

Planning Panels Secretariat  
PO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Tamima Khondaker & Lisa Foley

**Your Reference: PPSNTH-11**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**DA2020-0138 – 284 GIDLEY APPLEBY ROAD, GIDLEY – ORGANIC RECYCLING FACILITY – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING GROUNDWATER CONCERNS RAISED DURING EXHIBITION OF DEVELOPMENT**

I write in relation to the subject development application which will go before the Northern Regional Planning Panel on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Tamworth.

I wish to advise that Council conducted an Ordinary Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, where it was decided that the elected Councillors would not make a submission to the Northern Regional Planning Panel regarding the subject development application.

During the community consultation segment of the Council meeting, a landowner within close proximity to the subject property addressed the Council to voice concerns over the proposed Organics Recycling Facility. Of primary concern to the landowner are potential groundwater contamination impacts for both surrounding landowners and the Peel River (located approximately 1km east of the development site) caused by stormwater runoff from the facility, including potential overflows from the proposed leachate storage dam.

In light of these concerns, groundwater, along with stormwater and wastewater management have been addressed within Council's assessment report, with the development application also having been referred to NSW EPA, NSW DPI – Water & NSW Water as part of the assessment process. No concerns from the external agencies were raised within the external referral responses, with mitigation measures concerning potential contamination of groundwater to be implemented as part of various Management Plans required to be prepared and approved by NSW EPA under the Environment Protection Licence (EPL) for the facility.

Leachate produced, captured and stored at the premises as part of day to day operations is the most likely potential source of contamination from the proposed facility. During Council's assessment of potential contamination impacts resulting from the proposed leachate dam, it was determined that appropriate mitigation measures are proposed for the facility including:

- designing working surfaces to prevent leachate migration into subsoil and groundwater;
- lining leachate collection and reuse facilities (including leachate dam) to provide suitable barrier between groundwater and potential pollution sources; and
- provision of additional storage capacity within the proposed leachate dam to accommodate a 1 in 10 year 24 hour storm event (as per EPA requirements) which equates to approximately 3.1ML storage plus an additional 13ML additional capacity to minimise the risk of leachate overflow. Further mitigation measures to additional dam storage capacity including ongoing monitoring of dam levels and pumping of excess leachate from the dam into dedicated on-site storage tanks to ensure dam levels remain suitable for site operations.

The leachate management system for the facility will also be subject to ongoing regulation by NSW EPA so as to ensure it remains compliant with Environmental Guidelines for Composting and Related Organic Processing Facilities (DEC 2004).

Council also wishes to advise that it would be open to the imposition of a condition requiring regular groundwater onsite monitoring to be undertaken downslope of the proposed leachate dam so as to minimise potential contamination impacts as proposed by the applicant within the EIS.

Yours faithfully,



Sam Lobsey  
**Acting Director – Planning & Compliance**

13 February 2020