

I remember a reference being made about [the speed with which the EPA dealt with the approval] at the public meeting last Friday. There may be some confusion because the timeline table in the Assessment Report states that the permit application was submitted to Council 13 April, submitted to EPA 16 April and advertised 21 April which suggests that the document was only reviewed for several days by us before being advertised. However, the same table states that guidelines were issued 22 February 2012 and Section 1 notes that several drafts of the DPEMP were reviewed by the EPA Division and other agencies prior to the Division informing the Southern Waste Solutions (SWS) the documentation was suitable for advertising.

As regards the timelines for the actual assessment, yes it is not common for assessments to be completed several weeks after the close of public consultation. However, in this case we were aware that there was potential for funding to be obtained from the Commonwealth government and the project needed to have completed the approval process.

Normally, assessment officers will not do a lot of the work required until after the close of public consultation because they have a range of other competing demands on their time. However in this case there were two assessment officers assigned to enable the assessment to be completed during the public consultation period (which includes referral to other agencies), other than assessment of any representation received from the public. Two representations were received. A number of the points related to the current operation of the site and were not relevant to the assessment of the Cat C cell (although I have been informed that SWS have discussed these points with the representor). The other issues raised had already been addressed during the assessment and consequently very little time was required other than noting the representation.

In our opinion there was sufficient information provided in the original DPEMP and a Supplement was not required to address representations or agency comment.

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