

MINDARIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

NEERABUP RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The *Community Partnership Agreement* represents a commitment by Mindarie Regional Council (MRC) to work with the community to ensure that its issues and concerns are understood and acted upon. The Community Partnership Agreement is a summary document that identifies the agreed outcomes and impacts of the project relative to the social issues.

The Mindarie Regional Council is committed to the community consultation process and as part of that process has initiated a Community Partnership Agreement that aims to:

- Identify the social issues associated with the Neerabup Resource Recovery Facility project; and
- Show how these issues will be addressed.

The Community Partnership Agreement is a summary document that identifies the agreed outcomes and impacts of the project relative to each of the social issues. The specified outcomes and impacts then become performance standards against which the success of the project can be measured.

Mindarie Regional Council has a number of basic requirements for the proposed facility. These are aspects that are fundamental to the project and, in effect, are not open to negotiation. The basic requirements are:

- The site for the facility is within the Neerabup Industrial area
- A resource recovery facility will be established, and needs to be operational by late 2005
- The facility will have the following minimum requirements: compliance with environmental standards, economic feasibility, and achieve a positive social impact.

Everything else in relation to the proposal is open for public discussion and contribution.

Towards the end of 2003, the MRC will be preparing tender documents to allow tenders to be called for the construction of the proposed resource recovery facility within the Neerabup Industrial Area. To achieve the desired position of broad community support for the facility it is important that community input is obtained in the development of the tender documentation. The tender documents will specify the conditions under which the contractor will have to build and operate the facility. The Community Partnership Agreement is a powerful opportunity for the community to ensure that its issues and concerns are understood and acted upon.

As well as influencing the tender process the Community Partnership Agreement will be used throughout the life of the project to track the performance standards against which the success of the project can be measured. The actions that need to be taken to achieve the required outcomes will be reflected in detail in other key documents associated with the project. These documents will include:

- The Public Environmental Review and associated environmental approval conditions;
- The Environmental Works approval;
- The Town Planning Development approval;
- The building license;
- The environmental license;
- The environmental monitoring plan; and
- The project contract with the facility operator.

The Community Partnership Agreement will therefore be a key overarching document, which will fundamentally influence the facility's design and operations.

In preparing the Community Partnership Agreement the Mindarie Regional Council conducted two public workshops to identify the *values* that people thought were important to preserve and the *issues* they thought would need to be addressed by the MRC to ensure these *values* are maintained.

Values

In summary the community valued the semi-rural lifestyle, where they are close to the country and close to the city. The area's bushland and wildlife was highly valued because it contributes to the amenity, character and naturalness of the area. Low traffic volumes and a quiet neighbourhood were also seen as valuable. It was felt the area had a good community spirit and atmosphere.

Issues

In relation to the Resource Recovery Facility the community is concerned the RRF may effect these values and considered that the following issues should be addressed:

- Increased road traffic noise;
- Contamination of soil and groundwater;
- Air pollution and health effects;
- Odour; and
- Bushland loss.

Objectives and Outcomes

In considering the values and issues, the community identified a number of objectives and outcomes that would need to be achieved to maintain community support:

Objective 1 – MAINTAIN STRONG COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT

Outcomes:

1. The continued operation of the Community Engagement Advisory Group to oversee and advise on the community engagement process for the project throughout its life.
2. The maintenance of clear channels of communication including a complaints management system with a defined response time.
3. Regular appropriate communication bulletins.
4. The facility will be open for tours and inspections by community groups.
5. Regular reporting to the community on key performance indicators after commissioning.

Objective 2 – PROVIDE AN EDUCATION FACILITY

Outcomes:

1. An appropriate resource recovery and environmental education facility will be established on site.
2. Regular tours by school groups and community groups will be encouraged.
3. The MRC to promote minimisation and separation of waste through their member councils.

Objective 3 – MINIMISE WASTE AND INCREASE RECYCLING

Outcomes:

1. This will be a tender assessment condition and it will be necessary to demonstrate the ability to make effective use of the materials produced.
2. Support the development of a Resource Recovery Precinct around the site.

Objective 4 - PRODUCE A MARKETABLE PRODUCT

Outcomes:

1. This will be a tender assessment condition and it will be necessary to demonstrate the ability to make effective use of the materials produced.
2. Regular monitoring and reporting of performance.

Objective 5 – ACCOUNT FOR THE PROJECT USING A TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

Outcomes:

1. Economic valuation and Customer Partnership Agreement with member councils.
2. Environmental approvals.
3. Community Partnership Agreement allows project to be tracked against social issues.
4. Key performance indicators reflecting Triple Bottom Line to be established to monitor the operations of the facility.

Objective 6 – HAVING AN ETHICAL AND TRUSTWORTHY OPERATOR

Outcomes:

1. Relationships style contract.
2. Ability of the contractor to perform in all areas, for the life of the project will be a key tender assessment criterion.
3. Regular monitoring of performance.
4. Develop procedures to continually improve the process by incorporating experience from the facility and relevant research and technology developments.
5. Clear allocation of risks in contract to party most able to manage the risk.
6. Rewards will be specified for successful compliance with key performance indicators.

Objective 7 – HAVING RIGOROUS QUALITY CONTROL AND PLANT RELIABILITY

Outcomes:

1. A proven history for the type of facility and equipment proposed.
2. A key tender assessment criterion.
3. Approved process control and monitoring system.
4. Develop procedures to continually improve the process by incorporating experience from the facility and relevant research and technology developments.
5. The tender will specify criteria that the contractor must meet.
6. Contractor shall have relevant Quality Assurance systems, such as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 in place.
7. All sections of the facility will be fully enclosed including the recyclable separation and storage areas.

Objective 8 - HAVE TRANSPARENT AND OPEN MONITORING OF ALL ISSUES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Outcomes:

1. Regular public reporting of monitoring results.
2. An independent body to verify the monitoring results provided for the facility.
3. The Community Engagement Advisory Group to meet directly with plant manager.
4. Key performance indicators to be established to monitor the operation of the facility.

Objective 9 – ENSURE THROUGH MONITORING ALL EMISSIONS ARE BELOW ACCEPTABLE LEVELS

Outcomes:

1. A key tender assessment criterion.
2. A proven history for the type of facility and equipment proposed using best practice such as negative air pressure odour control system.
3. Demonstrated ability to meet environmental assessment, approval and licensing conditions.
4. Approved process control and monitoring system.
5. Develop procedures to continually improve the process by incorporating experience from the facility and relevant research and technology developments.
6. Monitor the condition of the building, particularly the concrete slab.

Objective 10 – HAVE NO BREACHES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Outcomes:

1. A key tender assessment criterion.
2. A proven history for the type of facility and equipment proposed.
3. Open and accountable process control and monitoring system developed through public consultation.
4. Develop procedures to continually improve the process by incorporating experience from the facility and relevant research and technology developments.
5. Aligned contract and financial rewards with successful compliance.
6. The facility shall have no discernible odour and will be monitored.
7. Any spillage or run-off water shall be collected and contained (shall not leave the site or enter the ground).

Objective 11 – THE RRF WILL BE ATTRACTIVE AND WELL LANDSCAPED

Outcomes:

1. Appropriate architectural design input into facility.
2. Assessment criterion for tender.

Objective 12 – HAVE DESIGNATED TRAFFIC ROUTES AND SPEED CONTROLS**Outcomes:**

1. Agreement with individual Councils regarding access routes to the facility.
2. Promote development of Flynn Drive with City of Wanneroo in line with projected traffic volumes.

Objective 13 – PRODUCE A NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT**Outcome:**

1. Tender assessment criterion.

Objective 14 – MINIMISE NOISE IMPACTS**Outcomes:**

1. Provide a fully enclosed facility
2. Limit the hours of deliveries of the major components of the waste.
3. Provide a layout and design of the facility that ensures that the reversing and operating noise of the trucks is minimised.
4. The facility will have to adhere to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations, 1997*.

Objective 15 – MAKE THIS A SAFE FACILITY WITH NO HEALTH RISKS**Outcomes:**

1. Provide a facility that does not have adverse health impacts in the short and long term.
2. Comply with environmental conditions with no breaches.
3. Health and safety of workers will be a tender assessment criterion.

Objective 16 – MAXIMISE USE OF BY PRODUCTS**Outcomes:**

1. Encourage the establishment of a Resource Recovery Precinct adjacent to the RRF.
2. Set targets for the amount of the waste stream recovered.

Objective 17 – BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**Outcomes:**

1. Encourage local employment.
2. Provide a community environmental education facility.

Objective 18 – COSTS IMPACTS**Outcome:**

1. Provide a facility, which is economically viable in the short and long term.

Objective 19 – CONTROL OF VERMIN AND FLIES**Outcomes:**

1. Provide a fully enclosed facility.
2. Minimise the time untreated waste is stored in the facility before being processed.

Objective 20 – MINIMISE THE RISK OF FIRES**Outcome:**

1. Implement a comprehensive fire risk management plan.

The objectives and outcomes above have been developed through consultation with the public, and form the CPA. The CPA will be presented to the MRC at their December 2003 meeting. At the meeting a decision will be made on whether to adopt the CPA, which will formalise the MRC's commitment to the objectives and outcomes contained in this document.