



Office of Environment & Heritage

Your reference: MP05_0157
Our reference: DOC13/6769
Contact: Richard Bonner, 9995 6833

Chris Ritchie
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Attention: Emma Barnett

Dear Mr Ritchie

I refer to your letter of 26 February 2013 inviting comment from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Material Recycling Facility (MRF), Newbridge Road, Moorebank (MP05_0157).

OEH have reviewed the EA and provides the following advice in relation to biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage and floodplain risk management issues.

Biodiversity

OEH notes Shale Gravel Transition Forest, River Flat Eucalypt Forest and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest vegetation communities adjacent to the site which are listed Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and of high conservation value. While not a component of this MRF proposal, OEH also notes from the Visual Impact Assessment (Appendix 12) that a vegetated area along the southern boundary of the site designated as Environmentally Significant Land under Liverpool Local Environmental Plan (LEP) will be restored *'to maintain and enhance a wildlife corridor'*.

OEH recommends runoff from the site not impact on these EECs and notes measures proposed in the EA to capture and treat potential pollutants. The EA advises, for example, that proposed stormwater control measures would capture *'91% of the suspended solid load within runoff from the operational area'*. OEH recommends DoPI be assured that suspended solids and other pollutants not captured and treated by the proposed control measures do not adversely impact on the adjoining areas of EECs.

Aboriginal Heritage

Despite the Director General's Requirements (DGRs), OEH notes that an Aboriginal heritage assessment has not been carried out for the proposal. Aboriginal heritage issues should be addressed at the earliest possible stage of the planning process. OEH recommends the completion of two basic types of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment to inform the Planning Proposal:

- an archaeological assessment – involving the identification and assessment of Aboriginal objects (often referred to as 'sites') and their management based on archaeological criteria; and
- a cultural heritage assessment – involving consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders (groups and individuals) and can include historical and oral history assessment and broader values assessment (eg. landscape and spiritual values).

The outcomes of the archaeological and consultation components of the Aboriginal heritage assessment should be compiled into a single map showing areas of high, moderate or low Aboriginal cultural values. Options for conserving areas of Aboriginal heritage significance should be fully explored in discussion with the Aboriginal community.

Floodplain risk management

The primary objective of the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy as outlined in the *Floodplain Development Manual, 2005* is to reduce the impact of flooding and flood liability on individual owners and occupiers of flood prone land and reduce private and public losses resulting from floods.

The May 2004 *Georges River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan* identifies the site as being within the Georges River floodplain in a high flood risk precinct (land below the 100 year flood that is either subject to high hydraulic hazard or where there are significant evacuation difficulties). The proposed MRF is located approximately at the 100 year ARI flood level, however, the access road would be flooded in a 3 year ARI flood (0.1m depth) increasing to 0.8m and 3.7m depth in a 5 year and 100 year ARI flood respectively. There is also the likelihood of an additional 4m of residual flooding beyond the 100 year flood in a probable maximum flood (PMF) event. OEH notes this information is not acknowledged in the EA or the Water Management and Pollution Control Assessment (WMPCA). It is therefore recommended the impacts of rare flooding (beyond the 100 year flood and up to the PMF) on site buildings and contents be assessed. This assessment may, for example, find that certain dangerous goods should be moved off site before the access road is flooded. Flood proofing key infrastructure on site may also be required in light of the higher consequences of rare floods.

OEH also notes that a Flood Evacuation Plan (FEP) has been developed as an appendix to the WMPCA using the *SES Business Floodsafe Toolkit* as a guide. The FEP identifies the evacuation constraints at the site, flood warnings, the issue of flood awareness/education of site workers and the potential damage to structures. It is unclear, however, if the SES have reviewed the FEP. If not, OEH recommends it be consulted prior to any development determination.

If you have any queries regarding this advice please contact Richard Bonner on 9995 6833.

Yours sincerely



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