

Mangrove Mountain Landfill

Fact Sheet 2

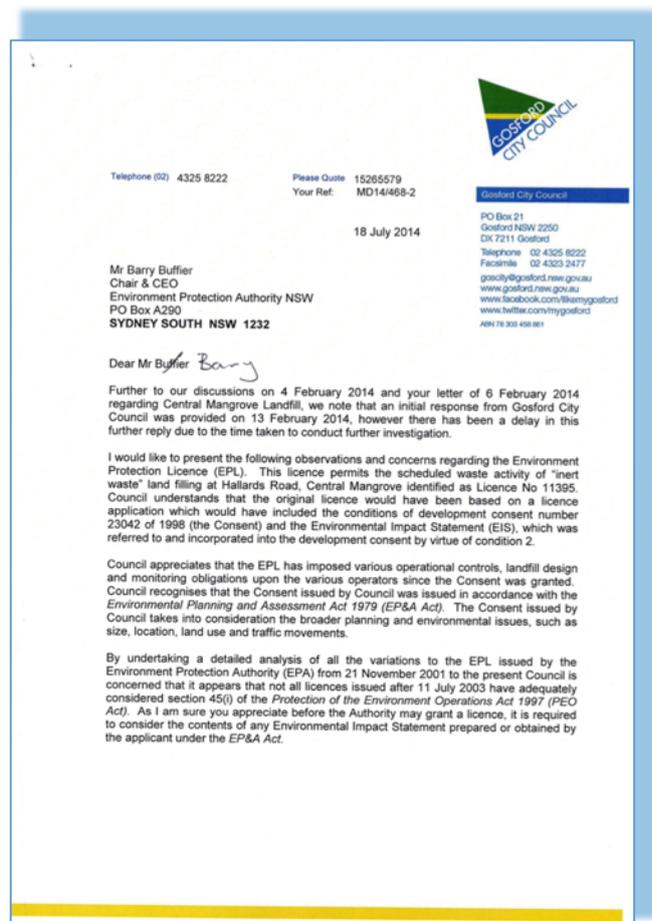


The Letter

Life can be a mystery as the following demonstrates. A letter from Gosford City Council (GCC) to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), dated the 18 July 2014, documented how the remodeling of a facility at Mangrove Mountain had **significantly breached** the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The letter contained evidence and proof of how the EPA, allegedly systematically failed to exercise its legal responsibilities in renewing the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL). Not only does the evidence question the legality of the EPL, but records kept by the EPA indicated that the Authority allegedly failed to monitor and implement the conditions contained in the EPL.

The letter raises serious concerns as to the competency, governance and leadership within the EPA to protect our Environment. The letter, over 15 pages, records 12 different issues along with 27 questions that examine the tangled and complex web of how the EPA renewed and monitored the EPL.



An example of one of the issues discussed in the letter is how and why did the EPA renew the EPL that increased excavation of natural material from 20,000 cubic metres (m³) to 955,448 m³? This is 47.7 times greater than the original consent. Not only is it so much greater, but in the original consent, the intent of the excavation was simply to remove a small knoll between two gullies. This would have

created a level surface. However, the EPA in endorsing the larger excavation approved the construction of an excavation pit that is up to 52 metres below natural ground level and extends over 200 metres into the hill side. The intention was to fill this large space with general waste.

Consequently, the intent of the consent was altered from a simple remodeling of the land surface to create a level surface for the golf course to becoming a regional waste facility to receive general waste from the greater metropolitan area of Sydney.

One of the questions contained in the letter sought an explanation as to why, back in 2009, the EPA did not take corrective action to enforce its own licence conditions. The question is based upon the fact that every six months the waste operator is required to submit a registered survey plan that documents the change to the land surface. The letter from Council states that in 2009, the EPL contained a condition that the filling was to proceed in accordance with a *Filling Sequence Plan*. If any officer within the EPA had taken the time to examine the registered survey plan and compare it against the *Filling Sequence Plan* they would have observed in June 2009 that the height of the waste mound was 15 metres higher than what was licensed.

The letter from GCC contains another 11 issues and another 26 questions. As a resident of the Central Coast or of NSW, if you are concerned that GCC has documented the alleged systemic failure of the EPA to protect our environment you may want to find out more. If you want to find out the full story, then add your support to the request to the Baird Government for a Commission of Inquiry. Open and read other information sheets. You will be surprised to learn what has taken place.