CleanEra

HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT

# Proposed Upgrades to CleanEra's Advanced Waste Treatment and Recycling Facility

# Fact Sheet

## About the Development

CleanEra Pty Ltd (CleanEra) are proposing to upgrade their existing advanced waste treatment and recycling facility at 45 Maskey Rd, Mount Thorley (Lot 113 DP262603) (the Site).

The facility currently receives and processes up to 5,000 tonnes per year of a wide range of packaged and bulk wastes classified as hazardous, restricted, general solid (non-putrescible), special and liquid. The facility also stores up to 500 tyres for transport to recyclers. It also stores and processes an additional 1,000 tonnes per year of substances classified in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code or medical, cytotoxic or quarantine waste.

The current facility provides a critical service for the Hunter in helping households, businesses and government to sustainably manage solid and liquid wastes at the end of their life.

To help meet the growing demand for treatment and recycling of these problem solid and liquid wastes in the Hunter and wider NSW, CleanEra is seeking to increase the throughput of their existing advanced treatment facility to receive, process and recycle up to 200,000 tonnes per annum.

As part of the annual throughput increase, 175,000 tonnes will be solid and liquid waste non-dangerous goods and up to 25,000 tonnes will be liquid waste dangerous goods (the Proposal).

Advanced waste processing operations currently approved and undertaken on the Site include resource recovery, manual and mechanical decanting operations, waste storage, physical and chemical treatment including advanced oxidation, sludge dewatering / solidification and product destruction.

The existing approved plant and equipment has sufficient processing capacity to accommodate the proposed increase in annual processing volumes.

The existing site is equipped with an office, amenities, bunded warehouse with roller door and external awning (and an approved extension to the warehouse), covered concrete bunded area, paved internal access for circulation, rainwater tanks, stormwater capture and treatment systems and storage.

The layout of existing plant and equipment will be reconfigured inside the approved original warehouse and approved extension to enable the receipt, storage and processing of the proposed increase in waste volumes.

Current Site operations are licensed under NSW Environment Protection Authority licence 21958 for waste processing (non-thermal treatment), waste storage and recovery of hazardous and other waste.

In summary, the Proposal will also involve the following elements:

- Locate the receival, decanting and consolidation of Dangerous Goods in the original approved warehouse;
- The original warehouse will be fitted as necessary based on specialist assessments with updated best practice environmental management controls including:
  - Spill containment systems and bunding for all loading / unloading areas in accordance with EPA best practice;
  - Advanced thermal detection and fire safety systems;
  - Negative pressure with the exhaust air directed through a filtration system to remove any volatile organic carbon or odourous compounds prior to discharge to the external environment;
- Bulk loads of non-dangerous goods will continue to be received and processed primarily within the approved extension on the west side of the original warehouse;
- The Proposal will also increase PFAS contaminated water receival and treatment capacity, of which there are limited treatment facilities in NSW;
- Water treatment facilities (including the reverse osmosis (RO) plant and granular activated carbon (GAC) water treatment plant is to be relocated in the extension building to support the processing of non-DGs;
- The facility will continue to operate on a 24/7 basis, with most operations occurring between 6am and 6pm; and
- A solar panel array will be provided on all buildings to supply the operation with green power.

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Currently the Site employs six (6) people for daily operations at the facility, however as capacity is ramped up, it is expected to employ an additional four (4) people over the next two years in a variety of positions including drivers and back-office staff for a total of ten (10) staff. This will help to support local employment and economic growth within the region.

The efficient use of the current Site will avoid the need to establish a new facility to cater to the growing need for recovering resources from liquid wastes.

## Current status of the project

CleanEra is seeking feedback from the community on the Proposal prior to lodgement of a Scoping Report with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to request the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The feedback received from the community will be included in a Scoping Report and inform a future development application.

## Why is the project being proposed?

The Site is located within the Mount Thorley industrial area, zoned E5 Heavy Industrial, which is compatible with the Proposal.

The development will further provide the Hunter and surrounding regions with a central location to dispose of solid and liquid waste streams including those wastes unable to be accepted by conventional facilities that do not accept substances classified in the ADG Code or medical, cytotoxic or quarantine waste.

The facility will mitigate vehicle movements associated in transporting the waste to alternative facilities located well outside of the region.

The development will also assist in creating jobs and boost the economic growth within the Singleton area and surrounds.

## Will neighbours or residents be affected?

The Site is located an industrial area that includes a range of businesses generally orientated towards servicing the regional coal mining industry, and other heavy industries.

To the northeast of the Site is the Hunter Valley Rail Corridor and beyond is rural zoned agricultural land (RU1 Primary Production).

Less than 1km to the northwest is the Mount Thorley Warkworth Coal Handling and Preparation Plant and to the southwest approximately 1.3km is the Bulga Mine.

The nearest residential receptors to the Site are located to the north of the Site across the Putty Road and the rail line about 225m and 350m away.

Given the distance, there are no impacts expected to local residents as a result of this Proposal.

A detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to evaluate how the Proposal will impact traffic and access, hazards and risks, noise, air quality, soils and water, waste, biodiversity, heritage and visual amenity issues.

These assessments will be made public and provide recommended mitigation measures to protect the environment and community amenities.

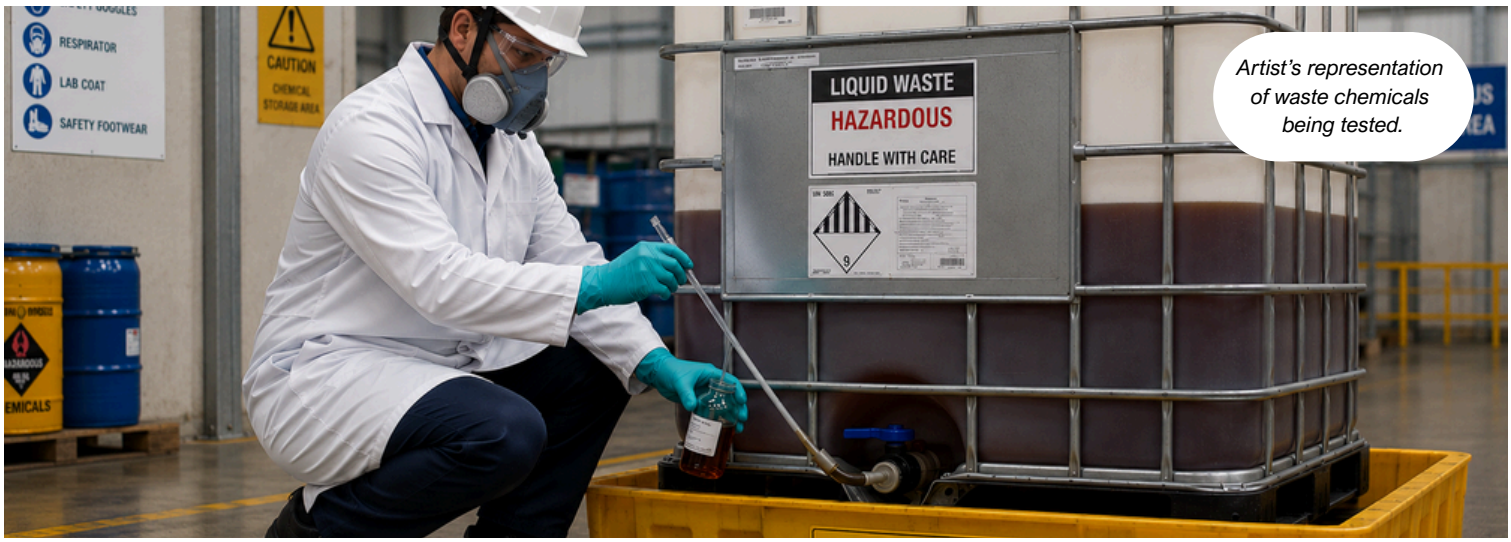
A traffic impact assessment will assess projected traffic generation as well as access and parking implications onsite and on surrounding businesses and the local road network.

The largest vehicles expected on-site are 26m B-Doubles.

Access to the Site will be from the Putty Road/Golden Highway to Mt Thorley Road and Piercefield and Maskey Roads in the Industrial Estate.

This route avoids all residential areas and is expected to result in negligible impacts on surrounding residential areas.

No impacts on residential dwellings are expected due to the distance from the Site and measures for control of dust, odour and noise.




*Artist's representation of waste chemicals being tested.*

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## How will the local environment be protected?

The facility has been designed for safety and protection of the local environment.

All waste storage, processing and recovery activities occur within enclosed negative pressure buildings equipped with exhaust air filtration systems to remove volatile organic carbon and odourous compounds.

Firefighting equipment and safety systems are installed to comply with the NSW Fire and Rescue guidelines including advanced thermal detection.

Existing on-site stormwater and erosion control measures will be reviewed and upgraded where required to ensure that all stormwater is captured, treated and (where possible) reused on-site.

Hardstand concrete unloading and loading areas incorporate awning covers and bunding to mitigate the risk of liquid waste spills during operational activities and protection from the elements.

Concrete and bunded loading and unloading areas are provided to protect groundwater and provide for internal ingress and egress of vehicles.

## What will the operation look like?

Landscaping will be included along the boundaries of the Site in compliance with the Singleton Council Development Control Plan.

The facility sits between the rail corridor and other industrial sites; therefore, visual impacts are expected to be insignificant.

Most operational activities will occur within the existing warehouse and extension currently in construction.

The operational impact of the Proposal is expected to be negligible.

## How will the project benefit the local community?

There will be employment opportunities for additional staff needed over the next two years in a variety of positions to increase operational capacity.

The proposed development will increase the Hunter's and wider NSW's capacity for proper recycling and disposal of challenging solid and liquid waste streams.

The proposal will also provide resources recovered from waste back into the economy. This will help to avoid their inappropriate disposal into the environment.

## Who is assessing the application?

The proposal is a State Significant Development. The consent authority for the development will be the NSW Minister of Planning.

**Want More Information?**

A detailed Scoping Report can be found at the JEP Environment & Planning website, www.jacksonenvironment.com.au

**How to Provide Feedback**

You are invited to provide your feedback about our Proposal by contacting JEP Environment & Planning via:

E: admin@jacksonenvironment.com.au
T: 02 8056 1849

We greatly appreciate your feedback on this project which will benefit both the environment and the local economy.

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