



Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project

Fact Sheet 11

updated February 2005

Fact sheets are designed to provide the community with simple and easy-to-understand information on environmental science and technology. Readers requiring greater detail should contact Orica:

- by email to info@oricabotanygroundwater.com
- by phoning our Community Feedback Line - 1800 025 138
- by writing to - Community Matters, 16-20 Beauchamp Road, Matraville 2036

Groundwater Treatment Plant – The EIS Process

Why is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required?

The Orica Groundwater Treatment Plant (see Fact Sheet 10) is the largest project module of the 28 modules proposed under the Orica Botany Groundwater Cleanup Plan. Environmental impacts for all of the project infrastructure components must be assessed as part of all development applications. Orica sought advice from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) in determining whether an EIS for the Groundwater Treatment Plant would be required. DIPNR determined an EIS is required. As a result, Orica retained environmental and engineering consultants, URS to prepare the EIS for the treatment plant.

When and where will the Environmental Impact Statement be exhibited?

Orica submitted the EIS to the DEC in November 2004. The EIS was then on public exhibition from 15 November to 17 December 2004. The exhibition included seven information sessions attended by the expert authors of various EIS chapters, as well as an EIS overview document being sent to 25,000 households in the surrounding area and public displays at 19 locations.

Will there be an opportunity to contribute to the EIS development?

It is important for Orica to understand all community issues in relation to the construction and operation of the plant so that these may be considered during the development of the EIS. This process aims to create a more informed awareness of the plant technology and operation as early in the EIS development process as possible. By creating a shared understanding of the constraints around this groundwater project, Orica hopes that this will help to minimise time delays for the eventual recovery, treatment and reuse of the groundwater.

A series of community workshops were held during the development of the EIS. These workshops were invaluable opportunities to listen to and understand community concerns about many aspects of the project. Some of the key areas of community concerns were thermal oxidation, the potential for dioxin emissions, the impact on the surrounding community and the impact of pumping on the surrounding landscape. All issues raised in the workshop were answered in the EIS.

Where can I get more information about the Groundwater Treatment Plant?

Refer to Fact Sheet 10 which describes the Groundwater Treatment Plant and the processes involved.

Further references

Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, *Is an EIS required? Best Practice Guidelines for Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* NSW Government, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, available online at: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/index1.html>