

3.10 The Connétable of St. Helier of the Minister for Transport and Technical Services regarding permanent location for Composting Facility at La Collette:

Would the Minister explain why it has been decided to make the temporary composting facility at La Collette the permanent site for this operation and would he further explain how composting green waste in an urban location makes sense in terms of land values and traffic impacts?

Deputy G.W.J. de Faye (The Minister for Transport and Technical Services):

Consequent upon the approval of the waste strategy, the Transport and Technical Services Department, in conjunction with officers from Planning and Environment and Health Protection, have reviewed a number of alternative sites for the Energy from Waste Plant, the Recycling Plant and Composting Operation. The recommendation from the review, which I agreed to, was that the Compost Plant should be located at Warwick Farm on St. Johns Main Road with the Re-use and Recycling and Energy from Waste Plant being located at La Collette. The Council of Ministers was asked for its view on this as there was a clear request for the compost plant to be constructed as soon as possible. The Council of Ministers considered La Collette and Warwick Farm and, on a split vote decided by the Chief Minister's casting vote, that the Council of Ministers' preferred site would be La Collette. The reason for that decision was that there was a need for the compost plant to be constructed as soon as possible and any delays to the project, resulting from local neighbourhood complaints, could impose further delays in resolving the current problem. Composting green waste in any part of the Island will require green waste to be transported on the main road network, the vast majority of east-west traffic using the Fort Regent Tunnel underpass route. The location of a compost plant on the outskirts of the urban environment and on a main road network provides a good location for this facility. In terms of land value, the loss of potential site for industrial warehousing was considered as part of the site selection process. That loss was compared to the potential cost to the States of having to purchase property in the vicinity of Warwick Farm under the existing States bad neighbour policy. To expedite the construction of the enclosed compost plant following consultation with the Council of Ministers, I am now proposing that this facility should be constructed at La Collette without any further delay subject to approval from the Minister for Planning and Environment.

The Deputy Bailiff:

I propose, if I may in this case, to allow the Connétable one supplementary. This is a matter which Members can take up when the Minister makes his statement so, there is a further opportunity. There are 2 other questions so, I think in the interests of fairness, we will just have the Connétable.

3.10.1 The Connétable of St. Helier:

Given that the Minister is prepared to come back to the States with both the preferred site and preferred technology for the Energy from Waste Plant, would it not be logical and also good practice, to come back to the States with the proposed site and technology for composting?

Deputy G.W.J. de Faye:

It might be logical but it is not politically acceptable.