

MINUTES

DETERMINATION OF EASTERN CREEK ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITY

IPCN MEETING WITH BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL

BLACKTOWN CITY COUNCIL, 62 FLUSHCOMBE ROAD, BLACKTOWN

14 MAY 2018 AT 9.00AM

ATTENDANCE

The Commission

Commission Members: Robyn Kruk AM (Chair), Peter Duncan AM, Tony Pearson

Commission Secretariat: Matthew Todd-Jones (Senior Planning Officer), David Koppers (Team Leader), Anna Summerhayes (Counsel assisting the Commission – observer only), Troy (Media advisor – observer only)

Council

Mr Stephen Bali – Mayor

Mr Kerry Robinson – General Manager

Ms Glennys James – Director Design and Development

Ms Vanessa Parkes – Acting Director City Living

Mr Kevin Turner – Acting Manager Environment

Mr Vincent Shepherd – Acting Team Leader Environmental Health

COUNCIL PROVIDED THE COMMISSION WITH A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF ITS VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT, WHICH CAN BE VIEWED ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED:

- Council informed the Commission that four of its officers and councillors undertook a study visit of four energy from waste facilities in the UK, organised by SLR Consulting, to understand the operation of facilities of this type, together with the issues that were raised by local communities and opposition groups at the time that approval for same were granted. Council indicated that the tour was necessary to improve its level of understanding of the benefits and risks of an energy from waste facility given the community concerns and opposition that had been expressed over the proposed project.
- Council stated that the facilities that it visited were generally located away from residential areas, around half the size of the proposed project and involved twice the capital expenditure of the proposed project.
- Council stated that it does not believe that the proposed project is best practice in terms of the technology proposed to be employed when compared to the facilities it visited. Council has asked the applicant why the same technology that is used at the facilities it visited cannot be used in the proposed facility, but has received no reply.
- Council stated that there is currently insufficient information on the effect on human health from nano-particles.

- Council noted that emission outputs in the applicant's modelling have changed with each submission of the proposed project.
- Council noted that some members of the community had received letters from the applicant's solicitors. Council offered to provide a redacted copy of one such letter to the Commission.
- Council stated that the proposal hasn't met the original Director General's Requirements and has failed to consider alternatives.
- Council stated that the applicant has no 'social license' to operate as there is a lack of support from the community.
- Council held a community forum in February 2017 in response to a perceived lack of engagement from the applicant. The forum, intended primarily for residents living in Minchinbury, was attended by in excess of 100 people.
- Council noted that the applicant's soil consultant has objected to the proposed project.
- Council stated that it has no confidence in how the nitrogen dioxide levels were estimated and noted that the levels had more than halved since the applicant's original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Council stated that it is concerned with the potential for municipal waste to be received at the proposed facility and waste stream controls in general.
- Council stated that at the Parliamentary Inquiry the technology provider for the proposed project acknowledged that there could have been better community consultation.
- Council stated that its objection to the proposal included the uncertainty around waste entering the facility and any subsequent emissions, the technology used not being best practice and that there has been poor community consultation to date.
- Council noted that 21 of its concerns raised previously to the applicant's EIS have not been addressed.
- Council indicated that it would provide the Commission with a formal response to the Department of Planning and Environment's assessment report.

MEETING CLOSED AT 10.05AM