

Site Selection Proposed Mundaring Water Treatment Plant Public Forum Mundaring Shire Hall Thursday August 23rd

Site related issues identified for discussion by participants to enable them to complete the rating

The following issues were identified by participants for discussion before they could complete their rating of the sites. Where possible answers were sought from the Water Corporation on the night.

ISSUES ACROSS ALL SITES

Amount of land to be cleared

- I need to leave here knowing how much land will need to be cleared at each site and specifically how much native land and what are the effects of each

Answer:

The areas that will need to be cleared at each site were provided in the "Summary of Site Information for Short-listed Sites" and in the drawings mailed out to all participants dated 13 July 2007. Instead of sending the whole set of information again to participants, the attached bar graph in Appendix 1 shows a summary of the areas cleared at each site.

- Comparative areas cleared for infrastructure- pipelines, powerlines etc

Answer:

Within the limited time available, it is not possible to provide the information requested but a parameter that will provide an indication of impact due to the pipeline is the area of the pipeline corridor. This supercedes the information that was approximately calculated at the 23 August 2007 forum.

O'Connor	5.2ha
DEC	2.9ha
Pine	4.6ha
Site 1 (DEC)	2.3ha
Site 1 (O'Connor)	3.4ha
Site 1 (Pine)	3.6ha

It is not possible to provide the requested information on powerlines. The Water Corporation will discuss the details for the power supply route with Western Power once a preferred site is selected. The power supply is likely to come from the sub-station below the Weir and as far as possible the existing power lines will be upgraded to cater for the plant requirement to minimise the impact on clearing. Water Corporation will also consider laying the powerline below ground to reduce impact.

Aboriginal issues

- Indigenous sacred sites and sites of significance. Where are they? Can only be cited by ethnographic study
- Aboriginal consultation on only one suite- what happens if this is negative. Revisit whole site selection?

Answer:

The Aboriginal archaeological surveys of the four sites conducted by Australian Interactive Consultants found 'no intact archaeological sites or in situ archaeological material'. Therefore, the Water Corporation will conduct a full Aboriginal ethnographic survey on the selected site only and considers that any issues will be manageable.

Financial

- Total lack of triple bottom line accounting i.e. cost of loss of native vegetation despite this being promised by WC
- What are real site costs when environmental costs included

Answer:

The cost estimates provided to participants are preliminary estimates that are sufficient for comparative purposes only. These cost estimates are based simply on capital and operating costs.

It is difficult to quantify environmental costs as environmental features are not (in general) market goods. There have been methods developed to try to quantify environmental costs but they are complicated and the methods can often be obscure.

Environmental

- Lack of fauna surveys

Answer:

At present preliminary flora and fauna surveys have been conducted on the sites, which provide sufficient information for comparative purposes (ie. they indicate how the sites compare against one another- which is the purpose of this process). These surveys provided information on the habitat value and the potential for the site to support fauna species (as well as specific species information from opportunistic surveys). Habitat information is important as it provides more information than simply what fauna species are found on site at one time, rather it also provides information on what value the site may have in the future for fauna species.

Detailed fauna surveys are time consuming and can disturb and stress fauna species (ie. trapping surveys). Therefore, the Water Corporation considers that a detailed fauna survey should only be conducted after a preferred site has been selected.

- How can flora surveys be complete when orchids aren't flowering yet?

Answer:

Flora surveys on the four short-listed sites were conducted at different times of the year, due to time constraints and some of the sites were added to the list at different times. Flora surveys that are conducted at only one time of year may not record all species present at a site due to problems with identifying species when they do not have distinguishing features present (particularly flowers) and because some species (such as orchids) are only above ground at certain times of the year.

It is generally recommended that flora surveys in the south west of Western Australia be conducted in spring as this is the time when the maximum number of species can be identified (however, one survey in spring may still not record all species as some can only be identified in other seasons - thus, multiple surveys are required for maximum identification).

The surveys at O'Connor Site and Site One were conducted in winter when a number of flora species had started flowering, and identification of most of the species was possible. This survey allowed identification of the majority of species on the site and provided information on the value of the site for flora and vegetation. It may not have recorded some species at the site due to the

time period (but note: some orchid species were already flowering at the time of survey and others can be readily identified by their leaves only).

The flora surveys conducted to date are considered suitable for the site selection process but the report recommended that further detailed surveys be conducted, during spring, on the recommended site.

- Environmental impact assessment of sites- validity and reliability

Answer:

As part of the site selection process GHD Pty Ltd (GHD) was commissioned by the Water Corporation to undertake preliminary environmental investigations on a number of the Mundaring WTP site options.

The investigations resulted in a report which detailed the preliminary comparative Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for four short-listed sites. This report investigates the site to a level that allows the environmental impacts of each site to be compared, and thus to assist in the decision-making process.

The Water Corporation considers that this level of investigation is reliable and sufficient for site selection purposes. A more detailed site specific EIA will be required once a preferred site has been selected.

Views about unanswered questions

- Questions not answered after so long. WC should not be allowed to stall until too late for community

Answer:

The Water Corporation has always strived to answer all questions either in "open questions and answers" sessions, during site visits and one-to-one sessions with experts from consultants and staff from the Water Corporation.

Piping

- What will be the impact of 12m corridor through village, 20m corridor along Village Road and Allen Road and 16m at Firewood

Answer:

On the above corridors, the potential impacts due to the construction of the pipeline include:

- Noise
- Dust
- Road Access

Water Corporation will work with landowners to ensure that the impact during the construction of the pipelines in the above corridors on homes and businesses will be minimal.

- Cost of extra pipes for all site except site 1

Answer:

Preliminary estimates of pipe costs:

O'Connor	\$14.7M
DEC	\$ 9.5M
Pine Plantation	\$20.5M

- Pipes from site 1 to pine plantation- diameter, size and length

Answer:

Diameter = 1.4m internal

Total length of pipes from Site 1 to Pine Plantation = 7.4km

Amenity/Human impact

- Number of vehicle movements- weekly, monthly

Answer:

Peak Period: 10 to 11 vehicles per day

Normal Period: 9 to 10 vehicles per day

- Impact on residents near Firewood Road

Answer:

The potential impacts due to the construction of the treatment plant and the pipeline include:

- Noise
- Dust
- Road Access

Water Corporation will work with landowners to ensure that the impact during the construction of the pipelines in the above corridors on homes and businesses will be minimal.

- For O'Connor site what will be visual impact from chain mesh security fencing on Mundaring Weir Road, particularly at O'Connor site

Answer:

For O'Connor site, any visual impact, could be minimised by setting the fence line back from Mundaring Weir Road and by incorporating a vegetation buffer to provide a screen between the road and the fence line.

- Impact of construction period on residents

Answer:

The potential impacts due to the construction of the treatment plant and pipeline include:

- Noise
- Dust
- Road Access

Water Corporation will work with landowners to ensure that the impact during construction on homes will be minimal.

- Control of illegal traffic in secure areas e.g. motorbikes, off-road vehicles

Answer:

Vehicle access (away from public roads or designated tracks) is not acceptable in the catchment. All unlicensed vehicle activity in the catchment is illegal. Some of the recommended protective strategies to protect the water quality of the water source include:

- Prohibit public vehicle access on Department-owned land under trespass laws;
- Strengthen Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947; and
- Use of the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978 to provide adequate penalties for illegal off-road vehicle activity.

Appendix 1



