

## **NSW Environment Protection Authority**

### **Background**

The Next Generation NSW Pty Ltd (TNG) has lodged a State Significant Development Application for the construction and operation of an Energy from Waste Facility at Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, in DP 1145808 within the Eastern Creek Industrial Estate.

TNG is proposing to construct and operate an electricity generation plant within the Eastern Creek Industrial Estate powered from unsalvageable and uneconomic residue waste that would otherwise be landfilled. The proposed facility will have the capacity to process up to 1.35 million tonnes of residual waste fuel per year and generate up to 158 MW of electricity with a net thermal export to the grid of 140 MWe.

The development will be staged in two phases with each phase comprising two combustion grates and two 5 pass heat recovery boiler systems housed in one building with each boiler having its own independent flue gas treatment systems and connecting to one turbine enclosed in the adjacent turbine hall. Each boiler will also be connected to an air cooling system, one emissions stack and the other auxiliary elements connecting the process. Phase 2 will be built when it is demonstrated the required quantity of residual waste fuel is available to the facility.

The facility will operate 24 hours a day every day of the year apart from programmed offline periods for maintenance. The proposed facility aims to receive and process up to 1.3 million tonnes of residual waste per annum (C&I and C&D & other waste) for energy recovery using “moving grate” incineration technology.

### **Public Exhibition - 2015**

On 22 May 2015, the EIS and associated assessments were placed on public exhibition by DPE. The EPA reviewed the relevant documents and provided its comments. The EPA advised that there was insufficient information provided to conduct a robust assessment of the potential impacts of the proposal and could not recommend approval of the proposal in its current form.

### **Public Exhibition – 2016-2017**

In December 2016, Urbis provided DPE with an amended EIS, with the view of addressing the issues raised during public exhibition in 2015. On 9 December 2016, the amended EIS and associated documents were placed on public exhibition by DPE. The EPA conducted a review of the relevant environmental assessments provided.

Many of the issues previously raised by the EPA during the 2015 public exhibition of the proposal still remain and have not been satisfactorily addressed by the Proponent in the amended EIS. These issues are further detailed in Attachments B-G.

As raised previously by the EPA, in order to robustly assess potential impacts from the proposal, it is crucial to understand the waste feedstock proposed to be received at the facility, and understand how the proposed technology (HZI Moving Grate) will process that waste feedstock. It is the EPA's view that this has still not been addressed adequately. As also raised previously by the EPA, many of the assessments (air, ozone, human health, waste) by necessity, rely heavily on knowing the waste feedstock proposed to be accepted at the facility and how the technology will process it. Without a clear and robust understanding of the composition and source of the feedstock, it has been difficult to properly and robustly assess the potential impacts. This concern is reflected throughout the EPA's submission.