

Community Newsletter

April 2016



Community Reference Group

The Community Reference Group was established in late 2013 to provide a point of contact between Livingstone Beef and the local community. Its members were selected based on Expressions of Interest being called.

The Reference Group is here to make sure your voice is heard. It meets on a regular basis, normally monthly. There are six community members:

- Gavin Chambers
- Sally Isberg
- TS Lee
- Anna Malgorzewicz
- Mary Pocock
- Brooke Rankmore.

Councillor Doug Barden has been appointed by Litchfield Council as its official representative to the group.

Community website under construction

A community website is being developed for Livingstone Beef to bring together all community information in one place.

The site will contain minutes of Community Reference Group meetings, the Community Newsletter and environmental reports.

The site will also contain data from the weather station that was installed at the facility and community members will be able to access this. Read more about the weather station on page 3.

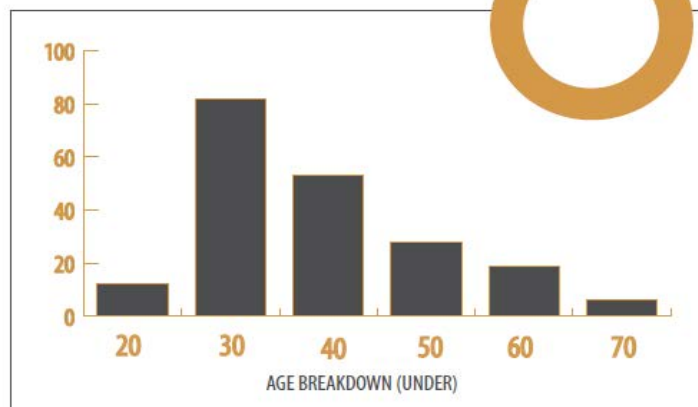
Workforce Snapshot

Livingstone Beef's workers come from all backgrounds and walks of life.

- We currently employ around 200 staff
- Almost half our employees are aged under 30
- Around 1 in 7 live in the local area – Livingstone, Berry Springs, Noonamah or Acacia Hills
- Almost a third of our employees are women
- Our employees are generally working one shift a day, starting at 5am and finishing at about 3.30pm.
- Some of our employees, particularly those involved with cleaning, work outside of these hours.

200
CURRENT EMPLOYEES

LIVING IN LOCAL AREA
[Livingstone, Berry Springs, Noonamah, Acacia Hills]



LIVINGSTONE WORKFORCE BY GENDER





Profile: Environmental Officer Yeresha Herath

Livingstone Beef's Environmental Officer Yeresha Herath is focused on a green future.

Yeresha's career at Livingstone Beef is natural befitting to her passion for the Darwin community and unique Australian ecology.

"I lived in Darwin originally during my secondary education at Darwin High School," Yeresha said.

"I've always been really passionate about the environment. I completed my tertiary education in Science of Environmental Management at La-Trobe University in Victoria and then returned to Darwin for my post-graduate degree at Charles Darwin University."

Yeresha's role is critical in managing the processing facility's Environment Protection Licence (EPL 131).

As Environmental Officer, she is responsible for managing and conducting various monitoring programs including surface water, ground water and soil, as well as ambient odour monitoring.

Yeresha is also in charge of keeping the wastewater quality of the wastewater treatment plant in check, as well as managing the irrigation of treated wastewater.

Keeping everyone informed is also a key part of being an Environmental Officer.

Environmental Officer Yeresha Herath has a passion for the Territory.

"We have very strict requirements for reporting the findings of our monitoring to the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority," she said.

"We also are committed to ensuring the community and surrounding neighbours are kept up to date what is happening regarding environmental issues."

Yeresha says it's really the people at Livingstone who keep her motivated in her role.

"We have a wonderful team here at Livingstone who are all focused towards the same goal – to improve the green image of the company," she said.

Sentenced to a Job program brings benefits

In 2014, Livingstone Beef commenced a partnership with the NT Department of Correctional Services Sentenced to a Job program to provide job opportunities for low security prisoners.

Employing 15-20 mainly indigenous prisoners at any given time, the initiative has been mutually beneficial to the facility, workers and the community.

The Department has recognised a direct correlation between employment and lower levels of crime. Published results show re-offending rates of participants in the Sentenced to a Job program are four times lower than non-participants.



Transitioning into employment prior to release provides prisoners with stability and introduces a positive working community and routine.

At Livingstone Beef, prisoners are employed in a diverse number of semi-skilled roles which allow them to extend their skills, including obtaining a qualification of Certificate II in Meat Processing.

They are entitled to the same benefits as other employees they work side-by-side with.

In most cases employment is continued upon completion of their sentence, further supporting a key barrier many prisoners face on the road to successful reintegration.

Water treatment plant to further reduce odors

A waste water treatment facility to be constructed this Dry season will further reduce the potential for odours on site at Livingstone Beef.

The facility is a pond system that will use microbial action to breakdown the waste water. The first stage is focussed on reducing odour in the waste water.

Odours have already been considerably reduced through a series of other measures undertaken during 2015. The water treatment facility is the final part of this reduction program.

Initial construction will take around six weeks to excavate the dam, will full commissioning of stage one to take a further six weeks.

Weather Station operational

Livingstone Beef has its own weather station collecting a range of data about local meteorological conditions.

The station was installed in 2015 to complement our extensive environmental monitoring programs.

Data is collected on the following:

- Air temperature
- Relative humidity
- Evaporation
- Rain
- Solar radiation
- Instant wind direction
- Wind direction
- Wind speed
- Peak wind gust
- Instant wind speed.

Livingstone Beef will make the data available to the community via our website.

Pictured at the weather station, located on our Livingstone Valley site, is AACo Environmental Manager Naomi Wilson.





Noise levels lowered

Significant improvements have been made across the Livingstone Beef Facility to reduce noise levels on and off site.

Diesel generators have been removed, the speed has been slowed on condensers, the frequency of fans on the cogeneration plant has been changed and the boiler fan has been modified.

The improvements were made following a study on noise levels conducted in July last year.

While the study was not a requirement of our environmental approvals, we were keen to understand if noise was an issue in the area and, if so, what could be done to reduce it.

ATP Consulting Engineers and EcOz environmental consultants helped to assess the site specific noise emissions associated with operations at neighbouring properties.

Noise measurements were recorded on 23 July at locations along the boundary of the facility to determine the existing noise amenity with site specific observations. These measurements were carried out during the day time when the facility was fully operational and the evening when the facility was not operating.

Noise measurements were also carried out within the facility during fully operational hours in order to identify dominant noise sources.

The results were compared with environmental noise criteria in the NSW *Industrial Noise Policy*.

According to the policy site specific noise guidelines for Intrusive noise impact criteria and amenity noise criteria.

Receptors located at southern and northern side of the facility were discovered to be mildly affected by operational noise from the facility (south by 1-3 decibel points during the evening and night and north by 2 decibel points only during the evening).

No exceedances of intrusive noise impact or amenity noise impacts were identified to the northwest of the facility.

Considering that the exceedance of Intrusive Noise Impacts levels were only detected during the evening and night times, a number of noise control measures have been suggested to reduce the most dominant noise sources within the facility.

Keep up to date with what is happening

If you want to keep up to date with what is happening at Livingstone Beef, you can join our email list.

- Go to our website – aaco.com.au Go to Operations>Beef Processing Facility and fill in the online form
- Email environmental@aaco.com.au
- Telephone 8978 4100 and ask to be placed on the email list

If you do not have access to email, ask to join our mailing list instead.