



NEUTROG HOLDINGS PTY LTD

Kanmantoo and Callington community update

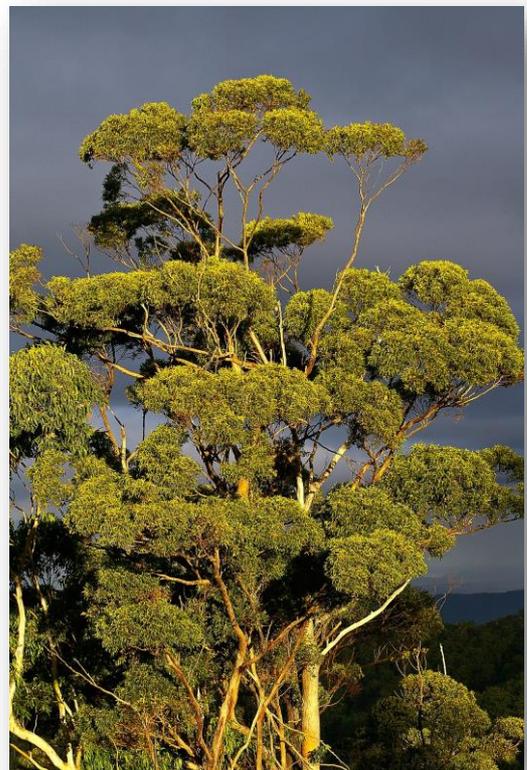
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Neutrog Holdings Pty Ltd (Neutrog) is located at Kanmantoo, and is a manufacturer of biological fertilisers.

The company was first licensed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in 1995 to undertake composting works. In 2011, the company made the decision to cease operations, and surrendered its EPA licence.

In mid-2018 the EPA became aware of renewed composting operations at the Kanmantoo site, as a result of requests for assistance in the management of poultry waste contaminated with the disease *Infectious laryngotracheitis* (ILT). This disease poses a risk to the viability of the poultry industry in South Australia.

Under the guidance of PIRSA and Biosecurity SA, the EPA issued Emergency Authorisations to Neutrog for the receipt of 12 batches of organic waste, between late 2018 and late 2019, for the processing of poultry waste contaminated with ILT.



EPA licence – composting

Composting is a 'Prescribed Activity of Environmental Significance' defined in Schedule 1 Part A 3(2) of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the Act).

The Act requires these types of activities to be licensed and provides the EPA with a means to regulate those operations through licence conditions.

The granting of a licence can only occur once development approval has been granted by the relevant development authority, which in this case is the Mount Barker District Council.

Once development approval was granted, Neutrog applied to the EPA for a licence to conduct composting works at its Kanmantoo site.

Is the EPA granting a licence?

In 2020, the EPA undertook public consultation in relation to the application by Neutrog. In accordance with statutory requirements, the EPA notified neighbouring properties directly via mail and published details of the application on its website.

A licence granted pursuant to the Act, allows the EPA to place a number of conditions upon the company in order for them to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner. The Neutrog licence has been issued and is available on the EPA website.

What will the licence include?

The licence includes conditions requiring the company to develop the following plans:

- Odour Management Plan
- Dust Management Plan
- Community Engagement Plan
- Ground Water Monitoring Plan.

These conditions are enforceable and the EPA can take a number of different actions, including prosecution, if the licence conditions are not met.

The licence restricts operations to those occurring in accordance with current development approval.

How do I lodge an odour complaint?

In the first instance, contact the company and inform them that you are experiencing an issue with odour or dust. The company may not be aware that this is happening.

Residents are also encouraged to contact the EPA on 8204 2004 and report the issue. The operator will need to know information such as time, date, location, weather conditions, wind direction and a description of the odour. It will also help if you keep a diary of this information.

This will all assist compliance officers to determine what action can be taken.

Community engagement

The EPA is available any time over the phone and by email – please see the details in the 'Further info' section below.

We can also arrange to meet you in a café or public place that is COVID-accredited, your home, or arrange a videoconference if you have this capability.

Please contact us during or outside of business hours, and we will respond to you at the first available opportunity.



What is an 'odour unit'?

An odour unit (OU) is a measure of odour intensity irrespective of what odour is being detected. It is the number of dilutions needed to reach odour threshold, where 50% of people can detect a faint odour and 50% cannot. Odour threshold is defined as 1OU.

Odour profiling in Kanmantoo and Callington

The EPA has been undertaking odour assessments in the Kanmantoo and Callington area to better understand the concerns raised by local residents regarding odour being detected in their towns. The decision of when to attend and undertake assessments is based on the meteorological conditions considered most conducive to odour transport, in light winds in the direction of the towns (southerlies towards Kanmantoo and northwesterlies towards Callington).

Authorised Officers of the EPA are trained to use a Nasal Ranger, a device that assists in determining what the odour intensity is at the location of the test, measured in OU. The Authorised Officers have also been assessed as having met the criteria to undertake such tests.

The odour site tests have been undertaken in a grid of locations between the boundary of Neutrog and the northern boundary of Kanmantoo and southeastern boundary of Callington in over 20 locations.

Based on population, Schedule 3 of the *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016* provides the level of OU required to meet compliance at the place of the receiver. The criterion for Kanmantoo and Callington is 4OU.

An odour *threshold* (1OU) is defined as the odour level whereby 50% of the population can detect an odour and 50% cannot. It is evident that 4OU is detectable by most of the population.

Consequently, the detection of odour in the towns of Kanmantoo and Callington can occur yet are not necessarily caused by a non-compliance due to Neutrog.

Despite this, the EPA is requiring Neutrog via conditions of licence, to develop an Odour Management Plan (OMP), which will include assessment by qualified experts to better understand what aspects of operations are most likely to result in off-site odour that causes nuisance. The OMP must also include actions Neutrog will take to mitigate and minimise odour from sources identified.

FURTHER INFO

For **further information** please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Email: EPACompliance3.epa@sa.gov.au
Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au

