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NEW \$50 MILLION PLANT MEANS WESTERN SYDNEY RESIDENTS NOW AMONG TOP RECYCLERS IN THE STATE

A new \$50 million advanced waste treatment plant will establish Western Sydney residents as the most effective recyclers in the State.

SITA Environmental Solutions' Advanced Waste Treatment (SAWT) plant at Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek, was officially opened today by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment and Deputy Premier, Carmel Tebbutt.

The new plant will have a capacity to process 134,000 tonnes of waste annually. Of the waste stream entering the plant up to 78 percent will be diverted from landfill, dramatically changing the carbon footprint of Penrith and Liverpool residents, as materials are recovered and recycled for beneficial reuse.

The greenhouse emissions avoided by recycling organic and other waste at the new plant - rather than letting it decompose in a landfill - is 75,000 tonnes, the equivalent of taking 19,000 cars off the road each year.

"The most critical decision that local governments make about greenhouse gas reduction is what they do with their waste, which can account for twice the emissions profile of their motor vehicle fleet", said SITA's Managing Director, Eric Gernath.

"Environmentally committed councils are looking at keeping organics out of landfill through the employment of an Advanced Waste Treatment plant or the separation of organics, through a collection service and associated compost facility", Mr Gernath said.

One of the dramatic effects of the new plant is that Liverpool City Council reports that the SAWT will lift the percentage of the overall household waste recycling rate from 16 percent to more than 80 percent.

"Prior to utilising this new facility all household garbage went directly to landfill and with the new waste plant we'll recycle about 68 percent of that garbage. Council will also recycle 100 percent of paper, metal, plastics and green waste", said Liverpool City Council Mayor Wendy Waller.

The new plant will allow NSW families to make a valuable individual contribution to reducing carbon emissions and reducing the carbon footprint of households.

Penrith City Council is introducing a new domestic waste organics collection service, where fruit and vegetable scraps, meat and bones, garden clippings and prunings will be collected each week from approximately 50,000 households in the City. The plant is designed to receive up to 40,000t of this waste from Penrith, with the initial throughput estimated at 33,000t.

“With the addition of an organics service about 60% of urban household waste will be either recycled or composted into a high grade product, reducing the City’s greenhouse gas emissions by 18,000 carbon equivalent tonnes per annum”, said Councillor Jim Aitken, Mayor of Penrith.

The composted organics from Penrith can be used in a number of beneficial projects. Some of the compost will be used to improve and maintain Councils’ parks, gardens and playing fields throughout the City.

The AWT process uses proven technology and offers holistic solutions for councils, converting organic waste from the residual waste stream (Liverpool) and also clean, source-separated organics (Penrith) into compost and mulch products, and recovering valuable resources such as aluminium, steel, plastic and glass.

Liverpool Council's specific use compost can be used for land rehabilitation, forestry and broadacre agriculture.

"One of our biggest problems in managing waste across the country is that 8.5 million tonnes of degradable organic waste goes into landfill nationally every year. That organic material then breaks down anaerobically producing methane, which has more than 20 times the global warming effect as carbon dioxide”, Mr Gernath said.

“Australian landfills now generate 15 million tonnes of greenhouse gases per year. Keeping organics out of landfill via AWTs and organic composting is the way we need to be heading.

“This plant puts Penrith and Liverpool councils at the forefront of sustainability in Australia”, Mr Gernath said.

The SAWT plant was approved by the NSW Government last year after a rigorous assessment process. The new plant will begin to be commissioned in a month with waste processing then ramped up until the plant is fully operational by late July.

SITA is part of SUEZ Environnement, one of Europe's largest waste management & recycling services provider and operates some 1800 waste treatment and recovery sites including more than 100 organic composting facilities.

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.

SUEZ Environnement, a branch of the SUEZ Group, supplies services, plant and equipment essential to life and to environmental protection: drinking water production and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, waste processing and recycling. Backed by its experience in the water and waste sectors, SUEZ Environnement has a wide-ranging portfolio of know-how, providing sustainable solutions for local authorities and businesses.

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FACT SHEET – SITA ADVANCED WASTE TREATMENT PLANT

- SITA Environmental Solutions' Advanced Waste Treatment (SAWT) plant at Kemps Creek will have a capacity to process 134,000 tonnes of waste annually, with up to 78 percent being diverted from landfill.
- The Advanced Waste Treatment (AWT) process uses proven technology and offers holistic solutions for councils, converting organic waste from the residual waste stream into compost and mulch products, and recovering valuable resources such as aluminium, steel, plastic and glass.
- Users of the plant will include Liverpool City Council, Penrith City Council and SITA.
- The new plant will begin to be commissioned in a month with waste processing then ramped up until the plant is fully operational by late July.
- The SAWT is in fact two processes within one building, converting organic waste from the residual waste stream (Liverpool) and also clean, source-separated organics(Penrith) into compost and mulch products, and recovering valuable resources such as aluminium, steel, plastic and glass.
- The SAWT will:
 - ✓ Divert around 94% of the source separated green and food waste stream provided by a third bin Penrith is introducing. The plant is designed to receive up to 40,000t of this waste from Penrith and produce very high grade compost (AS4454 compliant) which can be used in a variety of programs including upgrading and maintaining local parks and gardens.
 - ✓ Divert 68% of Liverpool's residual waste bin or household rubbish. The plant is designed to process up to 60,000t of residual waste from Liverpool (the garbage bin from homes) and recover recyclables while converting the organics into reusable specific use composts.
 - ✓ Process 34,000t of Commercial and Industrial waste provided by SITA for recycling and resource recovery.
 - ✓ Avoid the release of 75,000t of greenhouse gases annually which is the equivalent of taking 19,000 cars off the road (Assuming a landfill capture rate of 60 percent or avoidance of 188,000t for a landfill without gas capture).
 - ✓ Recover over 70,000 tonnes of recyclables and compost to the productive economy.
 - ✓ Bring to 7 the number of AWT plants in NSW, processing household waste. It makes Sydney one of the showcase centres for AWT anywhere in the world.
 - ✓ Provide jobs. 1000 workers were involved in construction of the plant with up to 160 on site at any time and around 40 people will be employed per year during the plant's operating life.
- AWT is the way of the future in waste management. If Australia had 40 such plants it could achieve a 70-80% national recycling rate, up from a current 48%.

- Just as significantly it would stimulate up to \$2.6 billion in private sector investment, reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by around 20 million tonnes per year and create around 2000 permanent and 4000 indirect recession-proof jobs.

SITA Environmental Solutions

- SITA Australia is owned 60 percent by the French-based SUEZ Environnement and 40 percent by Sembcorp Industries one of Singapore's leading services and technology providers.
- SUEZ Environnement is the only global company, present on 5 continents, exclusively dedicated to environmental services.
- It supplies waste services to over 46 million people and drinking water to 68 million people in over 70 countries.
- In Australia, SITA provides waste and recycling services in all States and now has 5 AWT plants in Cairns, Port Stephens, Perth, Adelaide and now here in Sydney.
- SUEZ Environnement operates the Perth Desalination plant and 85% of Sydney's drinking water comes through the treatment plant at Prospect operated by SUEZ.

What the SAWT plant means for Penrith City Council

- Up to 75% of urban household waste can be recycled or composted.
- Organic waste includes fruit and vegetable scraps, meat and bones, garden clippings and prunings, tissues and paper towels.
- Residents will receive a 7.5 Litre Kitchen Organics Tidy Bin to sort out food waste in the kitchen and transport it to the organics bin without the use of a plastic bag.
- Through an innovative contract arrangement, Council will buy back the compost to improve and maintain parks, gardens and playing fields throughout the City.
- Penrith Council has already been using compost made from recycled organic waste to improve playing fields including Ched Towns Reserve in Glenmore Park and Greygums Oval in Cranebrook, and the rehabilitation of an old landfill site which will be developed into a regional sporting facility with pleasing results.
- Organic waste, when placed in landfill, produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas with more than 20 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Diverting organic waste from landfill and processing it through an aerobic composting facility will produce significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than by continuing to send organic waste to landfill.
- Penrith Council will initially feed 33,000t into the plant and carbon footprint modelling has showed that by introducing the organics service it will reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 18,000t a year. That's equivalent to taking 4,320 cars off the road - permanently.

What the SAWT plant means for Liverpool Council

- When Liverpool begins to use the SAWT facility, 68 percent of putrescible garbage will be recycled. At the moment, after the recyclables (paper, plastics, glass and metals) are taken out of the Liverpool resident's garbage, all that is left goes to landfill.
- Liverpool generates 70 000t of waste a year.
- The SAWT will enable Liverpool to lift the proportion of waste recycled from 16 percent to 82 percent.
- The use of the SAWT will immediately save 28,600t of CO2 emitted into the atmosphere or the equivalent of removing 6,870 cars from the roads – permanently.
- More than 150,000 cubic metres of landfill space will be saved.
- From July Liverpool ratepayers will have access to 3 bins - recycling, Green Waste and putrescible waste (general household rubbish).
 - ✓ Recycling bin - paper, cardboard, plastics, metal containers – 100 percent recycled.
 - ✓ Green waste bin – garden waste, timber and green – 100 percent recycled.
 - ✓ Putrescible bin - food scraps and other domestic rubbish – 68 percent recycled.