

5 Conclusions

Introduction

5.1 The proposed Facility has a number of features that might be considered to have implications for the health of neighbouring communities. This HIA has examined the extent of these implications in a manner that considers local circumstance and the best available scientific evidence.

5.2 The following section provides a summary as to the significance and potential distribution of health effects during the construction and operation of the proposed Facility.

Assessment Conclusion

5.3 Understandably, the provision of a new Waste to Energy Facility conjures a number of perceived health impacts and associated community concerns. However, in reality the actual risks to health are minimal and where they do exist, they are not necessarily in line with community priorities or perceptions.

Construction

5.4 Construction of the proposed Facility presents a number of potential health pathways. However, when considering the level of emissions generated on site, their intermittent nature / duration and minimal opportunity for community exposure, the risk to community health is not significant and will be further mitigated through a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

5.5 Potential construction related health benefits reflect direct and indirect employment opportunities contributing towards slight yet important socio economic health improvements.

Operation

5.6 Once operational, the core community 'perceived' concern is risk from a number of compounds emitted to air. Defining the potential risk to health is ultimately dependent upon the concentration of compounds emitted and the level, mode and extent of community exposure.

5.7 In keeping with the current evidence base, air dispersion modelling and risk assessment of the proposed EwF Facility indicates that the Facility will operate within the strict EU limit set to protect health, will have a negligible contribution to background levels and potential worst case exposure is not considered to pose a significant risk to health.

5.8 Risk from road traffic accidents and emissions are not considered to be significant and may in fact result in a slight beneficial effect due to the reduction in waste tonnage requiring transportation.

5.9 Once operational, socio economic benefits represent a relatively small yet important increase in permanent employment opportunities with subsequent health benefits.

5 Conclusions

Introduction

5.1 The proposed ERF has a number of features that might be considered to have implications for the health of neighbouring communities. This HIA has examined the extent of these implications in a manner that considers local circumstance and the best available scientific evidence.

5.2 The following section provides a summary as to the significance and potential distribution of health effects during construction and operation of the proposed facility.

Assessment Conclusion

5.3 Understandably, the provision of a new ERF engenders a number of perceived health impacts and associated community concerns. However, in reality the actual risks to health are minimal and where they do exist, they are not necessarily in line with community priorities or perceptions.

Construction

5.4 Construction of the proposed ERF presents a number of potential health pathways. However, when considering the level of emissions generated on site, their intermittent nature / duration and minimal opportunity for community exposure, the risk to community health is not significant and will be further mitigated through a Construction Environmental Management Plan.

5.5 Potential construction related health benefits reflect significant direct and indirect employment opportunities over a three year period contributing towards slight, but not insignificant socioeconomic health opportunities for those individuals.

Operation

5.6 Once operational, the core community 'perceived' concern is risk from a number of compounds emitted to air. Defining the potential risk to health is ultimately dependent upon the concentration of compounds emitted and the level, mode and extent of community exposure.

5.7 In keeping with the current evidence base, air dispersion modelling and risk assessment of the proposed ERF indicates that the facility operating within the strict EU limits set to protect health, will have a negligible contribution to background levels and potential worst case exposure is not considered to pose a significant risk to health.

5.8 Risk from road traffic accidents and emissions are not considered to be significant and due to a total net reduction in the km per tonne hauled will result in a net reduction in associated emissions and risk from accident and injury.

5.9 Once operational, socio economic benefits provide a relatively small but important increase in permanent employment opportunities for those individuals.