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21 October 2017

Ms Anthea Sargeant
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Anthea ,

RESPONSE TO SUBMISIONS REPORT SSDA 6236: THE NEXT GENERATION ENERGY FROM WASTE EASTERN CREEK - SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE TO SOCIAL LICENCE ISSUES

Reference is made to the Response to Submissions (**RTS**) Report prepared by Urbis Pty Ltd (**Urbis**) on behalf of The Next Generation NSW Pty Ltd (**TNG**) for the State significant development application (**SSDA**) 6236.

The RTS Report addressed the Government, agency, organisation and community submissions lodged in relation to the exhibition of the Amended Environmental Impact Statement (**Amended EIS**) between December 2016 and March 2017. This letter is submitted as an addendum to the RTS Report to provide additional information on the issue of social licence that was raised obliquely in the submissions and raised in the current Parliamentary Enquiry into Energy from Waste in New South Wales.

The commitments below are presented as additional Proponent Commitments for the TNG Energy from Waste Project (the EfW Project).

Background

The Amended EIS at page 382 make the following observation (emphasis added)

The importance of the recovery of energy from waste as part of effective waste management is reflected in *NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement 2014*.

*The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) recognises that the recovery of energy and resources from the thermal processing of waste has the potential, as part of an integrated waste management strategy, to **deliver positive outcomes for the community and the environment**. Energy from waste can be a valid pathway for residual waste where:*

- *Further material recovery through reuse, reprocessing or recycling is not financially sustainable or technically achievable;*
- *Community acceptance to operate such a process has been obtained.*

The diversion of waste from landfill, reducing the potential for methane emissions, while also providing a form of low carbon, renewable energy, is recognised by the NSW Government and relevant technical agencies as making an important positive contribution to the targets for dealing with waste.

Delivery of a reliable alternate source of electricity

The EfW Project as detailed in the RTS Report and Project Definition Brief dated 19 September 2017 involves the construction and operation of an Electricity Generation Plant that will generate electrical power from unsalvageable and uneconomic residue waste which would otherwise be land filled. The Electricity Generation Plant has been designed with an optimum expect throughput of 552,500 tpa when the fuel waste on an annualised basis has a Net Calorific Value (NCV) of 12.3 MJ/kg. The proposed EfW Facility has a capacity to generate net 68.65 Mega Watts of electrical energy (MWe).

Electricity not required for operational functions on site will be exported to the grid. The Proponent explored the opportunity to deliver this power directly to households in the local area and so provide low cost electricity directly to local households. This was unfortunately not feasible for regulatory reasons and will instead be directed to the power grid.

Australia is experiencing a power infrastructure crisis as Governments try to balance the reliability of traditional coal fired power stations with the sometimes intermittent “renewable” methods of wind and solar. The EfW Project is a genuine baseload power generation system which would add to the grid’s capacity at no cost to government or to the community.

Delivery of a reliable alternate source of “renewable” energy at this time represents a significant community benefit.

A National Energy Guarantee Policy has just been announced under which, the Proponent understands, energy generators will be required to provide power by a range of methods.

Delivery of Community Benefit

In formulating the EfW Project the Proponent considered a range of alternative ways in which the project could deliver a community benefit, when it was realised that it was not able to provide low cost electricity directly to local households.

Some of the options explored included:

- the construction or establishment of local amenities such as sporting resources, swimming pools or health centres; and
- the establishment of charitable trusts to make grants or establish bursaries or scholarships;

The assessments found that that these options involved the establishment of management structures that would not be accessible to or suitable for everyone and could result in inequity.

The Proponent, in response to the National Energy Guarantee Policy, is now making the following addition to the submitted Statement of Commitments that:

*Upon the commencement of construction of the EfW Project the Proponent will progressively provide **free of charge** to homeowners of up to 1,000 dwellings in the immediate area, **fully installed, 3kwh** roof top solar installations.*

A circular zone of eligibility would be established, centred upon the TNG Facility and the circumference of which would be established at the first residential dwelling in Erskine Park or Minchinbury.



Thereafter, the circumference of the zone would be expanded at 20 metre intervals until the 1000 home allocation is exhausted.

Commencement of installation would begin with the first eligible dwelling identified and be contemporaneous with the commencement of construction of the Facility. Roll out would take place throughout the construction period and be largely dependent upon the availability of solar systems and the means to deliver installations of them.

Eligibility criteria will be kept as simple as possible so as to enable most homeowners within the zone of legibility to participate. Suitability of roof tops, standard installations, orientation to the sun and no overshadowing by trees or buildings will be typical criteria.

Homeowners identified within the zone of eligibility would be asked if they wished to participate.

This commitment will not only satisfy the objectives of the policy that power is provided by a range of methods, it will also deliver a **direct** community benefit to residents of the local area. The proposed solar infrastructure would add to the capital value of the homes on which the units were installed and it delivers long term benefits in the nature of significant ongoing reductions in household electricity bills for those homeowners.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at on 82337678 or by email cbrown@urbis.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Brown".

Clare Brown
Director