

Environmental Health and Regulation Committee



Report Title: SITA/SUEZ Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park - Public Exhibition

Report Number: EHR037-16

Meeting Date: 30/11/2015

The Development Application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the expansion of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park are both currently on public exhibition until Friday 18 December 2015.

Council has been invited by the Department of Planning and Environment to make a submission to the exhibition.

Council has had considerable involvement in the development of the EIS. It is recommended that Council respond to the Department of Planning and Environment noting that all Council matters have been addressed during the preparation of the EIS and that Council is supportive of the application.

Council will have an opportunity to provide further comment following consideration of the submissions received during the consultation period, by way the Preferred Project Report/Response to Submissions.

1. That Council write to the Department of Planning and Environment advising that all issues raised by Council have been addressed during the preparation of the EIS and that Council is supportive of the application.
2. That the Council submission recommend the VPA be amended from 7 (seven) kilometres to 9 (nine) kilometres.

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and accompanying Development Application (DA) for the expansion of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park are currently on public exhibition. As such the Department of Planning and Environment is inviting written submissions from the community and other stakeholders, such as Council, until Friday 18 December 2015. This report outlines the possible contents of such a submission.

BACKGROUND

Due to a previous legal agreement, Council is a joint applicant for the expansion of the Lucas Heights Resource Recovery Park. As such, Council has been in a unique position to influence not only the content of any development application, but also the form of the development itself. Throughout the 3 year development of the project, Council staff have worked with SITA to refine the project to one that is broadly acceptable to the Council. This has involved both changes to the development, such as the covering of the active composting phase for the garden organics facility, the provision of a scrubber until should the biofilter on the ARRT not achieve the odour goals, and improved leachate and gas management of the landfill, and development of a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to deliver monetary and environmental benefits to the community.

Throughout the development of the project, staff and SITA personnel have provided a number of briefings to Councillors, to both keep them informed of the progress of the development, and also to seek feedback and direction at critical periods. Throughout this process, Council have been able to anticipate potential concerns the community may have with the development and ensure that they are adequately addressed in both the project design and are also adequately communicated to the community in the EIS and DA documents. During the most recent round of consideration of the development by Council, Council resolved that the project and associated documentation was at an appropriate level to be lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment in order for it to progress to the public exhibition phase.

At the completion of the public exhibition phase, all submissions received will be provided to the applicants (both SITA/SUEZ and Council) to prepare a response to those submissions describing how any concerns or issues raised in the submission have already been addressed in the DA/EIS, or where the DA/EIS has been amended to address these issues and concerns. Thus Council will again be in the unique position of being able to influence the nature and form of the development following the exhibition phase.

It is therefore recommended that during this public exhibition phase that Council make a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment noting Council's involvement in the development of the project and the EIS, and that subject to positive feedback from the community consultation period, that Council are in support of the development. Our submission should further note that Council would seek to provide further comment following consideration of the submissions received during the consultation period by way the Preferred Project Report/Response to Submissions.

DISCUSSION

Previously supported and discussed at Council.

CONSULTATION

Prior to the lodgement of the DA/EIS there was considerable consultation between SITA/SUEZ and Council, but only limited consultation with the community, mainly via the LHRRP Community Reference Group (CRG). The public exhibition period provides the first opportunity for extensive community consultation. In addition to the usual consultation coordinated by the Department of Planning and Environment, additional consultation will be undertaken by SITA/SUEZ, including displays at The Ridge, Menai Marketplace and Engadine Community Centre. Following the completion of the exhibition period, Council will have the opportunity to review and respond to the community feedback.

BUDGET AND RESOURCES

The VPA associated with the development proposal provides for significant monetary contributions to Council and a range of other benefits, such as preferential treatment of Council waste at the three facilities on the LHRRP site.

POLICY

The support of the DA/EIS is consistent with previous decisions of Council (BDS041-16 [Notes Link](#)).

CONCLUSION

As Council have had considerable involvement in the development of the EIS it is recommended that Council respond to the Department of Planning and Environment noting that all Council matters have been addressed during the preparation of the EIS and that subject to positive community feedback during the consultation process, Council is supportive of the application.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

The officer responsible for the preparation of this Report is the Manager Environmental Science Ian Drinnan, who can be contacted on 9710 0547.

That Council write to the Department of Planning and Environment advising that all issues raised by Council have been addressed during the preparation of the EIS and that Council is supportive of the application.

(Councillor Simpson / Councillor Schreiber)

THAT:

1. Council write to the Department of Planning and Environment advising that all issues raised by Council have been addressed during the preparation of the EIS and that Council is supportive of the application.
2. The Manager Environmental Science and members of Menai Community Group be thanked for their efforts in regards to this matter.

(Councillor Riad / Councillor Awada)

