



Media Statement

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Community views sought on wastewater plant at East Rockingham

Local residents and businesses can have their say on plans to build a wastewater treatment plant at East Rockingham as part of a social impact assessment being done by the Water Corporation starting this week.

The study will examine potential impacts of the plant including odour, noise and visual as well as economic effects and seek to understand community members' concerns. This information will be used to develop plans to mitigate changes to the surrounding environment as a result of building and operating the plant.

People can have their say in the study through an online discussion forum, where they can learn about the proposed plant, answer questions and provide comments.

Face-to-face meetings and interviews will also be held with key community members and stakeholders. This will help the Corporation to develop a greater understanding of specific community concerns and perceptions of the proposed wastewater treatment plant and to shape its design into a state-of-the-art structure.

Further staffed shopping centre displays will be held in and around the Rockingham area to provide project information and gather feedback. Over recent months, shopping centre information displays have been held at the Waikiki Village Shopping Centre, Warnbro Shopping Centre and Rockingham City Shopping Centre.

The social impact assessment will build on knowledge gained through community consultation carried out in the Rockingham area over the past four years. This has included meetings and presentations to community groups, interviews with community members and stakeholders, telephone surveys, advertising, media articles, website information, on-site signage and shopping centre displays.

The social impact assessment is being done on the Water Corporation's behalf by an independent consultancy, Environmental Resources Management (ERM). They will also develop the Social Impact Management Plan to manage the design and construction of the plant to ensure it blends in with the surrounding environment.

Water Corporation Manager Major Projects Gill Harris said the assessment and management plan will form an integral part of the Water Corporation's submission to the State Government's Environmental Protection Authority later this year, seeking approval to construct the plant. The submission will also include a number of other studies and plans to understand environmental issues related to designing and constructing the plant.

“The Water Corporation is confident that providing environmental offsets and making available treated wastewater for recycling and the conservation area proposed adjacent to the plant will offer positive outcomes for local industry and the surrounding urban area. There is already 2.2Ha of conservation area within the site,” Mr Harris said.

In November last year, the Federal Department of Environment and Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) decided that the proposed East Rockingham Wastewater Treatment Plant did not require formal environmental assessment.

The proposed East Rockingham Wastewater Treatment plant will be located in the Rockingham Industrial Zone, between Patterson and Mandurah roads, and is scheduled to be operating by December 2015.

To find out more about the project or have your say as part of the social impact assessment, visit www.watercorporation.com.au/whatwedo/ourprojects

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