

# Eastern Creek – Energy from Waste

## ○ Frequently Asked Questions

February 2017

### What is the current status of the proposal?

- An *amended* Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Energy from Waste Facility at Eastern Creek has been submitted by the Applicant – the Next Generation (NSW) Pty Ltd. The Department of Planning and Environment (the Department), other government agencies and the community have raised issues and questions around the assessment of the proposal. This led to the Applicant preparing and submitting an amended EIS to the Department. The original EIS was exhibited from May to July 2015.
- The amended EIS includes a Response to Submissions report which addresses the issues raised in submissions received during the public exhibition of the Applicant's original EIS. The amended EIS is currently on public exhibition until 1 March 2017 and is being assessed by the Department.

### What is the amended development application?

- It is the construction and operation of an energy from waste facility. The engineering design capacity can thermally treat up to 1.35 million tonnes of residual waste per year to produce about 137 megawatts of electricity (capable of servicing approximately 200,000 homes). Associated infrastructure includes a boiler house, steam turbines for electricity generation and air emissions stacks.

### What is an Energy from Waste facility?

- An Energy from Waste Facility uses thermal technology to convert waste that would otherwise go to landfill into steam which drives turbines to generate electricity.

### Who assesses the proposal?

- As the proposed development will have a capital investment exceeding \$30 million, it is declared to be State Significant Development (SSD). We are undertaking the assessment of the proposal in consultation with key stakeholders, including Blacktown City Council, Penrith Council and State government agencies such as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and NSW Health.
- To support a robust assessment of such a complex project, the Department and the EPA are seeking advice from independent expert consultants, in the fields of human health risk assessment (EnRiskS) and international best practice waste to energy engineering (ARUP Pty Ltd). ARUP has extensive experience dealing with these facilities in Europe.

### What consultation has been undertaken to date?

- Before the application was lodged, the Department required the Applicant to undertake consultation with local and State authorities, community groups and affected landowners.
- After the application was lodged, we advertised the proposal in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Daily Telegraph* and local papers and sent letters to key stakeholders.
- Individual letters were sent to 2,900 landowners and residents in Minchinbury and Erskine Park advising of the proposal and inviting submissions.

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### How do I comment on the proposal?

- The amended application is on public exhibition from 12 December 2016 until 1 March 2017 and feedback is invited. Submissions must be received by 1 March 2017.
- You can make a submission by:
  - going online to <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>
  - post to Planning Services, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39, Sydney, NSW 2001.
- All submissions will be made public in line with the Department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission. Before making a submission, please read our privacy statement at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy)

### What happens next?

- Following the exhibition, the Applicant will be required to prepare a response to submissions. This will address any concerns or issues raised by the community, councils or government agencies. The Applicant's response to submissions and all submissions received will be published on our website. All reports and assessments by the independent experts will be available on our website.
- We will review all submissions received and thoroughly assess the Applicant's response to submissions and the amended proposal before making a recommendation to the independent Planning Assessment Commission. The independent Commission will determine the application under delegation from the Minister for Planning.
- The independent Commission will hold a public meeting prior to making a determination on the application. This will provide a further opportunity for the community to express their views and input.

### Where can I find out more?

- To find out more you can:
  - go online to <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>
  - visit us at the Department's Information Centre, Level 22/320 Pitt Street, Sydney
  - call our Information Centre on 1300 305 695. If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695
  - email [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)