



DOC16/347961

Mr Chris Ritchie
Director Industry Assessments
Department of Environment & Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Ms Kate Masters

VIA EMAIL AT: kate.masters@planning.nsw.gov.au
26 August 2016

Dear Mr Ritchie

Smeaton Grange Resource Recovery Facility – SSD 7424

I refer to an email and accompanying Notice of Exhibition from Ms Leanne Grove of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received on 07 July 2016 regarding Benedict Recycling Pty Ltd's application to build and operate a resource recovery facility at 52 Anderson Road, Smeaton Grange (the Proposal).

The EPA has reviewed the application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement prepared by EMM Consulting (June 2016) and is unable to support the Proposal as currently presented. The EPA's specific concerns relate to noise, particularly potential night time sleep impacts and to a lesser degree air quality impacts, particularly odour.

More comprehensive comments are provided at **Attachment A**. These comments will need to be reviewed, assessed and a response provided by the Proponent before the EPA can consider supporting the Proposal.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Nick Feneley on (02) 4224 4144.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Corradin'.

MATTHEW CORRADIN
Unit Head Waste Compliance
Environment Protection Authority

ATTACHMENT A Specific EPA Comments August 2016

NOISE IMPACTS

Operating Hours

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) propose the following operating hours:

- Receipt and despatch of materials:
 - 6 am to 10 pm, Monday to Friday;
 - 6 am to 5 pm on Saturday; and
 - 8 am to 4 pm Sunday.
 - On occasion, the Proponent seeks approval to accept (but not process) waste from major infrastructure projects where those projects are undertaken at night.
- Waste processing:
 - 7 am to 4 pm Monday to Saturday (potentially extended to 6 pm); and
 - At no time on Sundays and Public Holidays.

There does not appear to be clear rationale for why the abovementioned operating hours are nominated, particularly those that fall within the night time period.

1. The EPA is therefore seeking additional feedback from the Proponent justifying the proposed hours of operation.
2. Such justification should include processing rates or other numerical information to support the need for activities to be undertaken during the night time period and why alternatives are not reasonable or feasible noting the comments below.

Sleep Disturbance

The *Application Notes* accompanying the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy* indicate that an $L_{A1(1min)}$ level of 15 dB above the Rating Background Level (RBL) may be used as a suitable screening criteria for sleep disturbance for the night time period.

The NIA has assessed the night-time RBL as 31 dBA, measured at 20 Chapman Circuit, Currans Hill, the closest residential dwelling at approx. 120m to the South East of the site subject to the Proposal. The NIA therefore correctly uses an L_{Amax} of 46 dBA at night for the sleep disturbance criteria.

Noise modelling undertaken by EMM Consulting on behalf of the Proponent predicts that this sleep disturbance criteria will be exceeded at all selected surrounding residential locations under both calm and prevailing meteorological conditions. The highest predicted external maximum noise level from the site is modelled to be 58 dB (12 dB difference), experienced at a residential property to the North of the site under adverse weather conditions.

The NIA suggests that a residential facade including a partially open window will reduce external noise levels by 10 dB. Guidance from the *NSW Road Noise Policy* is then incorrectly applied and quoted to support the claim that the noise levels modelled will not cause sleep disturbance.

This Policy states that 'maximum internal noise levels below 50 to 55 dBA are unlikely to awaken people from sleep'. It is important to note that the effects of sleep disturbance are not limited to awakenings and also involve changes in sleep state.

This Policy has clearly been misunderstood and does not justify the assertion that sleep disturbance will not occur.

As stated in the *Application Notes*, because the sleep disturbance criteria is expected to be exceeded, a more detailed analysis is required.

3. The EPA is therefore requesting that this detailed analysis be undertaken. The detailed analysis should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:
 - a. how often the high noise level events above the sleep disturbance criteria will occur;
 - b. the likely distribution of events throughout the night time period;
 - c. whether there are times when there is a clear change in the noise environment (such as during early morning shoulder periods). This must be illustrated by presentation of the level and distribution throughout the night time period of current L_{Amax} (or $L_{A1(1min)}$) events; and
 - d. any other data or information as relevant.

Once this detailed analysis is provided, the EPA will be better able to evaluate the potential noise impacts of the Proposal.

AIR QUALITY

The EPA notes that the Proponent does not intend to compost or process any garden waste on site and claims that, on this basis, the potential for the garden waste to generate odours is low.

Raw unprocessed garden waste can become putrid and emit odours, the quantity and intensity of which are dependent on a number of factors including the composition and moisture content of the garden waste, the amount of material stockpiled, and the length of time the garden waste is permitted to remain on site. For example, raw garden waste containing a high composition of grass clippings is likely to generate more odour than garden waste composed mostly of woody tree prunings, and may even be odorous at the point in time it is delivered to a waste facility.

4. The EPA is therefore requesting the following additional information:
 - a. the maximum amount of garden waste proposed to be stockpiled at the site at any one time;
 - b. the maximum length of time garden waste will remain at the site before it is transferred offsite for disposal / recycling at another waste facility;
 - c. the proposed contingency measures that would be implemented should garden waste stockpiled at the facility begin to cause offensive odours; and
 - d. any other data or information as relevant.