

Mundaring Water Treatment Plant Site Selection Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA): Community Amenity Scoring Process

Outcomes from Workshop: 19th July 2007

Facilitated by Jenny Pope (GHD)

Participants:

Irene Clark

Myles Harmer

Diana Frylick

Jodie Hutton

Jenny Johnson

Sharon Davies

Helen Dullard

Gerard van Didden

Fiona Jordan

Karen Shelley (Friends of Biala)

Sandra Bentley (Mundaring RPA)

Paul Benson (Sawyers Valley RPA)

Apologies:

Mike Davies (Stoneville RPA)

Margaret Fowler (Glen Forrest RPA)

Community Amenity

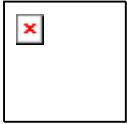
Community amenity is a general term often used to describe the potential impacts of a development on the lifestyle of the local community. In the case of the proposed Mundaring WTP, the issues considered under community amenity were focused upon 'nuisance' factors such as: visual amenity, i.e. what the WTP looks like and what impacts it might have on the outlook from residents' properties, including impacts of plant lighting; noise, i.e. whether the noise generated by plant operations will affect local residents; and traffic, i.e. whether traffic entering and leaving the WTP site will create impacts in terms of noise, congestion or road safety.

It was noted during the scoring process that some participants would have preferred a broader definition of community amenity, to include issues such as hazardous chemical risks, vegetation clearing and heritage values. However, these matters are included under other criteria in the MCA process, and therefore were excluded from the discussion of community amenity so as to avoid double counting.

General Issues Raised by Participants

Site One

While some participants rated Site One as having low impact on community amenity because of the relatively few residences in the vicinity, others ranked it as having a high impact on community amenity because its selection would mean that the WTP would be located on two different sites, thus increasing overall impact. The question was asked as to whether it the section of Mundaring Weir Road closest to the Weir could be re-aligned to permit the whole plant to be located on Site One, but Water Corporation advised that this was not possible and that the chlorination plant and sludge drying beds would still have to be located at one of the three other sites if Site One were selected. Water Corporation also advised that the chlorination plant itself, if located remotely, would have minimal amenity impacts, as it would occupy a very small space, involve no noisy equipment, and require only minimal lighting at night. The sludge drying beds would not be visible from residential areas and would not be odorous.



DEC Land

There are a number of residences in the vicinity of the DEC Land, including Tree Tops Bed and Breakfast and properties along Mundaring weir Road. It was suggested by some participants that a WTP located at this site would be more visible from residences along Mundaring Weir Road than a WTP on O'Connor Hill because they would look down on the plant, but this view was not shared by all. Noise and lighting impacts on these residents were also of concern.

Pine Plantation

The Pine Plantation site was considered by all participants to represent a low impact on community amenity because of its distance from any residences Therefore it ranked highly overall.

O'Connor Site

Concerns were raised that the WTP would be visible from Mundaring Weir Road and from residences along Mundaring Weir Road and to the north and east of the proposed site, including those along McCallum Road. It was pointed out that the map provided by Water Corporation excludes residential areas to the northeast of the proposed site. Noise and lighting impacts on these residents were also of concern.

General Issues

Several participants made the point that the increase in traffic movements associated with the WTP operation would be negligible in the context of existing traffic along Mundaring Weir Road, although this view was not shared by all. The point was also made that sound carries long distances in Mundaring, particularly at night, and therefore Water Corporation was requested to adopt best practice noise reduction technology when designing the plant. The issue of construction noise was also discussed, and Water Corporation indicated that construction could take approximately two years.

Final Rankings: 1 is the best outcome and 6 is the worst outcome (most impact). The majority of participants reached consensus and where consensus was not reached the alternative rankings are included.

Seven participants ranked:

1. Pine Plantation
2. Site One and Pine Plantation
3. Site One and DEC Land
4. Site One and O'Connor Site
5. DEC Land
6. O'Connor Site

Three participants ranked:

1. O'Connor Site
2. Pine Plantation
3. DEC Land
4. Site One and Pine Plantation
5. Site One and O'Connor Site
6. Site 1 and DEC Land

One participant ranked:

1. Pine Plantation
2. Site One and Pine Plantation
3. Site One and O'Connor Site
4. Site One and DEC Land
5. O'Connor Site
6. DEC Land