Cessnock waste facility approved

The Department of Planning has approved an expansion to the Enviroking liquid waste facility at Cessnock, which will create 12 new ongoing jobs.

Enviroking Investments operates a liquid waste treatment facility at Black Hill in the Cessnock local government area.

In November 1998, Cessnock City Council granted consent for the facility to allow the treatment of liquid food wastes, grease trap arrestor wastes and industrial oily waters.

The original facility was designed and constructed to treat up to 15,000 tonnes of liquid waste per year however the council restricted the facility to 5,000 tonnes per annum.

Enviroking has now been given approval to expand its existing waste management operations to treat up to 20,000 tonnes of liquid waste per annum.

The project involves the receive and treatment of liquid waste and the disposal of treated waste into landfill, sewage treatment plants or otherwise appropriately licensed facilities. The proposal also involves:

- expanding the existing structures on-site;
- extending the main treatment building to include a workshop, truck wash bay area, bunded dry storage area and two treated effluent tanks; and
- upgrading the ventilation systems within the treatment building.

The proposal has a capital investment value of $408,000 and is expected to create five construction jobs and 12 operational jobs.

The proposal met the relevant criteria to be assessed by the Department as a major project under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

During the exhibition period, the Department received six submissions on the project comprising five from government authorities and one from a neighboring company.

Most of the concerns raised by the council and government agencies related to the proposed off-site land application of treated waste.

Department of Planning Deputy Director-General Development Assessment Richard Pearson said the Department has not approved this element of the proposal and advised Enviroking that it will need to lodge a separate application if it wishes to gain approval.

The Department is satisfied that all other issues raised in submissions can be suitably managed to ensure an acceptable level of environmental performance, and has concluded that the project would:

- provide essential liquid waste treatment services not provided by public utilities;
• meet demand for liquid waste disposal or alternative waste disposal technologies which would otherwise be disposed of to sewer or landfill;
• satisfy the regional demand for more sustainable waste management facilities;
• reduce the long-term waste management costs and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the landfilling of wastes;
• be consistent with the strategic direction for waste management in NSW; and
• make use of an innovative technology and infrastructure already operating on a smaller scale.

“On balance, the Department considers the project is in the public interest, and should be approved subject to conditions,” Mr Pearson said.

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