

North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant

Community news – March 2018

New biosolids upgrade project

We are planning to build two new digesters and a new dewatering facility at the North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This project will improve the quality and reduce the odour of the biosolids produced at the plant. It will also ensure the ongoing reliability of our existing digesters.

The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) will be on display from Monday 19 March until Tuesday 3 April 2018. We welcome interested community members and stakeholders to provide feedback. More information about the project and the display period is in this newsletter.

\$62m to improve biosolids

Last year, the Hon. Don Harwin, Minister for Resources, Energy and Utilities and the Arts, and James Griffin, Local Member for Manly, announced our plans to upgrade the biosolids facilities at North Head WWTP.

This \$62 million project will improve the quality and reduce the odour of the biosolids produced at the plant. This will reduce the odour from truck movements through Manly.

We have completed concept designs in late 2017. Detailed design is expected to start in 2019 and construction will be completed in 2021.



We are building two new digesters at North Head WWTP

Biosolids upgrade project - what are we doing?

The project includes building:

- two new digesters and an additional waste gas burner
- a new dewatering building, handling and out-loading facility
- new sludge thickening equipment.

All new facilities and equipment will be built within the existing site.

Biosolids are used in agriculture to fertilise soil. This project will ensure biosolids continue to be diverted from landfill and have greater flexibility in where they can be used.

The project will reduce the odour from biosolid truck movements through Manly. The additional digesters will also ensure the ongoing reliability of the existing digesters.

Our work is essential to ensure we continue to meet Sydney Water's commitment to 100% biosolids reuse and meet the requirements of our Environment Protection Licence.

What are biosolids?

Biosolids are a nutrient rich by-product of the wastewater treatment processes. They are a rich source of phosphorus and nitrogen and can be used to condition and fertilise soil, mostly in broad-acre farming and land rehabilitation. This results in greater crop yield for Australian farmers.

Each year, Sydney Water produces around 180,000 wet tonnes of biosolids from our treatment plants. This project will ensure we maintain 100% of our biosolids being reused and diverted from landfill.

Review of Environmental Factors

The REF for the Biosolids upgrade project will be on display from **Monday 19 March to Tuesday 3 April 2018**.

You can view the REF:

- online at sydneywatertalk.com.au
- at Northern Beaches Council's Customer Service Centre, 1 Belgrave Street Manly

The REF assesses the project's likely impacts on the environment and community.

It details the mitigation measures and controls that will be in place to reduce or eliminate impacts during construction.

We welcome written submissions from public authorities, interested groups, organisations and the community.

Submissions must be made in writing and received by **Tuesday 3 April** by:

- emailing nhbiosolidsupgrade@sydneywater.com.au
- writing to Sydney Water, Attention Renee Attard – North Head Biosolids Project, PO BOX 399 Parramatta NSW 2124

Enquiries can be emailed to nhbiosolidsupgrade@sydneywater.com.au



New Standby Polishing Scrubber (left), beside the Biotrickling Filter System that manages odour at the plant.

Odour improvements

We are committed to managing odours in the community. In 2015, we finished building a Biotrickling Filter (BTF) scrubber. In late 2017, we finished building a standby polishing scrubber.

The BTF scrubber manages odours from the Northern Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (NSOOS) and underground areas of North Head WWTP. The standby polishing scrubber provides a backup for the BTF in the unlikely event the BTF performance changes. The BTF has been in operation for nearly two years and continues to perform well.

We have now finished commissioning the standby polishing scrubber and will begin to dismantle the old NSOOS scrubber in March 2018.

Join our mailing list

We notify households and businesses close to the plant about upcoming maintenance and other work. In addition to our letterbox drops, you can be notified by email.

Join our mailing list by emailing us at northheadwwtp@sydneywater.com.au

Bluefish Drive walking track

We are constructing a walking track at North Head to improve safety for walkers using Bluefish Drive.

The walking track route will start near the corner of Darley Road and Bluefish Drive and run parallel to Bluefish Drive for about 700 metres, finishing at the entrance to North Head Sanctuary.

Construction is due to start in March 2018, after Telstra's work is completed nearby. The walking track will be completed by June 2018. Our construction hours will be between 7 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturday.



Route of new walking track along Bluefish Drive

Open Day, a great day!

In September, we held an Open Day for community members to tour the site.

We were thrilled by the high level of interest in the event. We held four tours across the day to accommodate over 100 people.

Our plant manager, Michael Selleck, answered questions and explained the process as tour groups walked through the site.

Thank you to everyone who came along – we loved meeting you and getting to know our neighbours.



Open Day tour group walking past sedimentation tanks.

Running on renewables

Did you know the wastewater treatment plant generates its own renewable electricity?

We produced nearly 15,000 MWh on site in 2016/17. This is the same amount of electricity used by about 2,500 Northern Beaches households in the same period.

We have a hydroturbine and two cogeneration plants. The plants are powered by the methane produced during the wastewater treatment process. This helped to reduce carbon emissions – over 12,800 tonnes of CO₂ in 2016/17.

Working hours

North Head Wastewater Treatment Plant operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

While we're making changes at the plant, construction work hours are:

- 7 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays (if required).

We don't do construction work on Sundays or public holidays. If we do any non emergency work outside these hours we'll tell you in advance.

To know more

For more information or to give us feedback:

- call us: 1800 624 914
- email us:
northheadwwtp@sydneywater.com.au