



6. Public Involvement and Consultation

6.1 Consultations

6.1.1 Meetings

Meetings were held with identified stakeholders ranging from one to two hours. These were followed up with emails and phone conversations where relevant. A summary of issues discussed in the meetings is provided in Table 14.

Table 14 Issues Raised from Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder	Issues	Section of the PER where issues are addressed
Darwin City Council 22/02/06	» Incinerators are closing in other cities so why would Darwin put in an incinerator?	4.5 Preferred Waste Treatment Facility
	» Waste characterisation is required to demonstrate what the DPC intends to burn.	5.9.2 Potential Impacts
	» Why can't an autoclave or deep burial be used when the Royal Darwin Hospital currently uses autoclaving and deep burial and the Navy disinfect their waste and bury it?	4.4 Alternative Treatment Systems
	» The proposed incinerator will not be able to treat all quarantine waste?	4.4.1 Incineration
	» The ash from the existing incinerator does not go to Shoal Bay Landfill. Where does it get sent?	5.10 Residue and Ash Handling
	» If the DCC doesn't accept waste it gets sent to Adelaide for disposal. Why can't this be done?	4.2 Not Proceeding with the Proposal AQIS will not allow quarantine waste to be transported interstate.
Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) 22/02/06	» All medical waste from Alice Springs and Tennant Creek hospitals is sent to Adelaide. This would continue. Crematoriums do not want anything to do with disposing of human tissues, would the waste treatment facility be able to assist with this?	5.9.1 Existing Environment
	» Gove Hospital waste is not currently captured by the Royal Darwin Hospital and are unsure of its destination.	Gove hospital has an onsite autoclave/shredder



Stakeholder	Issues	Section of the PER where issues are addressed
		(GHD 2006).
	» 647 kg/month of non-autoclave waste from Royal Darwin Hospital product is transported to Adelaide for disposal.	5.9.1 Existing Environment
	» DHCS has never received any complaints about existing quarantine waste incinerator facility.	4.3 Existing Operations 4.5.1 Existing Location
Environmental Protection Agency 22/02/06	» NEPMs are considered too high for NT. PM10 and PM2.5 levels are exceeded 5-10 times/yr.	5.7 Air Quality
	» No requirement for the quarantine waste facility to be licenced at this stage. EMP will require operational criteria to cover this.	8. Environmental Management Systems. Appendix K – Operational Environmental Management Plan
Australian Quarantine Inspection Service AQIS 23/02/06	» Limited data almost insignificant amount of waste overall.	5.9 Waste Management
	» Deep burial is not an ideal solution, especially with issues such as avian influenza.	4.4.7 Disposal to Landfill
	» Timber is not allowed to be deep buried without being fumigated first.	4.4.7 Disposal to Landfill
	» Issues at seaports with division of waste between domestic and quarantine. Cross contamination can occur if not separated properly on boat.	5.9 Waste Management
	» Difficulty with people differentiating between wastes eg. A cardboard carton and a carton with blood.	5.9 Waste Management
	» Certain materials cannot be deep buried as they are high-risk, such as wood, wood boring insects, fruit etc.	4.4.7 Disposal to Landfill
	» On occasions the NTG and the Federal Governments have destroyed records through	5.9 Waste Management



Stakeholder	Issues	Section of the PER where issues are addressed
	the incinerator.	
	» Customs uses the incineration facility to destroy drugs.	5.9 Waste Management

6.1.2 Newsletter

A newsletter was developed for interested parties providing an outline of the project and avenues to provide comment on the proposal. A copy of this newsletter is in Appendix L.

6.1.3 Adverts

An advertisement of the quarantine waste treatment facility proposal is to be placed in the Northern Territory News inviting interested parties to review and make comment on this PER. Details will be provided on where the PER is available for public viewing, for purchase, how to comment and the timeframe for commenting.

6.2 Consultation During Exhibition of this PER

The PER for the Proposed Quarantine Waste Treatment Facility will be open for public review for 28 days and available for viewing at the following locations:

- » EPA;
- » Darwin City Council;
- » Environment Centre Northern Territory;
- » Palmerston City Council; and
- » Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.

Copies of the PER are available for purchase from:

GHD Pty Ltd

Level 5, 66 Smith Street

Darwin NT 0800

Phone: (08) 8982 0100

Responses to the PER are to be directed to:

The Environmental Protection Agency

PO Box 496

Palmerston NT 0831