

Proposed Organic Recycling Facility



Project Update Information Session

Tamworth Community Centre

Saturday, 5 September 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Applicant held an information session on the 5 September 2020 at the Tamworth Community Centre. The information session outlined items that were completed since the Northern Regional Planning Panel's (NRPP) deferral in February 2020.

Council's Water & Waste Directorate is the Applicant for this proposal. The Planning & Compliance Directorate of Council is the consent authority and the NRPP is the determining authority.

The information session provided a handout to attendees that detailed further information completed by the applicant and submitted to the consent authority for review.

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

To understand the concerns of the community and give a project update to the community.

PARTICIPANTS

9 residents, Cr Col Murray, Cr Mark Rodda, Cr Charles Impey, Bruce Logan (Director Water & Waste), Megan Mather (Senior Waste Management Officer), Morné Hattingh (Manager of Waste & Resource Recovery), Sam Swain (Senior Environmental Officer), Jody Young (Communications & Engagement Officer).

POINT OF INFORMATION

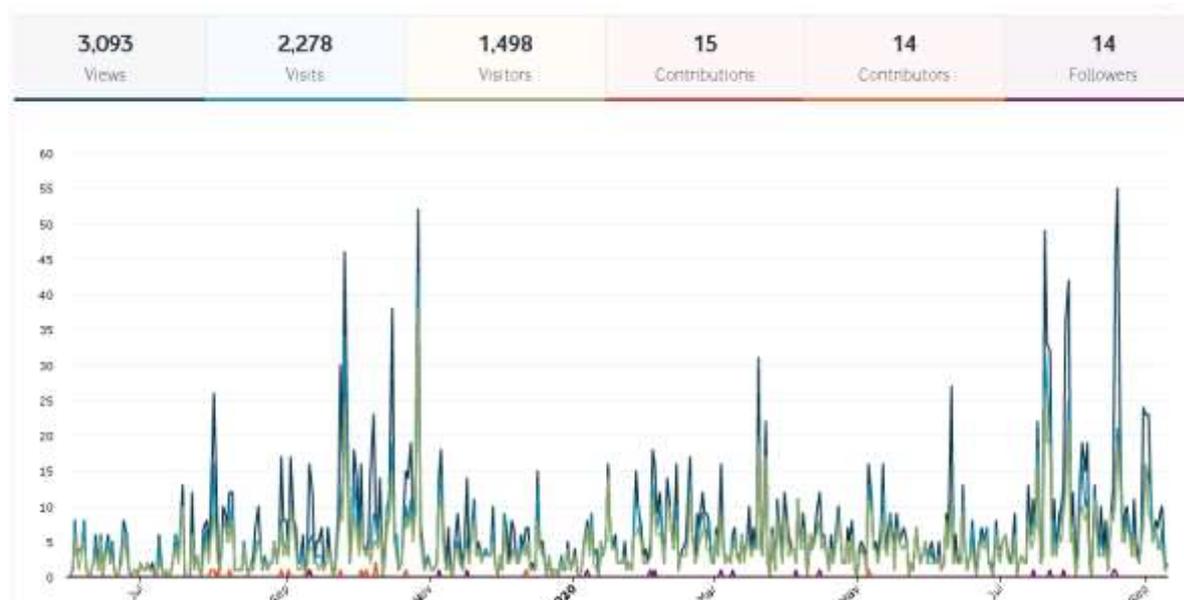
<https://yourvoice.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/tamworth-organic-recycling-facility>

RESULTS OF ENGAGEMENT

Information is available through the MYTRC Online Engagement portal at the following link:

<https://yourvoice.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/tamworth-organic-recycling-facility>

The following report shows the reach via the portal:



RESULTS OF PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

Below is a summary of the questions / items and information given at the Community Information session.

Class 3 Organics

The Applicant is seeking approval for the incorporation of Class 3 organic materials (i.e. DAF Sludge, Offal's, Paunch etc.) at the facility. However, following a review undertaken by Talis Consultants regarding the incorporation of Class 3 organic materials it is recommended that Class 3 is incorporated into the composting process, post commissioning in a well controlled and staged approach. The applicant will work with the successful operator to introduce this material (if approved).

Should the facility be approved, but approval for the incorporation of Class 3 organics be withheld the facility can still operate without the incorporation of Class 3 material.

What is the composition of leachate?

The leachate will comprise organic material, not hydrocarbons. The leachate pond will only overflow in significant rainfall events (1 in 50 year rain events). Should any of this leachate then leave the site, the dilution rates, given the volume of the leachate pond and the general rainfall and run off in the locality, will be significant and impacts minimal. A leachate characterisation example has been detailed within the Leachate Supplementary Information document, available on Council's webpage. We can provide a hard copy or electronic copy of this document if required.

What are the water requirements?

The Environmental Impact Statement details the water requirements as 10 megalitres (ML) of water not 60 ML. Most of the 10ML of water will be harvested from water runoff on site (rainwater tanks and stormwater dams) to reduce the reliance on groundwater. Modelling indicates groundwater will only be required in dry years and the volume required is 2.6 to 2.7ML. Discussions are ongoing with the governing authorities, WaterNSW and Natural Resource Access Regulator. This aspect will be further reviewed during the detailed design.

Is the class 3 organics going to be tested by a National Association of Testing Authorities accredited laboratory?

All laboratory testing undertaken must be NATA accredited. Council has an internal laboratory that is NATA accredited for certain testing, however, tests will be sent away to an accredited lab if they can't be performed by Council's lab.

Is the data going to be made public?

A condition of an Environmental Protection Licence (EPL), if the facility is approved, requires parameter testing results be made publically available on Council's website. In addition an

EPL requires a Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP). Council has a number of existing sites that require an EPL and PIRMP. One example is for Forest Road Landfill where Council run PIRMP 'test' scenarios to review what happens on site during an incident, how and who needs to be contacted, both internal and external stakeholders, and to the wider community (where applicable). It is a legislative requirement that a PIRMP must be tested and reviewed every 12 months and the document is required to be made publically available on Council's website. This will be the same requirements for the Organics Recycling Facility site, should the facility be approved.

Community Environment Liaison Committee

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has included a condition of consent, in the draft conditions, that, should the facility be approved, Council will be required to establish a Community Environment Liaison Committee for this facility, which will include the facility operator, Council and nominees from adjoining neighbours. It is likely they will meet on an annual basis but may meet every quarter.

Council had a similar requirement for the Effluent Reuse Farm near Westdale Wastewater treatment plant, which met for the first year - two years on a regular basis. This Committee is no longer active as adjacent residents no longer felt the need to be represented on the Committee.

Odour

At the moment there is an existing odour source from a neighbouring poultry farm. It is not Council's intention to add to that additional source.

The receival hall would be the primary source of odour, which has been designed to mitigate potential odour impacts via being fully enclosed; air ventilation is fed through carbon scrubbers prior to discharge to the environment and it will also likely have fast track operating doors.

Class 3 organic material will be the main odour contributor and will be closely monitored, post commissioning (if and when incorporated).

Will Class 3 organics be taken out if it's odorous?

The primary reason for including Class 3 organic waste streams is to divert this material from being landfilled, saving approximately 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes of valuable landfill airspace and extending the life of the landfill. Currently Council accept Class 3 products and does not have significant or noticeable odour issues at Forest Road Landfill.

It is the Applicant's intention to gain approval from the NRPP to include acceptance of Class 3 products at this facility. However, incorporation of Class 3 is proposed to occur after successful commissioning of the facility (if approved). As Class 3 organics will be introduced in a staged manner, post commissioning, there will be baseline data from the site for odour to be able to monitor changes closely.

If there are rendering plants in Tamworth, why do we need or still receive Class 3 Organics?

Abattoirs in Tamworth have their own resource recovery processes which, in some cases, included rendering plants allowing them to recover / process their products to a certain point. Council receives what the rendering plants can't process any further, and at the moment the majority of this product is disposed of in landfill. Council receives paunch material at Forest Road Landfill, which is incorporated and processed into the composting processes. The composting facility at Forest Road Landfill operates with open windrow activities i.e. no enclosure or covers.

Leachate pond and aeration?

The leachate pond will have aerators to increase the evaporation rates of the pond and to increase the quality of the water in the pond. Aerators are not designed to keep birds away, however, have been seen to deter some bird species. The aerators will more than likely be run via electricity and the likely noise of aerators is less than 80dB. Council does not anticipate that the aerators would need to be run at night, however will confirm this during the detailed design with the successful operator.

Operational Noise

Operational equipment that would require to run 24 hours a day would most likely be the fans from the tunnels (when in use), which may direct air through the floor or through the walls and shouldn't go outside the building. A Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment was completed as part of the Environment Impact Statement. Preparation of a noise management plan will be completed, as suggested in the Construction and Operational Environment Management plan templates. These templates are available on Council's webpage.

In addition, as part of the construction works, the stormwater and leachate dams will be designed and reshaped to reduce the attractiveness to birds. This in conjunction with monitoring and alternative mitigation measures can be implemented as required. Further information is included within the Avisure Wildlife Hazard Assessment and Construction and Operational Environment Management plan templates.

How much additional water will be added to potential stormwater runoff?

A neighbouring property owner raised concern that the revised stormwater management pathway now redirects additional flow towards their property. They questioned what impacts could this have in the event of significant overflow events i.e. amount of added water directed towards their property, soil erosion / scouring.

This item has been noted with the applicant and will be responded to in the detailed design phase, including further discussions with impacted landholders.

Further information can be found in the Leachate Supplementary Information document available on the project webpage.

Processing Capacity Design Requirements

The concept design for the site has included a combination of features (i.e. leachate pond and maturation pad) that support the processing / operational capacity for 50,000 tonnes. A number of reasons for this are to ensure that sufficient space has been catered for in the event of facility expansion, reduced long-term costs and ensure that processed water can sufficiently be captured within the leachate dam for both 35,000 and 50,000 tonne figures.

However, this development application is seeking approval to process a maximum of **35,000 tonnes**.

Should Council, at a later stage, wish to increase the processing capacity from 35,000 to 50,000 tonnes a similar approval process would be followed including development application modification submission, community consultation and any additional environmental assessments/modelling impacts etc. before the application to increase was considered for approval.

Water and Drought

Council is considering all options to increase water harvesting on site, which will be addressed further in the detailed design. This may include a roof structure over the maturation pads to capture additional water. Council will work with the successful operator regarding water consumption and retention to maximise water capture and reuse on site.

If, Tamworth faces a significant drought, it may result in ceasing operation if there is no alternative source of water that can be utilised during those times.

Truck Movements

No domestic residents collecting or dropping off green waste will have access to this facility. The only access will be by approved commercial vehicles and operators. Domestic residents will be required to dispose of their green waste at Forest Road Landfill (or other Waste Management Facility), it will then be transported to the facility by Council.