

MEDIA RELEASE

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Building the future of organics

SITA Environmental Solutions, in partnership with Penrith City Council, today held the official SITA Advanced Waste Treatment facility ground-breaking ceremony onsite at Kemps Creek.

Once operational, the \$40million facility will be able to accept up to 120,000 tonnes of waste which, if sent to landfill would create 137,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Utilising aerobic composting methods the facility will assist in diverting 94% of garden and food waste from landfill and greatly reduce GHG, equivalent to taking 20,000 cars a year off the road.

Penrith residents are already avid supporters of recycling. In the last financial year they saved 9135 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents just by using their recycling bins.

Building on the requests of residents to introduce a green waste service, Penrith City Mayor, Greg Davies, stated at today's ceremony that "Penrith will be the first Sydney metropolitan council to introduce a complete organic collection and composting program."

In 2008 the Council used some 3,200 tonnes of recycled organics on its parks and sporting fields. The Council's innovative work in this area has not gone unnoticed and it has been recognised by the Waste Management Association of Australia for the most innovative use of compost in local government operations.

The new plant, which will accept source-separated organic waste from the Penrith local government area, has the capacity to produce high quality Australian Standard compost. The compost product will be used in the rehabilitation of Penrith urban amenities including parks, playing fields and gardens - effectively closing the loop on organic waste and continuing Penrith's vision of sustainability and environmental enhancement.

SITA's Managing Director, Eric Gernath, today also made mention of SITA's commitment to educating the residents of Penrith.

"(The Education Centre) will document the journey we are undertaking in the construction and development of the Advanced Waste Treatment facility, and provide a learning centre crucial to the implementation, and ongoing success, of the new recycling and waste management system."

The implementation of Penrith's source-separated organics collection system will begin in mid-2009 with the introduction of a three-bin service to urban residents.

SITA Environmental Solutions, a SUEZ Environment subsidiary, provides weekly services to over 43,000 commercial and industrial clients and more than 800,000 households across Australia

SITA's services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction.

More information on SITA's services can be obtained by calling 13 13 35 or visit www.sita.com.au

With 62,000 employees and more than 120 years of efforts to constantly improve the quality of life for all, SUEZ Environment, a company present on the five continents, is exclusively dedicated to the environment business in which it has firmly secured its position as world leader.

SUEZ Environment and its subsidiaries are committed to the day-to-day challenge of conserving resources and protecting eco-systems by providing innovative solutions to millions of people and industries in the drinking water, wastewater treatment and waste management fields.

SUEZ Environment's waste and water management business expertise is a vital asset in responding to the stakes of the 21st Century: effectively, the world of tomorrow needs an economy which preserves natural resources and optimises the use of raw materials.

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