



Sandown WTW Odour

update 21.07.2026

Sources of odour – current updates

Inlet Works Odour

Raw sewage entering the facility at the inlet works, via the balancing tank, is a primary source of odour emissions requiring careful management. The recent hot weather and lack of rainfall has impacted the levels of odour.

Sludge Cake Production

Sludge cake production and movement can release strong odours if not properly controlled during handling. The recent hot weather and lack of rainfall has impacted the levels of odour of stored cake, particularly when disturbed to be taken off-site.

Tanker Bays and Transport

Tanker bays used for transporting waste materials contribute to odour emissions at the site.

Terminal Pumping Stations

Terminal pumping stations generate odours, especially when septicity occurs within the catchment area. Septicity risk has increased with the recent hot weather and lack of rainfall, which has led to longer residency time of flows within the catchment.

Odour control measures – current updates

Odour Control Units Installation

OCUs are strategically placed at inlet and sludge areas to remove hydrogen sulphide and volatile compounds effectively. [Work is required to replace the two fans on the inlet building units. This is planned to start w/c 27.07.2026 with an approximate two-week duration.](#)

Catchment Dosing and Suppression

Catchment dosing reduces septicity at pumping stations. The transfer pumping stations across the Island dose according to levels of H₂S. Weathervane-controlled sprays activate to suppress odours based on wind direction. An additional system was installed (hired) in May 2026. [All suppressant systems are in operation.](#)

Operational Controls – current updates

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Door Closure Protocols

Inlet and tanker bay doors remain closed except during necessary operations to minimize odour escape. Operators have critical duties within the inlet building. To enter the building with the doors shut is a Health and Safety risk with the increased level of septicity. To allow air circulation we will be operating with some doors open.

Covered Sludge Transport

All trucks transporting sludge cake off-site are fully covered to prevent odour release during transit. Operating as per plan.

Summary

- The current weather conditions will continue to challenge our effectiveness in dealing with odours.
- The OCU fan replacement will help. If levels within the inlet building are reduced to a safe level we will be able to carry out duties with the doors shut. Target date 08.07.2026.
- If rain occurs between now and the 8th August and H2S levels reduce consequently, we can return to operational duties within the inlet building behind closed doors.
- From Monday 20.07 through to Friday 24.07 additional noise, and possibly odours, will be noticeable during the day. Contractors are on-site cleaning one of our PST's. This is an annual operational deep clean.