

# **Woodlawn Eco-Precinct Update - August 2023**

#### A message from Justin Houghton

We continue to improve the management of containers. The EPA has issued 2 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) for leaking containers from the end of last year and early this year. Since this time, we have developed and implemented a comprehensive repair process with a third party independent engineering consultant. These inspections and repairs are very comprehensive and involve investigation and checking of metal integrity, metal wearing and gouging, door frame alignment, door hinge and locking mechanism functionality and seal replacement. The containers are then water tested by pumping water into the container then driving it onto a slope (8%) and leaving for 15 minutes to test the water seal. On completion of the repairs and passing the water test, the container is returned to service.

To date, we have carried out repairs and testing on 108 containers and this program will continue with the aim of testing all containers on a rotational basis every 2 years. We also have a replacement scheme ongoing with 80 new containers replacing old containers earlier this year. We are also about to start receiving an additional 100 new containers to replace the same number of older and decommissioned containers. With approximately 350 containers in use this will mean that over the next few months all containers in the fleet would have been replaced or inspected, repaired and leak tested.

We will continue our rigorous container maintenance program to ensure we comply with our licence and eliminate leaking containers. The best way to keep on top of this is to continue to work with the community. As we have said before, your feedback is important and quick identification of any issue will allow us to take a container out of service immediately to inspect and make any necessary repairs.

### **Woodlawn Bioreactor**

Woodlawn's 12 month licence reporting period started on 6 September 2022. The table below is a record of the volumes received at site during the current licence reporting period 2022-23.

Source	Licence limit 6 Sep 2022 to 5 Sep 2023	Actual tonnage received From 6th September 2022
Waste to Bioreactor via Rail	900,000	663,005t
Local waste via road	125,000	117,647t
Waste to MBT by Rail	280,000	91,245t

Woodlawn Bio-energy (WBE) continues to improve its efficiencies with the site achieving 4827MWhs more cumulative electricity generation than the same time in 2022. This means we have extracted 8,916,892 m³ more landfill gas compared to the same time last year. In addition, two new gas extraction blowers are being installed at the WBE site. The blowers are used to extract the gas from the Bioreactor and as we increase gas production we must increase our ability to extract all this gas. The new blowers are planned to be commissioned in September 2023 for additional gas production in the future.

This success continues to ensure we achieve our sustainable energy production targets at Woodlawn. The continued focus of our very proud and determined team to continually work together and improve outcomes is testament to their dedication to their roles and the belief that what they are doing is making a difference to our environment.

#### **Rivers of Carbon initiative**

Veolia is delighted to share with the Tarago Community that the Rivers of Carbon initiative has extended to the Veolia Eco Precinct Operations through Pylara station. Rivers of Carbon is an initiative of the Australian River Restoration Centre. At Pylara station, we are using this opportunity to plant trees in the riparian corridor along Mulwaree River. The riparian corridor is the section of land adjacent to a water body that is particularly valuable for its biodiversity and ecological services such as improving water quality by filtering water and retaining soil against erosion.

This opportunity is being coordinated with third party revegetation specialists, with 1100 tubestock being planted in phase 1. We hope that this long term sustainability initiative will improve river water quality, river bank ecology and improve the ecological functions of the site. This tree planting is planned to start on 26 August, with a huge range of Veolia employees excited to participate.



#### **Woodlawn ARC Update**

We are currently developing our Woodlawn ARC Response to Submissions report. We are undertaking additional studies and continue to seek clarity from some submissions to ensure we can adequately address concerns raised. We thank the community for the detailed submissions put forward. At this stage we are estimating that the Response to Submissions report will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment towards the end of Q3 / early Q4 2023.

Following this the Department will undertake an adequacy review, after which the Response to Submissions report will become publicly available on the Major Projects website. We will notify the community once the report is available online. The next step in the process involves the Department preparing its assessment report and making a recommendation to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) who is the consent authority for this project.

Once the IPC process commences there will be further review of all project documentation, submissions, the assessment report and recommendations. There will be a process of engagement by the IPC with government agencies and other stakeholders and likely a public hearing at which community stakeholders will have the opportunity to present to the Commissioners. The IPC will then proceed with making its determination on the project which is likely to be in 2024.

#### **Veolia Community Liaison Committee (CLC)**

The Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meeting was held on 10 August, 2023. Presentations were made on the site operations, tonnage receival, dam levels, liquid management and odour management. We also had members of the Woodlawn team give the committee an update on the project (outlined in next section). A list of questions from the community was also tabled at the meeting. The discussions were very productive and were very helpful for Woodlawn staff to better understand the concerns of the community. One issue was to get the minutes from the meeting out quicker. We have agreed to have them drafted, reviewed and finalised within 2 to 3 weeks of the meeting, so the committee is aiming for that at this point.

#### **Veolia Community Consultation Committee Members:**

Member Name	Representing
Cr Andy Wood	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
Cr John Preston	Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council
Scott Martin	GMC Planning & Environment
Mark Quinlan	Tarago Sporting Association Incorporated (TSAI)
Kym Wake	Community
Dr Samantha Johnson	Community
Fiona Jefferies	Community

The commitment is 4 meetings a year, held at our site after business hours - if you would like to hear more please contact us at woodlawn@veolia.com.

## Reporting to site

Your feedback is incredibly valuable as we measure the performance of our operations and odour management. To report incidents of odour, please fill out our online odour report form at **veolia.com/anz/WoodlawnEcoPrecinct**, contact Veolia's Community Feedback line on **1800 241 750** or simply send an email to **woodlawn@veolia.com**. To report a leaking container please use the feedback line or email.