



Local mushroom composter invests in high-tech solution

Mulgrave mushroom compost business, Elf Farm Supplies, has announced its plans to further invest in new emissions technology to mitigate odours that are generated as a result of its processing operations.

Family owned and operated in the local community since 1981, Elf Farm Supplies has grown rapidly since 1990 to become the leading mushroom compost producer in Australia, directly supporting 800 jobs in the mushroom industry, and indirectly a further 200 contractor jobs in the local economy.

The leading mushroom composting company plans to devote funds to a new odour management plant. The design includes total enclosure across the entire operation complete with the development of a new emissions treatment plant.

Elf Farm Supplies is heavily investing in measures to ensure the needs of the local community and the Australian mushroom industry are being adequately met.

It's been essential to keep up with new technology to meet Elf Farm Supplies' commitment to continuous environmental improvement in order to assist in treating the natural odour that organic composting emits.

Elf Farm Supplies has been working with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to curtail emissions and we continue to action improvements in accordance with its requests. The company has also established a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in November 2014 with 14 members from different areas of the Community and Industry giving all members and the areas they represent, a platform to voice concerns and provide information.

This further investment will ultimately benefit the Community in areas such as continued employment and supporting local businesses in the Hawkesbury.

Over the past 3 years, Elf Farm Supplies has spent over \$2 million on farm improvements and to investigate, research and design technology to mitigate odour impacts associated with the production of mushroom compost. The new technology is now available and Elf Farm Supplies has lodged application with the NSW regulators to implement the plan.

June 2014 – Met with Department of Planning (DOP) to discuss the process of modifying the current development approval (DA).

October 2014 – Received instructions from DOP detailing their and EPA's requirement. Extensive odour testing and modelling work was undertaken.

January 2015 – Environmental Assessment (EA) and amended DA was lodged with DOP

February 2015 – Initial comments from DOP & EPA were received and an amended EA was submitted addressing both the DOP & EPA requirements.

Late March 2015 – The EA was placed on public exhibition by the DOP.

30th April 2015 – The public exhibition for the EA closed.

12th May 2015 – Meeting held with the DOP & EPA to further discuss and explain the new technology and processes.

22nd May 2015 – Response to all submissions was sent to the DOP

16th June 2015 – Meeting held with EPA to further discuss technical related matters with the submissions. Further studies and models have been requested by the EPA.

21st August 2015 – Final response to EPA

In the meantime, Elf Farm Supplies will continue with design work to minimise delays to the construction timeline once approvals are issued.

The environmental feedback line operates 24 hrs per day by calling **1800 155 079** or go to **www.elfclc.org**