

Woodlawn CLC Questions 7 November 2023

1. In the last CLC meeting, Veolia was asked to include engine output and "how much gas is going to the flares". Thank you for including the graph provided, however the graph provided contains "gas capture", not the volume of gas volumes going to the flares. Could you please review the graph (and include something similar to the graph contained in the September 2022 Newsletter)?

The gas we extract is under contract to produce energy and any extra gas is then flared. The EPA requirement is to destroy all gas either through engine and/or flare and that is what is occurring. Engines are at full capacity so flares are for any peaks or excess gas captured. We would be keen to further understand the context for this question as it relates to sensitive commercial information as part of an active contract.

2. Veolia has not answered the following questions (asked prior to the August 2023 CLC): Has there been any increase to the number of engines in the last 12 months? Are there any plans to increase this number? If so, when can we look forward to seeing larger output from the Bioreactor?

There has not been any increase to the number of engines in the last 12 months. The current engine hub containing 7 engines is full and any extra gas is being flared. Veolia is looking into the feasibility of a second hub and other innovative ways of managing gas going forward.

3. Veolia has previously stated the odour issues were related to the significant rainfall events during three years of La Nina. Given there has been significantly less rainfall over the last six months, can Veolia please explain why there are still significant odour complaints. (76 complaints in the odour register from July to September)?

La Nina slowed down progress on some of our odour management initiatives. The extensive rain produced extra leachate, which has to be managed and this issue slowed our progress. As of July 2022, even with the rain, we achieved our goal of increasing gas extraction. Our gas extraction increased by 60% from the previous year which significantly reduced odour potential on site. It is worth noting that the number of odour complaints does not directly correlate with odour events. As an example, one odour event could produce 15 complaints. As people are being actively encouraged to report any detected odour this has also increased complaints. This data is very useful for us and the EPA but as we have said on many occasions we are happy for people to report to the EPA but we don't get this information until well after the event, unless we get the complaint on the day it restricts our investigations and what we can do about it. Veolia reports all complaints we received directly to the EPA.

4. Could Veolia please provide details on when the annual reports (AEMR, AEPR and Independent Odour) will be released?

Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) - Woodlawn Eco Precinct (Dec 23)

Annual Environmental Performance Report (AEPR) - 11436 (Nov 23- submitted to EPA), 11455 (Nov 23- Submitted to EPA), 20476 (Feb 2024)

Odour Audit - We have not received this year's finalised Independent Odour Audit, which is conducted by an appointed auditor, but expect it within the coming weeks.

5. Veolia's website for Woodlawn contains a link to the 2023 LWMS Report. This link results in an error. Please update the link to point to the relevant document.

Thanks, this has been corrected.

6. Has Veolia made any progress on identification of the odours being detected in Tarago? Odour complaints continue and Veolia's H2S sensors are not detecting any H2S.

The H2S sensors have confirmed that concentration of H2S in Tarago at those locations is below the detection threshold in parts per billion. For reference the safe exposure guidelines use a threshold in the parts per million (1000 times more concentrated than parts per billion).

We are also expanding our gas sampling beyond regulatory requirements and will be seeking community feedback in the coming months on a proposed gas monitoring campaign. An independent expert will undertake a gas characterisation campaign in Tarago. Part of the project's purpose is to address community questions about the potential risk of odours in Tarago, and any useful insights to be gained from the observed data. The scope of the campaign will be shared with the CLC and community after a draft is developed by that independent expert.

7. Could Veolia please provide a list of the H2S detection at EPA Point 71 (Rec Grounds) and EPA Point 72 (Showgrounds) over the last six months? Include date, time and H2S level detected in PPB.

This information is already available on the website. Links to [71](#) and [72](#).

8. Please explain in full the details and circumstances resulting in Veolia's most recent penalty notice from the EPA.

If referring to the Prevention Notice, the annual Independent Odour Audit (IOA) is completed each year by a third party, and submitted to the EPA. This year's audit is due in November 2023. The recommendations from last year's IOA included a gas characterisation assessment. Veolia acted on the gas characterisation recommendation after it was received last year, and we engaged the independent third party that gave the recommendation to complete the work. Gas from the gas capture system at Woodlawn, as well as locations outside of the operational footprint was taken and sent for independent analysis. The third party's instruments were not successful in sampling at the offsite locations due to weather interfering. We have been in discussions with the EPA with a proposed program for re-attempting this.

9. When Veolia fails to implement odour recommendations (that will mitigate detrimental impacts on our community) in a timely manner, how can Veolia expect the community to believe that incinerator operations will be managed in a way that prioritises community health and safety?

Veolia responded immediately to the recommendation of the independent expert to perform a gas characterisation study on the source gas in the landfill and to examine if there was any off site migration of this gas. Veolia immediately requested the same independent expert to provide a proposal to complete the work. Following which, they successfully characterised the landfill gas by drawing samples directly from the primary gas extraction line. No unusual compounds were found.

Sampling offsite by the independent experts was unsuccessful as poor weather inhibited the use of their specialist equipment. They did not resample offsite at a later date as the gas characterisation directly from the landfill did not identify any unusual characteristics that would have warranted further investigation. Veolia has requested that offsite sampling be reattempted with a significantly expanded scope. This offsite sampling will consider all community feedback, and must be endorsed by the EPA before it starts.

Veolia took the decision to expand the sampling program to address genuine community concerns. It reflects our willingness to go above and beyond what is even proposed by independent third parties to keep our stakeholders informed. In a similar manner, Veolia will look at all opportunities to address community concerns linked to the proposed Woodlawn ARC development.

Veolia continues to address odour and we have taken various measures including installing the aforementioned H₂S sensors, commissioning a village weather station, investing over \$3 million in upgrades, redesigning our gas collection infrastructure, adding new gas extraction wells, and upgrading our gas extraction equipment.

10. Is Veolia currently proceeding with any other EFW incineration project in NSW?

Veolia is involved in an active tender process for Parkes EfW.

11. Why does Veolia not have a November Tarago Times update?

Veolia has our Woodlawn newsletter available on the website. This will be updated and submitted in the next edition of the Tarago Times.

12. Has Veolia submitted their response to submissions yet? What is happening with the ARC?

Veolia intends to submit a response to submissions to DPE for adequacy check by the end 2023. The team is currently finalising the report and associated studies.

Woodlawn CLC Additional Questions 8 November 2023

1. Are Veolia's trucks required to have the orange flashing light on when driving on public roads? Why?

The trucks are run by an independent local trucking company. They are required to have flashing lights at the rail intermodal and on the Woodlawn site as a part of our Traffic Management Plan.

2. What is the maintenance schedule for Veolia's container transport trucks? Trucks are often seen belching a continuous cloud of dirty, grey smoke the entire way from Crisps Creek all the way up the road to the Collector Road turn-off.

The trucks and trailers are approved under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS). Under this program we follow their strict maintenance and mass management regulations which we are audited against each year.

The trucks are also fitted with a pollution control system, in particular the Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) which is required in all modern diesel trucks. Diesel particulate filters usually remove 85% or more of the engine soot that would normally blow directly out of a truck's exhaust if they do not have a DPF.

3. If Veolia builds the incinerator, how will it manage vapes in the waste stream?

Veolia is working with the Government on product stewardship schemes on a range of manufactured products, including vapes. The Australian Federal government has banned the importation of non-prescription vaping products and all single use disposable vapes will also be banned - which will drastically reduce single-use vape waste. We are also engaged in education programs to address how to correctly dispose of the vapes we encounter today. For example, City of Sydney Council has started collecting vapes through their doorstep collection service for Sydney residents. When vapes are found at a transfer station they are immediately removed from the waste stream. Vapes are received at operational EfW facilities today and the technology is capable of processing this small waste stream.