



MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY COUNCILS TO adopt new waste management technology

Ever wondered what happens to your rubbish once it's picked up from your kerb? Six Sydney councils are about to turn your trash into treasure.

September 8, Sydney, Australia: Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC), in collaboration with the six Sydney councils, have collaborated with Veolia Australia and New Zealand to deliver the Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) facility at Woodlawn Eco-precinct, launched today.

For SSROC and its member councils this has been an almost 10-year journey from the initial concept to the delivery of a \$100 million state-of-the-art MBT facility that in this financial year alone will save the six councils more than \$9.5 million collectively.

Cr Sally Betts, President of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) Inc., explains that:

“For SSROC and our councils, reducing the impact of our household waste is a priority, with Sydney-siders responsible for generating around 2,000 kg of waste per person. The new MBT facility is a cost effective and sustainable way of reducing the quantity of waste that ends up in landfill. Veolia’s contribution, knowledge and experience within the sector is inspiring to see in action.”

The Woodlawn MBT facility will use cutting-edge resource recovery technology to produce compost to rehabilitate an on-site mine. Household municipal waste will be rotated in large drums along with air and water to separate compostable material from inorganic, recovering recyclables such as metals along the way. This process will divert 55% of household waste from landfill, transforming residual waste into clean heat for the on-site barramundi farm and green energy for the grid.

Namoi Dougall, General Manager of SSROC, recognises the dedication of SSROC member councils to delivering value for money and sustainable solutions to their residents:

“In NSW our councils are paying a levy of \$138 per tonne of municipal waste, so by diverting more than half of our waste from landfill we are estimating that the six participating councils will be saving ratepayers \$9.5 million in the first year alone. It is a sign of the dedication and foresight of our councils, that we have worked to establish this project for nearly 10 years. This is a positive step in the way we process waste, and I look forward to the MBTs evolution over the coming years.”

The SSROC region is host to a newly established Veolia waste transfer terminal at Banksmeadow which will transport containerised waste by rail to the new Woodlawn MBT facility. The use of rail, including the existing Clyde site, to transfer the waste will result in a reduction of around 30,000 heavy truck movements on Sydney’s already congested roads.

Danny Conlon, Veolia’s Executive General Manager - Eastern Region, stated:

“The facility will process 144,000T of waste per annum and will divert more than half of participating councils’ general waste tonnes away from landfill. 10 years of collaboration amongst a number of stakeholders, inclusive of SSROC, NSROC, State Government and community members have led us to this end-result, and this partnership will enable Veolia to make a positive impact on the NSW Government’s diversion target of 70 per cent by 2021. This project will also save millions of dollars in waste levy charges for Sydney’s ratepayers and will additionally produce an organic compost to be reused to rehabilitate Australian mine land, ultimately allowing us to give back to the nation’s people and communities.”

The collaboration with Veolia has generated over 50 jobs have between the Banksmeadow and Woodlawn facilities, contributing to the growth of jobs in both metropolitan and regional NSW.

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For more information on the MBT facility: www.veolia.com/anz/woodlawn

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Interactive infographic: <http://game.integratedbydesign.veolia.com.au/woodlawn/>

Dropbox of high-res images of the MBT: *To be made available post-event*

Video: <https://youtu.be/WU4LzWxYa0g>

Interview opportunities:

- **General Manager SSROC - Namoi Dougall**
- **SSROC President – Cr Sally Betts, Mayor of Waverley**
- **Veolia Executive General Manager - Danny Conlon**

About Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) Inc.:

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 11 councils spanning Sydney's southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, CBD, and inner west and covering a third of the Greater Sydney's population, or 1.7m people.

SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.

We advocate on behalf of our region to ensure that the major issues are addressed by all levels of government, including:

- Advocating for regional interests at all levels of government in areas such as planning and urban development, environment, waste management, and renewable energy
- Developing regional policies and positions on issues facing our member councils now and into the future

We work to deliver shared services, contracts and procurement to reduce the cost to council of delivering vital community services.

As the level of government that is closest to the community, member councils aim to keep the "local" in local government, while fully utilising the benefits of regional cooperation through SSROC.

You can keep up to date with the work we are doing at www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au