

10th September 2008

Go Ahead for Barwon Biosolids Facility

The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) issued its written determination today directing a works approval be issued for the Barwon Biosolids Thermal Drying facility.

VCAT determined that the application for review of the EPA works approval comprehensively failed on a number of grounds. It also noted that on any objective assessment there was no possible finding that applicants would be unreasonably or adversely affected.

Plenary Environment's Principal, Mr John O'Rourke, said the \$76m project was an environmentally sustainable approach to the treatment of biosolids and a great solution for the community.

The fully-enclosed thermal drying facility will treat Barwon Water's biosolids to the highest treatment grade, creating farm fertiliser or greenhouse-friendly alternative fuel. It will result in a net reduction in green house gas emissions.

Mr O'Rourke said he was pleased the written determination acknowledged the detailed expert advice provided to the tribunal by Plenary and EPA which was described as comprehensive and compelling.

VCAT also noted that while additional pre-commissioning conditions proposed jointly by Plenary and the EPA were not strictly required they represented a good faith response to some of the broader concerns of the applicants.

Plenary Environment is a consortium led by Plenary Group, an Australian owned public infrastructure specialist and includes the water project management expertise of Earth Tech, and the construction and fabrication expertise of Applied Group.

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