



THE HON CHRIS BOWEN MP
SHADOW TREASURER
MEMBER FOR McMAHON

THE HON ED HUSIC MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION
MEMBER FOR CHIFLEY

EMMA HUSAR MP
MEMBER FOR LINDSAY

28 February 2017

We, the undersigned Members of Parliament representing the Western Sydney electorates of McMahon, Chifley and Lindsay, write to oppose the development of the Energy From Waste (EFW) incinerator that is currently planned to be built in Eastern Creek by The Next Generation (TNG) NSW Pty Ltd.

The construction of this incinerator faces strong opposition from the community because of the problems outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement that have yet to be addressed, such as the origin of the waste and how it would be sorted and stored.

The EIS has not confirmed the forecast emissions are valid and attainable and the current application will have a substantial impact on jeopardizing the nearby environment.

The plant is planned to consume 1.1 million tonnes of waste per year, the largest of its kind in Australia. As a result, comparable plants, their construction and impacts are hard to assess.

This plant, which will produce solid by-products such as ash and flue gas treatment residue, is planned to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This will generate 45,000 tonnes per annum of ash; the long term storage of which is not outlined in the sufficient detail to satisfy community concerns.

We are not satisfied that the potential health impacts of this plant have been adequately identified and addressed. We support Blacktown City Council's call for NSW Health to undertake a review of Australian EFW plants to ensure there will be no impacts on the health of local residents. This review should be made public before any approval is made.

Ash solids created as a result of the incineration process must be subject to a detailed transfer plan which may include reuse opportunities to reduce landfill.

In the most recent Environmental Impact Study, the plant is planning to take 45% of its waste from unknown third parties, up from 5% in the original EIS. This means 500,000 tonnes of waste will be delivered per annum from third parties.

This poses two problems for local communities. The first is the additional traffic on the roads, and the second is the amount of unscreened waste that will be processed.

It is estimated approximately 168 trucks will be used to deliver waste every day. This will place enormous pressure on the already resource-starved infrastructure in Western Sydney. The current roads system, and the communities that they bypass, are currently experiencing problems with maintenance and noise pollution. The suburb of Erskine Park in particular has a long history of problems caused by heavy vehicles along Erskine Park Road, towards the greater South Western Sydney region. An additional 168 trucks will only exacerbate the problem.

The waste that will be sourced from unknown third parties is also concerning. This waste will bypass the nearby Genesis Xero Waste plant, where it was to be screened, to ensure recyclable materials such as paper, glass and green waste are not part of the composition. Without this screening process for hazardous waste, materials such as asbestos and gas bottles may go undetected, resulting in both environmental and health problems.

Additionally, the waste that is passed through the Genesis Xero Waste plant is only inspected visually, and does not meet the standards required for the proper disposal of waste products. All waste should be properly screened, including physical sorting and not just visual inspection, through the Genesis Xero Waste plant before arriving in the EFW plant.

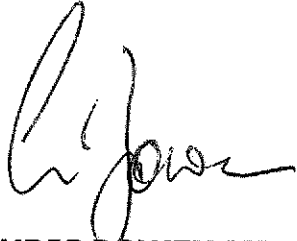
We are not satisfied that the proposal contains an acceptable level of assurance that these proper waste management processes will be put in place.

Our further opposition to this proposal derives from the inability of The Next Generation to reach the appropriate employment targets for a project of this size. According to the Broader Western Sydney Employment Area Draft Structure Plan, the development should achieve the employment target of 21 jobs per hectare. The current proposal achieves only six jobs per hectare, well short of the target.

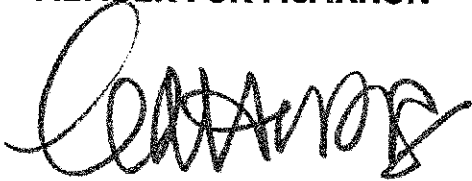
Finally, we believe there has not been an adequate level of community engagement in this process. Local residents have the right to fully understand the costs and benefits of this proposal in consultation with their elected representatives. We do not support the hurried nature of this proposal, so we call on the proponent to engage with local residents in a meaningful way before this project is advanced any further.

It is our strong recommendation that this application be opposed by the New South Wales Minister for Planning in the assessment.

Sincerely,



**CHRIS BOWEN MP
SHADOW TREASURER
MEMBER FOR McMAHON**



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