

Why do we need it?



We have a waste problem

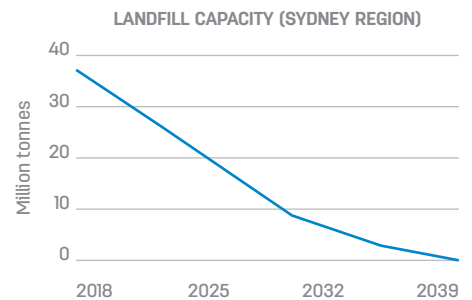
Western Sydney sends 1.6 million tonnes of non-recyclable household and business waste to landfill every year. While waste generation per capita is reducing, population growth means that overall waste produced is still increasing and we need to have a solution to manage residual waste into the future.



Landfill space in NSW is running out

There are two remaining landfills that accept putrescible waste (our red bins) in Sydney - one is located in Lucas Heights and the other is more than 200km away near Goulburn.

Soon, space in these landfills will run out and it is unlikely that new landfills will be approved, so we need to ask ourselves now – what happens to our waste then?



EfW is a solution for waste that cannot be recycled

✓ EfW provides a sustainable, safe and long-term solution for managing waste that cannot be recycled

✓ Energy recovery is higher in the waste hierarchy

EfW sits above disposal in the waste hierarchy as it allows us to recover energy and materials from waste that would otherwise be sent to landfill. This makes EfW preferable to the current system of landfill disposal for managing our non-recyclable waste, and is common practice in the UK and Europe.

✓ EfW is complementary to recycling and can divert over 95% of red bin waste from landfill.

EfW supports and contributes to recycling. EfW allows for metals that would otherwise be sent to landfill to be recovered out of the ash and recycled. The ash itself, called bottom ash, is inert and able to be reused in construction purposes like road base. In the UK, many EfW facilities are now diverting 100% of waste that enters the facility from landfill.

✓ EfW produces baseload electricity for the grid to power homes and businesses

An EfW facility produces reliable, baseload power, reducing reliance on fossil fuel intensive power generation

