

MEDIA RELEASE

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BEST PRACTICE EMISSIONS CONTROLS FOR PROPOSED WESTERN SYDNEY ENERGY AND RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) has today confirmed requirements for best practice processes and technologies for the proposed Western Sydney Energy and Resource Recovery Centre (WSERRC) at Eastern Creek.

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements, (SEARs), published on the DPIE website, outline the factors that must be addressed in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the WSERRC. This is common practice for a project of this nature and the factors noted in the SEARs are in line with those anticipated.

WSERRC is proposed by Cleanaway and Macquarie Capital. It would feature an energy-from-waste centre that will provide green energy for 65,000 homes, using residential and business red bin waste that is non-recyclable and non-reusable – waste that would otherwise go to landfill.

The EIS will include a description of how this project compares to best-practice emission control techniques as defined in recently updated European Standards.

Cleanaway CEO, Vik Bansal, said the European standards, commonly known as the BREF, are the strictest in the world and would ensure the air near the facility remains safe after it is operational.

Mr Bansal said the EIS is an opportunity to provide comprehensive information to the community detailing how the community's safety and health will be protected. The detail outlined by DPIE today underscores the high standards to which the proposal will be held.

"The WSERRC team have been out talking to the community at information sessions in shopping centres and markets, visiting people's homes and answering questions for the past two months. During that time more than 1,000 people have shared their views on the project with the team. The EIS is required to show how the issues raised by the community have been addressed."

The EIS will also show the composition and quantities of waste material such as ash generated by the facility and how this material will be managed and disposed of. In addition, maximum annual throughput of waste and maximum volume of waste to be stored at the facility at any point must also be specified.

The WSERRC will be required to demonstrate the highest standards for the management of: waste, air quality, odour, human health,

noise and vibration, surface and ground water, hydrology, geology and soils, hazard and risk, visual amenity, greenhouse gas emissions, airspace operations, social impacts and any cumulative impacts. These are factors that would typically be required to be addressed in a waste management project.

As anticipated, the Secretary's requirements also note the WSERRC must demonstrate that it is meeting best international practice environmental performance levels, as required by the NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement, by reference to other similar projects. Air quality will meet European standards for safe emissions, which are the toughest in the world, and will be continuously monitored on site.

The EIS, expected to be lodged in mid-2020, will address each of the Secretary's requirements and describe how the design, operation and construction of the proposal will avoid, minimise and manage impacts on the environment, including issues that may be of concern to the community and stakeholders. Community and stakeholder engagement, already well underway, will continue throughout the planning process.

Further information about the project includes:

- The facility will be consistent with the desired future character of the Wallgrove Precinct under the Western Sydney Parklands State Environmental Planning Policies, retaining some current uses such as recycling and incorporating future uses such as renewable energy.
- As a producer of renewable energy, the project will support the renewable energy objectives and targets of National and State policies including the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan.
- A visitor centre will be constructed to enable the community to learn about energy-from-waste and best practice waste management.
- There will continue to be extensive community engagement at each phase of the planning process.

More information about the project, including the proposal Scoping Report and the SEARs can be viewed at <https://energyandresourcecentre.com.au/>

People are encouraged to visit the website and register to receive more information about the project.

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