

## Putting the sizzle on AWT

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**Sydney's shiniest new waste facility, SITA's Advanced Waste Treatment (SAWT) at Kemps Creek, threw open its doors to the local community on Saturday. While the public usually finds a trip to the local tip involves smells and the need for a good wash afterwards, this time around the community was enticed through the gates by the scent of sizzling sausages and the prospects of getting covered in nothing dirtier than face paint.**

Over 100 people turned up for the open day, taking to more than 600 the number of people who have toured the \$50 million facility since its official opening in March.

The local Scouts put on the all important sausage sizzle BBQ for the day, while the Penrith City Council bin mascots entertained the crowd, and some of the kids – as well as few adults - had their faces painted.

While the day was obviously designed to provide a bit of fun, there was also a serious side. With new bin systems to be rolled out in Penrith and Liverpool councils, the operator is keen to ensure the community knows enough about the waste treatment process to understand the importance of proper waste sorting.

It was also a chance to get the surrounding community on side by showing off environmental controls put in place to ensure they are not negatively impacted. Around half the cost of the plant went to these controls, including enclosing the operations and running extracted air through biofilters.

The open day was, of course, also a sales pitch for new facilities. SITA says the most common question from participants outside the Sydney region was "how low can you go" in building an AWT. The answer, according to Mike Ritchie, is potentially just 5,000-10,000 tonnes of waste annually.

