

Media Release

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## DETAILED PROPOSAL TO RECOVER MORE FROM OUR WASTE AND REDUCE LANDFILL NOW ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Western Sydney Energy and Resource Recovery Centre (WSERRC) in Eastern Creek is now on public exhibition.

The WSERRC will be an energy-from-waste Centre that, if approved, will target non-recyclable red bin waste from businesses and households and reduce Western Sydney's annual landfill volumes by up to 500,000 tonnes – almost one third of the red bin waste generated in the local area each year. It would support other forms of waste reduction including avoiding waste, recycling and re-use.

The proposal is a co-development between Australia's leading waste management company, Cleanaway, and global renewable energy developer, investor and financier, Macquarie Capital. Should the proposal proceed, WSERRC will be operated by Cleanaway.

The EIS is the next milestone in the proposal's evolution. It describes the project and outlines the social, environmental, health, technical and economic outcomes and impacts. It also describes the extensive community engagement that has been undertaken to date and how feedback has been addressed.

**The WSERRC would create significant employment, economic and environmental benefits for Western Sydney including:**

- **Creating 900 direct and between 700 and 1,200 indirect construction jobs over three years.**
- **Creating a further 50 onsite jobs to operate the facility.**
- **Investing approximately \$700 million into building the WSERRC facility in Western Sydney.**
- **Diverting up to 500,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste from landfill each year.**
- **Reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by around 390,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (equivalent) each year.**
- **Generating up to 55MW of base load energy, enough to power more than 79,000 homes and businesses.**

If the proposal is approved, additional investment and up to a further 200 construction jobs and 50 permanent roles will be created as a result of the supporting developments to service the facility. These include an organic waste (FOGO) processing facility, pre-sorting facility, and an ash treatment facility. These developments do not form part of the current proposal and EIS and would be developed separately.

Cleanaway Project Director James Pearce noted that the WSERRC will use safe and well proven energy-from-waste technology to manage waste that cannot be recycled – and in doing so create environmental, economic and social benefits for Western Sydney and NSW.

“Community safety is paramount. We have designed this Centre to meet the highest standards in the world for energy-from-waste. This technology has been used around the world for more than 50 years and has continuously improved in the intervening years,” Mr Pearce said.

“We can maximise the value of waste resources, by taking materials with no other recycling alternative and otherwise going to landfill, and recover energy to be used as electricity for businesses and homes, metal to be recycled and ash which is commonly re-used in construction activities overseas and we intend to do the same here..

“There are hundreds of examples of other sites that process similar types of waste, use the same technology and are a similar size to the WSERRC. For the EIS, our reference facilities are in Filborna, Sweden and Dublin, Ireland.

“We recognise that members of the community need to be informed about the proposal. From the outset, the WSERRC project team has been engaging the community and stakeholders in genuine, two-way discussions to understand their concerns and answer questions. The team has been at local markets and shopping centres, we have door knocked residents, held community workshops and been answering questions online.

“This open and regular dialogue is an important part of our approach. We want to make sure everyone can get to know this proposal and there are already a range of resources available on our dedicated website.

“We have also developed an EIS summary brochure, fact sheets and have a virtual information room to help make this information accessible for everyone. And, if members of the community have further questions, the project team is available.”

The project team welcomes questions on the WSERRC proposal and invites the community to contact them or visit the website (<https://energyandresourcecentre.com.au/>) for more information.

The approval process for the WSERRC is managed through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The EIS documents and information about how to make a submission is available here: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/25896>. The EIS exhibition ends on 16 November 2020.

ENDS

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### **About Cleanaway Waste Management**

Cleanaway Waste Management Limited is Australia’s leading total waste management, industrial and environmental services company. Our team of more than 6,000 highly trained staff are supported by a fleet of over 4,950 specialist vehicles working from approximately 300 locations across Australia. With the largest waste, recycling and liquids collections fleets on the road - and supported by a network of recycling facilities, transfer stations, engineered landfills, liquids treatment plants and refineries - we are working hard to deliver on our mission of making a sustainable future possible for all our stakeholders.

### **About Macquarie Capital**

Macquarie Capital has global capability in advisory, capital raising services, principal investment and asset creation. Macquarie Capital’s renewable energy expertise is enhanced by the Green Investment Group, a specialist developer, sponsor and investor with a mission to accelerate to a greener global economy. Together, Macquarie Capital and the Green Investment Group have more than 350 dedicated green energy professionals and has invested in over 30 waste and biomass projects globally including Australia’s first thermal waste to energy project, Avertas Energy in Western Australia.