater Sydney region:

Firstly, the La Nina weather event has cause significant rainfall across the landfill, which has detrimental affect on the roadway and tip face condition, slowing turnaround times. There is an ongoing body of work that cleanaway need to conduct to improve the roadways and conditions.

Secondly, we have been faced with significant disruptions to the Sydney waste network as a result of flooding earlier in the year and now the Veolia train line was disrupted again due to derailment of their train.

Cleanaway view an option to increase the opening hours to alleviate some of the challenges in the system as it will allow greater transport efficiencies and allow transfer station operators to reduce on site waste levels.

Cleanaway also has internal plans to assist with turnaround time at Lucas heights outlined in the table below

Cleanaway has committed millions of dollars to obtain suitable rock material for road and tipping pad construction to improve the road integrity and improve truck turn around times.

Further Cleanaway are in the process of reviewing internal logistics between their transfer station and the Landfill to optimise waste flow and minimise the impact on landfill turnaround times, this includes a review and modernisation of operational methodology and the trailer assets that carry waste to the landfill.

Additional Information

- We confirm that the development will comply with all other operational conditions of the SSD-6835 consent. However, we do expect that this additional waste intake will put pressure on the current annual waste limit of 850,000tpa. A consent modification will be submitted to the Department of Planning in the next few weeks to address this issue.
- We do not expect the total number of vehicles per day to increase. It is likely that the increased hours and earlier start will reduce the number of trucks arriving at the site during peak traffic times.
- We do not expect the increased hours to result in any additional odour emissions from the site. The site did not receive any additional odour complaints during the 24 hours operation, and we did not receive any negative feedback from the local community or Community Reference Group.
- Based on the results of regular noise monitoring carried out at the site over several years we are confident that the site will continue to be fully compliant with the noise limits specified in Condition C54.
- Lighting – it is normal for the site to operate during the hours of darkness throughout the winter period.
- Local Stakeholders including the CRG, ANSTO and Sutherland Council will be notified of the new proposed working hours and duration.

Cleanaway appreciate your consideration of this matter and are happy to discuss if there is further clarification required.

Yours sincerely



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