
1 August 2022

Regulatory action over Neutrog odour issues

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has added a new condition to the operating licence of fertiliser producer Neutrog to address odour.

The Kanmantoo-based operator will be required to have an air quality specialist analyse odour monitoring and modelling data by 12 August 2022, followed by further odour source assessment to identify odour reduction measures that should be taken.

The identification of odour reduction measures is required to be undertaken by 9 September 2022.

During this period the company will also be required to assess the effectiveness of building an enclosed structure for receiving, handling and processing all chicken manure feedstock to reduce odour.

The new conditions were added to Neutrog's licence on 20 July 2022.

EPA Director Operations Andrew Pruszinski said the EPA had been receiving regular complaints from residents about odour at Kanmantoo and Callington since 2021.

Neutrog has previously commissioned odour surveys, undertaken some community engagement, and submitted an Odour Environment Improvement Program (Odour EIP) to the EPA on 22 April 2022 as a condition of its licence.

However, the EIP had not been developed or informed by an odour specialist to provide expert advice on odour reduction measures and was therefore not to the satisfaction of the EPA or compliant with the condition of licence.

The EPA issued an expiation notice for not meeting this requirement and set new compliance dates for action.

Neutrog has since engaged an odour specialist and submitted a report containing new information on 11 July 2022.

“Effective long-term solutions must incorporate recommended technology, infrastructure and equipment to mitigate odour – all informed by the odour specialist’s expert opinion,” Mr Pruszinski said.

“A critical component of this is to ensure the odour specialist identifies all odour sources at the site and recommends the most effective actions to address each of them.”

Mr Pruszinski said the EPA acknowledged work that has been undertaken by Neutrog to achieve its environmental objectives.

Members of the community have been sent an update from the EPA outlining the outcomes to be achieved by the new licence conditions.

The EPA will also be undertaking drone surveys to ensure spent poultry litter and compost stockpile heights are reduced to 3m in height.

The Mt Barker District Council's development authorisation for the site includes a condition that stockpiles be restricted to a height of three metres, and this was incorporated into the EPA authorisation as a licence condition.

The EPA will be working with the Mt Barker District Council on stockpile height compliance.

The latest information is on the EPA's Neutrog engagement [page](#).