



Elf Farm Supplies

Construction update **#1**
June 2016

Who we are

Elf Farm Supplies is an Australian-owned family business, which has been a part of the Hawkesbury community for nearly 60 years.

We are industry leaders and certified organic mushroom compost producers. Our mushroom compost accounts for 70% of NSW's total mushroom production, and 25% of the country's production.

Elf Farm Supplies directly supports 800 agricultural jobs and indirectly support a further 200 jobs through our contractor network.

Our operation is HACCP certified and we continually look to improving our processes.

As part of our commitment to continual improvement, we will be making a significant financial investment at our Mulgrave facility to construct newly developed, world's best odour mitigation technology to reduce our impact on the local community.

Proposed construction works

We are investing to improve our facility's odour management technology.

What's involved?

The construction has three main components:

1. Fully enclosing the raw materials storage area
2. Installing a biofilter (see details below)
3. Building new tunnels including moving the bale wetting operations indoors.

These works will be scheduled to minimise the period of construction as much as possible.

In addition, some other works, such as landscaping and preparing for future building, will be undertaken. By the end of the construction, our operation will be completely enclosed and the biofilter will be filtering all odorous air from the composting process before its release.

What is a biofilter?

A biofilter is a treatment process which involves the biological oxidation of odorous compounds in the polluted air stream to non-problematic end products. This process typically occurs in a bed of porous organic material, moistened to encourage the growth and sustenance of micro-organisms. A single passage of odorous air through an appropriately designed biofilter has been proven to be very effective at odour removal. Biofilters typically remove all of the odour character from the untreated air stream,

substituting it with a mild-odour from the organic medium. This medium odour is neutral in character and is generally considered not offensive or perceptible at a distance from the biofilter.

When will construction commence?

Elf Farm Supplies has submitted a report on the effectiveness of its proposed odour mitigation technology to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Once the mitigation technology has been approved by DPE, the detailed designs for all components of the plant can be completed and construction approvals sought.

At this stage, and without knowing when the DPE approval will be issued, it is not possible to predict when construction will commence. However, Elf Farm Supplies is completing all possible preparatory work so there will be as minimal delay as possible once approval is granted.



Construction environmental management procedures

An important component of the construction preparatory work is the development of a Construction Environmental Management Plan which details how any environmental impacts from the construction works will be effectively managed. Our Construction Environmental Management Plan has been submitted to the DPE for approval. Once approved, the plan will be available to read on our website at:

www.elffarmssupplies.com.au

Public information sessions

Prior to the commencement of the construction works a number of public information sessions will be held in a central community location. The sessions will provide details about the construction and be an opportunity to ask questions of the project team about what is going to be involved. Regular public information sessions will also be held throughout the construction period.

Details about the public information sessions will be posted on our website and advertised in the local media once finalised.

Further information

Call **1800 155 079** to register concerns or complaints

Go to **www.elffarmssupplies.com.au** for more details about Elf Farm Supplies and to register to receive electronic newsletters and updates

Stay updated about the public information sessions by registering online to receive electronic newsletters and updates at **www.elffarmssupplies.com.au**