



25 February 2016

Attn: Marc Cornell

Sunshine Coast Regional Council
Locked Bag 72
Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

Email: marc.cornell@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

**Re: Independent review of air quality assessment for proposed cremator at 139 – 159 Wises Road
Buderim**

Dear Marc,

Sunshine Coast Regional Council commissioned Katestone Environmental Pty Ltd (Katestone) to conduct a peer review of the report: Air Quality Assessment Proposed Cremator 139 – 159 Wises Road, which was prepared by MWA Environmental. Katestone understands that there is currently a funeral parlour and a caretaker's residence at the address and that a Material Change of Use Application is being lodged for the inclusion of a cremator within a previously approved building.

Katestone reviewed the report and modelling input and output files and provided the outcomes of its review in a letter to Marc Cornell dated 17 February 2016. The review identified that:

- *The results in relation to the predicted levels of deposited mercury are sensitive to the assumption regarding the percentage of mercury in the particle phase.*

Accordingly, Katestone made the following recommendations:

- *It is recommended additional information be provided by MWA Environmental regarding relevance of the assumption of 4% of mercury in the particle phase to this particular cremator.*
- *Further work which may be undertaken to provide confidence in the outcome of the assessment is a health risk assessment. The health risk assessment would consider multiple pollutants and multiple pathways and would determine the short term and long term health impacts due to the operation of the cremator.*

In a letter to Sunshine Coast Regional Council dated 22 February 2016, MWA Environmental provided further information in response to a Request for Further Information from Council.

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Katestone has reviewed MWA Environmental's response. The outcome of the review is summarised below.

- Katestone is satisfied that the assumption of 4% of mercury in the particle phase is relevant to cremators
- Katestone acknowledges that the emissions testing data provided indicates that it may be possible for the cremator to operate with a lower particulate emission than assumed in the air quality assessment and therefore levels of deposited mercury may be lower than presented in the air quality assessment
- A health risk assessment is not required.

Consequently, no further information is required by Katestone to address air quality issues. From the information provided, the proposed cremator can be operated without causing adverse impacts on air quality. To ensure that this is achieved, the cremator will need to be maintained and operating in a proper and efficient manner and in accordance with the information provided in the Development Application. If Council chooses to approve the proposed development, Katestone recommends that the following conditions be included:

- The Applicant must not carry out any activity that causes or is likely to cause environmental harm, unless measures to prevent or minimise the harm have been taken
- Any release of noxious or offensive odours must not cause a nuisance at any odour sensitive place
- The activity shall not result on the discharge of visible emissions from the cremator exhaust with an opacity in excess of 20 percent for an aggregate of more than 5 minutes in any 1 hour period or more than 20 minutes in any 24 hour period
- The Applicant shall prepare an air quality management plan to be provided to Council prior to commencement of operation. The air quality management plan should reflect the detailed commitments contained in the Development Application and the MWA Environmental air quality assessment and include as a minimum (but not be limited to):
 - Details of activity, including design and operation
 - Air quality objectives
 - Discharge limits for relevant air pollutants
 - Monitoring of the cremation process such as primary and secondary combustion chamber temperature and opacity of exhaust gases
 - Monitoring of complaints
 - Training of operators
 - Contingencies such as those implemented in the event of a power outage during a cremation or the opacity of the exhaust gases exceeds 20%
 - Record keeping
 - Provision for regular auditing of compliance, ongoing review, continual improvement and reporting.

Please contact the undersigned on (07) 3369 3699 if you would like to discuss the review.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Shaw

Katestone Environmental Pty Ltd

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