

Westfield septage treatment plant

**Health Department of Western Australia
Proposed changes to environmental conditions**

**Report and recommendations
of the Environmental Protection Authority**

**Environmental Protection Authority
Perth, Western Australia
Bulletin 720
November 1993**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report contains the Environmental Protection Authority's environmental assessment and recommendations to the Minister for the Environment on the environmental acceptability of a proposed change to environmental conditions set by the Minister for the Environment in January 1988 and subsequently amended in October 1988.

Immediately following the release of the report there is a 14-day period when anyone may appeal to the Minister against the Environmental Protection Authority's report.

After the appeal period, and determination of any appeals, the Minister consults with the other relevant ministers and agencies and then issues his decision about whether the proposal may or may not proceed. The Minister also announces the legally binding environmental conditions which might apply to any approval.

APPEALS

If you disagree with any of the assessment report or recommendations you may appeal in writing to the Minister for the Environment outlining the environmental reasons for your concern and enclosing the appeal fee of \$10.

It is important that you clearly indicate the part of the report you disagree with and the reasons for your concern so that the grounds of your appeal can be properly considered by the Minister for the Environment.

ADDRESS

Hon Minister for the Environment
12 Floor Dumas House
2 Havclock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

CLOSING DATE

Your appeal (with the \$10 fee) must reach the Minister's office no later than 5.00 pm on 9 December, 1993.

1. Background

In March 1988 the Health Department of Western Australia, the proponent, requested that the waste receipt time on Saturday at the Westfield Treatment Plant be changed from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon to 7am to 4.00pm. During its assessment of this request (EPA Bulletin 348) the EPA, after consulting with the City of Armadale and other decision making authorities, found the change acceptable. The EPA reported to the Minister for the Environment in August 1988 that the proposal was acceptable. In October 1988 the Minister for the Environment issued his statement that the proposed change was acceptable. However, as a result of a typing error in that statement, the new time for receiving waste on Saturday read 9.00am to 4.00pm and not 7.00am to 4.00pm as assessed.

2. The proposal

The Health Department has requested this error be rectified. Pursuant to Section 46(1) of the Environmental Protection Act, the Minister for the Environment has asked the Environmental Protection Authority to inquire and report on this error.

3. EPA's assessment

The Environmental Protection Authority has assessed the proposed time change and offers the same advice as it gave in August 1988 (EPA Bulletin 348) when it found the proposal to be acceptable.

Recommendation 1

The Environmental Protection Authority regards the change to waste receipt hours on Saturday for the Westfield Treatment Plant, from 9.00am to 4.00pm, to 7.00am to 4.00pm as being environmentally acceptable. Accordingly, the Environmental Protection Authority recommends that that part of Condition 1 referring to the opening time on Saturday in the Ministerial Statement published 25 October 1988 be deleted and replaced by the following:

"The plant will only be open for waste delivery between 7.00am and 5.00pm weekdays and between 7.00am and 4.00pm Saturdays. The plant will be closed for waste deliveries on Sundays".

The Authority also recommends that the Minister take the opportunity to include a compliance auditing condition in order to allow the effective auditing of this amended proposal. Further, it is recommended that the new standard implementation condition also be included in the statement to allow minor amendments to be made to the statement at the discretion of the Minister for the Environment on advice from the EPA.

Recommendation 2

The Environmental Protection Authority recommends that the standard implementation and compliance auditing conditions be included in the conditions for this proposal.

These recommendations could be given effect through an amendment to the Minister's Statement on this proposal issued on January 1988 and subsequently amended on October 1988 (appendix 1). The recommended amendments are reflected in Section 4.

4. Recommended amended environmental conditions

STATEMENT TO AMEND CONDITIONS APPLYING TO A PROPOSAL (PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 46 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)

PROPOSAL: WESTFIELD SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLANT (120/120-1/844)

CURRENT PROPONENT: HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CONDITIONS SET ON: 21 JANUARY 1988 AND AMENDED 25 OCTOBER 1988

Condition 1 of both statements is replaced to read as follows:

1A Proponent Commitments

In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil its commitments (which are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement) made during the assessment of this proposal in EPA Bulletin 299, as subsequently amended in EPA Bulletin 348 and reported upon in this Bulletin (a copy of the proponent's commitments is attached to the Minister's Statement published 21 January 1988 and included as appendix I of this report).

1B Implementation

Subject to the conditions set on this project, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal. Where, in the course of that detailed implementation, the proponent seeks to change those designs, specifications, plans or other technical material in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

1C Operating hours

The plant will only be open for waste delivery between 7.00am and 5.00pm weekdays and between 7.00am and 4.00pm Saturdays. The plant will be closed for waste deliveries on Sundays".

The following original condition and procedure are inserted after condition 2 of the Minister for the Environment's statement published 21 January 1988:

3 Compliance Auditing

In order to ensure that environmental conditions and commitments are met, an audit system is required.

3-1 The proponent shall prepare periodic "Progress and Compliance Reports", to help verify the environmental performance of this project, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Authority.

Procedure

- 1 The Environmental Protection Authority is responsible for verifying compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, with the exception of conditions stating that the proponent shall meet the requirements of either the Minister for the Environment or any other government agency.
- 2 If the Environmental Protection Authority, other government agency or proponent is in dispute concerning compliance with the conditions contained in this statement, that dispute will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.

Appendix 1

**Ministers statements of 21 January 1988 and 25 October 1988
which include the proponent commitments**

Ass # 120
Bull # 299
State # 015



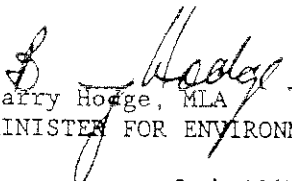
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION ACT 1986)

PROPOSED LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT
AT WESTFIELD - HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

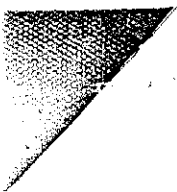
This proposal may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

1. Adherence by the proponent to the proposal as assessed by the Environment Protection Authority and fulfillment of the environmental commitments made by the proponent (list of major commitments attached).
2. The proponent shall, prior to commissioning of the project, submit a detailed management plan to the satisfaction of the Environmental Protection Authority. This plan shall address the following issues:
 - . odour control;
 - . noise levels;
 - . disposal of solids;
 - . disposal or retreatment of out-of-specification liquid effluent; and
 - . contingency plans for flooding, spillages, equipment failure and accidents.


Barry Hodge, MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

21 JAN 1988

see also Station 13



PROPOSED LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT
AT WESTFIELD -

MANAGEMENT AND OTHER COMMITMENTS MADE
BY THE PROPONENT

1. DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING
 - 1.1 The proposed plant will upgrade the disposal of septage and grease trap wastes to a standard in line with modern technology. A modern high technology plant will be constructed.
 - 1.2 The "lime stabilization" process selected will produce an effluent acceptable to the Water Authority of WA sewers.
 - 1.3 Turning lanes will be installed at the Armadale Road/Westfield Road intersection to ensure that traffic flow on Armadale Road is not interrupted.
 - 1.4 Approximately twelve months is required for detailed design and construction. If this time plan is followed, commissioning and operation can be expected in the second half of 1988.
2. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
 - 2.1 The environmental management objectives are to construct and operate a facility which employs an up-to-date method of disposal and meets all necessary legislative environmental standards. The achievement of these objectives will be facilitated by the following measures:
 - (a) management of plant to control odours and other nuisances;
 - (b) development of a management plan to cover contingencies such as equipment failure, spillages, accidents and out-of-specification effluent;
 - (c) preventive maintenance;
 - (d) recycling and reuse of treated grease and sludge, where possible;
 - (e) handling and security arrangements to control incoming waste;
 - (f) testing of incoming waste to control shock pollutant loads;
 - (g) strict control of solid and liquid discharges; and
 - (h) strict overseeing of operations by the Health Department of WA, the Water Authority of WA and the Environmental Protection Authority.
 - 2.2 The proposed plant will be designed to minimise odours from all areas of the plant.
 - 2.3 Off-loading will be through totally enclosed hoses and all liquid and solid treatment areas will be ventilated.
 - 2.4 Extracted air will be treated before discharge by well proven technology, such as chlorination units or activated carbon filters.
 - 2.5 With sewer connection being available nearby, all liquid effluent will be discharged to that system under the control of the Water Authority of WA.

- 2.6 Solid wastes will consist of grease from the grease trap treatment unit and sludge and screenings from the septage treatment facility. Recovered grease will if possible be sold to rendering industries or transported in an enclosed bin to a Health Department approved sanitary landfill site for immediate burial.
- 2.7 Dewatered sludges will be transported in enclosed trucks to a Health Department approved sanitary landfill site, or if a market exists, sold as a soil conditioner.
- 2.8 Noise from the plant is not expected to be a problem as all equipment will be housed. The exception may be a few pumps, but as none of these will be larger than 5 KW the noise level will be minimal.
- 2.9 The plant will only be open for waste delivery between 7.30 am and 5.00 pm weekdays and 9.00 am to 12 noon Saturdays and Sundays.

3. CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- 3.1 Spillages of liquid waste within the plant will be rare as off-loading, treatment and disposal will be carried out in enclosed pipes, pumps and tanks.
- 3.2 Should spillages occur, there will be ample water hoses available throughout the plant for clean-up operations. Waste water will drain into the treatment system through non-return valves.

4. PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

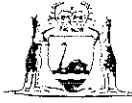
- 4.1 Liaison with local residents and their elected representatives is very important; a Liaison Committee will be established to monitor and to be informed of the activities at the plant.

(The Committee could consist of one or two elected members of the City of Armadale Council, the local health surveyor and one or two local residents. These people would meet at regular intervals with the manager of the plant and representatives of the Health Department of WA, the Water Authority of WA and the Environmental Protection Authority.)

ASS # 120

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State # 043



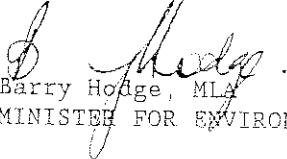
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

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(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 46 OF THE
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PROPONENT : HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
CONDITIONS SET : 21 JANUARY 1988

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Barry Hodge, MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT


See also N 15

Published on

25 OCT 1988

PROPOSED LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT
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