

Veolia Tarago Times article, August edition

Woodlawn has been in the media recently following a proposed amendment for the improved disposal of Air Pollution Control Residues (APCr) and for a fine announced by the NSW EPA. We thought it was important to address these in detail with the community.

NSW EPA fine

Recent media reports that Woodlawn has been fined \$30,000 for a rain related issue at our Mechanical Biological Facility did not mention that we originally alerted the NSW EPA of the problem in a proactive way. It is also important to note, we are not aware of any leachate discharge to the environment, and all leachate remains within the MBT facility.

We are, as always, working diligently to rectify identified issues. As I'm sure the community is well aware, the situation on site has been significantly impacted by extreme rainfall over the past 4 years of continuous La Nina events. As Woodlawn is a non-discharge site, this excess water must be contained within its boundaries. As a result, we are continuously putting in place measures to ensure compliance during extreme weather conditions, reducing rain-related storage issues and most importantly preventing any off site discharge.

We acknowledge that there is room for improvement, and we have been actively implementing measures to ensure compliance, including:

- the construction of a large-scale leachate storage dam, which was recently approved by the regulators following a 10 month long application process, and has been under expedited construction timelines since,
- taking the innovative approach to use self-contained rubber storage bladders, with additional storage on order at the time of the EPA inspection that has since been delivered and is in use while the storage dam is under construction,
- trucking leachate offsite in early 2023 for treatment at a licensed facility but being prevented from continuing this practice,
- increasing evaporation of leachate on site,
- reviewing water usage on site to ensure no excess leachate is produced as a result of operations.

At the same time, Veolia continues to work with independent odour experts to identify further improvements that can be made on the site. These experts previously undertook assessments of the affected area and concluded it was of low odour-causing potential, with no observable impact. Veolia remains committed to adhering to our many licence conditions and we take our environmental compliance seriously.