

## ASSESSMENT REPORT

### Eastern Creek Waste Management Centre Extension to the UR3R Facility (DA 323-11-2001i MOD 6)

#### 1. BACKGROUND

This report is an assessment of a request to modify the Development Approval (DA 323-11-2001i) for the Eastern Creek Waste Management Centre: Urban Resource – Reduction, Recovery, Recycling Facility (UR-3R Facility) at Eastern Creek in the Blacktown local government area.

The request has been lodged by Global Renewables pursuant to section 75W of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). It seeks to amend the approval by modifying the existing UR-3R waste facility to enable a fuel product to be manufactured from waste material currently being disposed at landfill.

#### 2. SUBJECT SITE

The UR-3R Facility sits within a five hectare area located in the south-western corner of the Eastern Creek Waste Management Centre (WMC). The UR-3R facility shares the main entrance and weighbridge with the WMC. The entrance to the site is from Wallgrove Road, approximately 1.8 km south of the M4 Motorway. The WMC site includes a range of facilities and infrastructure, including weighbridges, amenities and office buildings, tanks, car parking, and landfill gas flaring (**Figures 1 & 2**).

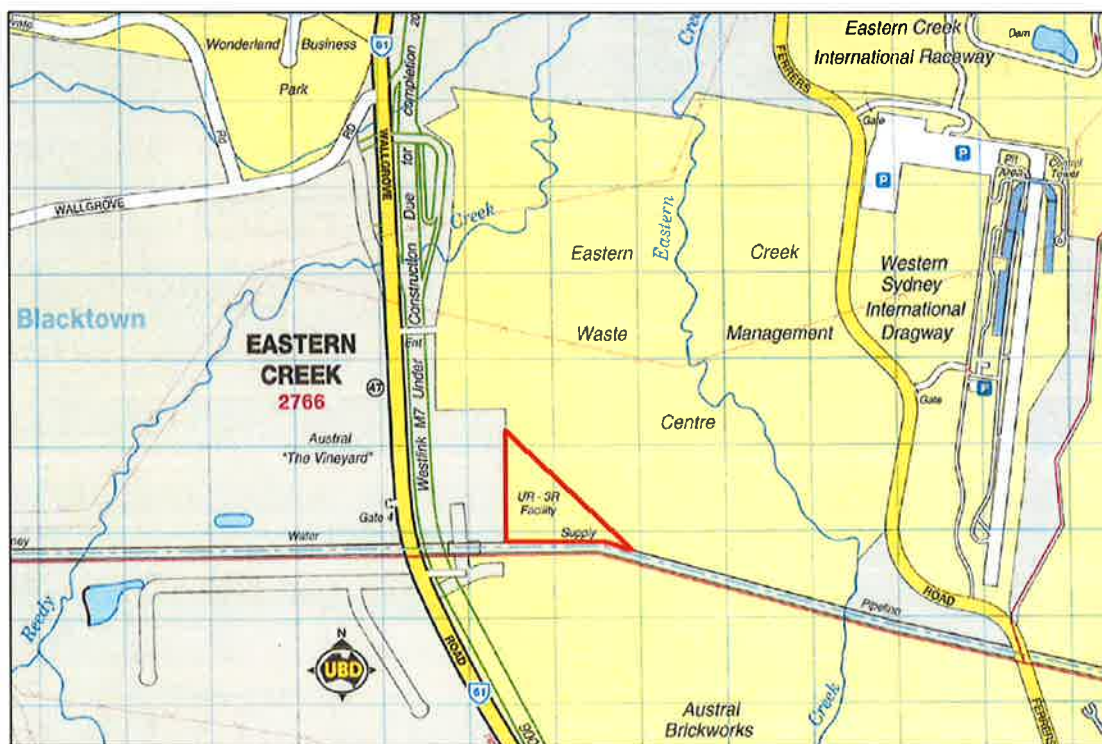


Figure 1: Site indicating location of UR-3R Facility



**Figure 2: Site context (Source: Proponent)**

### **3. APPROVAL HISTORY**

On 25 February 2002, Development Approval was granted for the UR-3R facility. The facility processes landfill waste by removing bulky items and recyclables and then breaking down remaining organic materials to create a vegetation growth medium similar to compost.

The proposal has been modified on four occasions. Previous modifications related to increasing the waste processing capacity of the site; changes to building layouts and operations; and minor amendments to car parking.

### **4. PROPOSED MODIFICATION**

#### **4.1 Original modification proposal**

On 31 August 2015, the Proponent lodged a section 75W modification application (DA 323-11-2001i MOD 6) seeking approval to modifying the existing UR3R waste facility. The proposal included construction of a new building and modifications to existing buildings and plant to enable the production of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) as well as indoor maturation and storage for the OGM product. The proposal sought to increase the waste diversion rate away from landfill from the current (65-70%) to over 90%.



**Figure 3:** Original proposal with new building (Source: Proponent)

## 4.2 Current modification proposal

In April 2016, the Proponent lodged an amended modification application which deleted the proposed new building. Following additional design work in relation to the RDF production circuit, a simplified process which no longer required a drying component, allows the Proponent to house all of the necessary equipment within the existing separations building located on site.

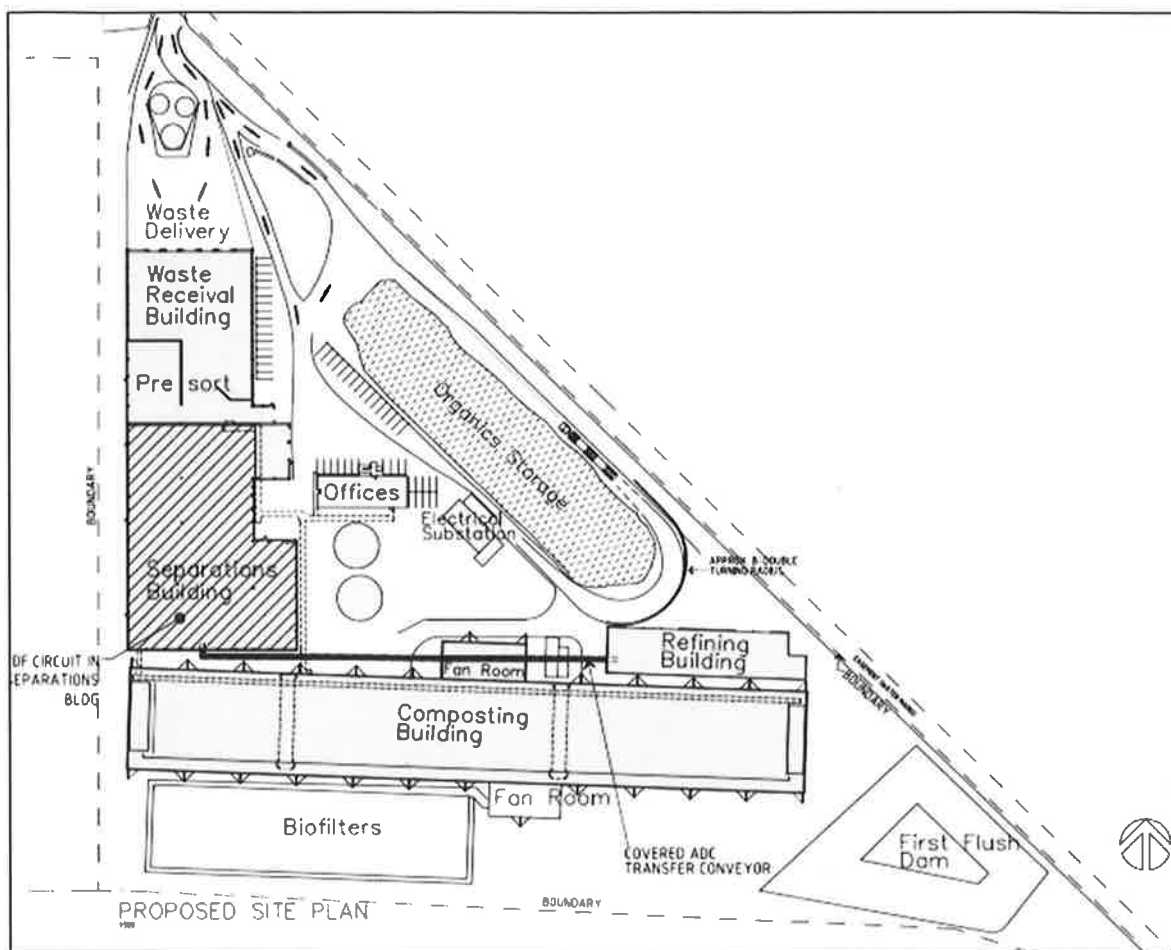
This current modification sets out a two stage approach as follows:

### **Stage 1 Works (RDF Circuit)**

- Removal of redundant conveying equipment from within the existing separations building;
- The installation of RDF processing equipment within the current separations building, including: optical sorting, size reduction, baling and wrapping equipment, and
- Some minor equipment modifications within the existing separation and refining buildings to recover RDF feed materials and a short covered conveyor alongside the existing separation building.

### **Stage 2 Works (Covered Conveyor)**

- The addition of a single covered conveyor to transfer RDF feed material from the refining building to the existing separations building; and
- The potential installation of solar paneling on the roofs of the current built structures (subject to feasibility).



**Figure 4:** Current proposal to contain works within existing separation building and area of covered conveyor (Source: Proponent)

The Proponent advises that the proposal would improve waste recovery from the existing facility in line with Government targets, noting the proposal is *designed* to help NSW meet the targets set in the *NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-212* and *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one*. Specifically, by 2021 the NSW Government aims to divert 75% of waste from landfill and recycle more than 70% of MSW generated in NSW. The Proponent advises that the UR-3R Facility will be critical in Western Sydney meeting these goals.

## 5. STATUTORY CONSIDERATION

### 5.1 Section 75W

The development was originally approved by the then Minister for Planning on 25 February 2002 pursuant to the sections 80(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). Under clause 8J(8) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (EP&A Regulation), a development consent granted by the Minister is taken to be approval granted under Part 3A of the Act, and therefore Section 75W applies to any modification of such a consent.

The Department is satisfied that the proposed changes are within the scope of section 75W of the EP&A Act, and the proposal does not constitute a new application.

## 5.2 Approval Authority

The Minister for Planning is the approval authority for the application. However, the Director, Modification Assessments may determine the application under delegation as:

- the relevant local council has not made an objection; and
- a political disclosure statement has not been made; and
- there are no public submissions in the nature of objections.

## 6. CONSULTATION

The Department made the modification application publicly available on its website, and consulted with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Parramatta Park & Western Sydney Parklands Trust and Blacktown City Council (Council) about the proposed modification.

**Council** initially raised a number of issues in relation to the original modification, relating to odour management, car parking and stormwater drainage.

The revised scope of the modification (as amended) no longer requires development of a specific building to house the RDF circuit and therefore several issues raised by Council relating to potential odour issues and new building development are no longer relevant.

Council have reviewed the current modification and raise no objections to the proposal subject to conditions which would appropriately manage noise, vibration and odour resulting from construction and operation are appropriately managed

**EPA** initially requested additional information relating to waste volumes, further details on the proposed plant and process, odour emissions, outdoor waste storage and noise emissions.

EPA has reviewed the current modification and has advised that the proposed modification is acceptable, subject to recommended conditions relating to noise, odour, management of hazardous materials, and production requirements.

**RMS** and **OEH** raised no objection or issues with the proposed modification.

There were no **public** submissions received on the proposal.

## 7. ASSESSMENT

The key issues associated with the current modification are assessed in **Table 2** below:

**Table 2: Assessment of Key Issues**

| <b>Issue</b>               | <b>Consideration</b>  | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Waste transfer and storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The EPA raised concern that prior to the construction of the Stage 2 covered conveyor system, waste movement between the Separations Building and the Refining Building would be via an external excavator. This would potentially create odour, stormwater and dust emissions.</li><li>• In response, the Proponent committed to construct the Stage 2 conveyor system in parallel with the RDF plant. This would ensure all waste movements between the Separations Building and the Refining Building would be done via a covered conveyor.</li><li>• The Department is satisfied with the Proponent's response and has recommended a condition requiring all waste material to be moved by a covered conveyor between the Separations Building and the Refining Building.</li><li>• The proposal would also require waste to be stored outside during periods when the internal storage space reaches capacity.</li></ul> | The Department has recommended a new condition requiring all external waste movements being via a covered conveyor |

| <b>Issue</b>                   | <b>Consideration</b>  | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA raised concern that storing waste outside could result in leachate and odour issues.</li> <li>The Proponent has confirmed that while a proportion of waste would be stored outside, it would be limited to finished plastic wrapped baled RDF products. The baled RDF product would be air and water tight and stored in a nominated area prior to collection.</li> <li>The EPA advise that these controls should be sufficient to prevent leachate and odour generation. The EPA also advised it would regulate this activity under the Environment Protection Licence No.11798 (EPL) for the site.</li> <li>The Department's assessment concludes that the proposed outdoor storage of baled and plastic wrapped RDF is acceptable as it would be unlikely to generate adverse leachate and odour impacts. Further the Department is satisfied that the outdoor storage of waste would be appropriately regulated under the EPL.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <i>Odour emissions</i>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA and Council note odour is a general issue for the area and the proposed facility has the capability to produce odour emissions.</li> <li>The Proponent has advised that odour modelling is not necessary, as processing and baling RDF is likely to generate less odour emissions than the current process relating to the production of alternative daily cover materials. Further, the proposal would utilise an existing building which directs all internal air emissions through a biofilter to minimise odour impacts.</li> <li>The EPA reviewed the current modification and advised it accepts the Proponent's advice that odour modelling is not required. Instead, the EPA recommends the Proponent be required to validate odour emissions post commissioning of the RDF plant as a condition of approval.</li> <li>The Department considers the modified operations are likely to create less odour emissions than the current operations and the existing biofilter would appropriately minimise potential odour impacts.</li> <li>However, to ensure no adverse odour impacts arise, the Department agrees with the EPA and recommends a condition be included requiring odour emissions to be validated once the modified facility becomes operational. Should any issues arise, the Proponent would be required to implement appropriate measures to ensure the proposal does not result in any adverse odour impacts</li> </ul> | The Department has recommended a new condition requiring validation of odour assumptions in accordance with the requirements of the NSW EPA. |
| <i>Noise</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal seeks approval to replace old redundant equipment with new equipment to process the RDF product. The Proponent states the modified operations would not result in additional noise emissions. Similarly there would be no increase in noise from truck movements.</li> <li>The Proponent also notes there are existing operational noise limits for the site which would continue to be complied with.</li> <li>The EPA recommends post-commissioning validation of noise emissions be required as a condition of consent.</li> <li>The Department considers it is unlikely that any additional noise impacts would arise from the proposed modification and that the existing approval includes suitable conditions to ensure noise impacts are appropriately mitigated and managed.</li> <li>However, the Department agrees with the EPA that noise emissions should be validated once the new operations commence to ensure the proposal would not result in any adverse noise impacts. An appropriate condition has been recommended accordingly.</li> </ul>  | The Department has recommended a new condition requiring validation of noise emissions in accordance with the requirements of the NSW EPA.   |
| <i>Traffic and Car parking</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal would result in an additional 16 truck movements per day. Only four of the 16 truck movements would occur during the peak AM period, with no additional truck movements during the PM peak.</li> <li>The Proponent submitted a traffic analysis to support the application which concluded the additional truck movements would have a negligible impact on the surrounding network.</li> </ul>   | No additional conditions or amendments necessary.  |

| <i>Issue</i>                         | <i>Consideration</i>  | <i>Recommendation</i>  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the findings of the Proponent's traffic analysis, the Department is satisfied the proposal would not result in any adverse traffic impacts.</li> <li>The proposal also seeks to formalise existing hard stand areas currently used for parking. This would provide 48 line marked spaces.</li> <li>The Department considers the proposed car spaces would provide sufficient on-site parking for staff and visitors to the facility and provide a better outcome than the current informal arrangements.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <i>EPA requirements and policies</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA requested additional information relating to the proposed RDF plant and processes, in particular demonstrating how the proposal would meet the EPA requirements in the NSW Energy from Waste Policy.</li> <li>Following the provision of additional details by the Proponent, the EPA advise the information is sufficient for the assessment of the modification. The EPA recommended a number of conditions to ensure compliance with the policy and to allow the variation of the EPL for the facility.</li> <li>The Department has recommended new conditions requiring the Proponent to meet the EPA's requirements and compliance with the NSW Energy from Waste Policy. The Department also notes the Proponent would have to vary the EPL prior to the production of RDF.</li> </ul> | The Department has recommended new conditions requiring the Proponent to meet the EPA's requirements and compliance with the NSW Energy from Waste Policy. |

## 8. CONCLUSION

The Department has assessed the current modification application and supporting information in accordance with the relevant requirements of the EP&A Act. The Department's assessment concludes that the proposed modification is appropriate on the basis that:

- the proposal has been amended to address previous issues raised by Council and the EPA;
- subject to the recommended conditions, the proposal would not lead to any unacceptable environmental impacts; and
- the proposal will help NSW meet its environmental targets in relation to waste and recycling as outlined in the *NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-212* and *NSW 2021*.

Consequently, it is recommended that the application is in the public interest and should be approved subject to the recommended conditions.

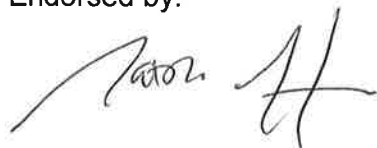
## 9. RECOMMENDATION

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Director, Modification Assessments, as delegate of the Minister for Planning:

- considers** the findings and recommendations of this report;
- approves** the application under section 75W, subject to conditions; and
- signs** the notice of modification (**Appendix A**).

Prepared by:  
Michael Woodland

Endorsed by:



Natasha Harras  
**Team Leader**  
**Modification Assessments**

Approved by:



Anthony Witherdin  
**Director**  
**Modification Assessments**

## **APPENDIX A: NOTICE OF MODIFICATION**

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The Notice of Modification can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment's website as follows:

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=7248](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7248)

## **APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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The following supporting documents and supporting information to this assessment report can be found on the Department of Planning and Environment's website as follows:

1. Modification request

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=7248](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7248)

2. Submissions

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=7248](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7248)

3. Response to Submissions

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=7248](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7248)

4. Revised Proposal

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=7248](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=7248)