

Media Release

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Energy from Waste Power Plant proposed for Swanbank

One of the world's largest generators of electricity from waste has announced its intention to use state of the art technology to develop an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility at its Swanbank landfill.

REMONDIS Australia, part of the European-headquartered REMONDIS Group, has advised the Queensland Government that it will make an application to develop the recovered energy project through the State's Coordinated Project process.

REMONDIS is one of the world's largest recycling, water and environmental management organisations, managing recyclable material, general waste, organic matter, liquids and more special wastes. The company employs more than 34,000 staff in over 800 business locations across 34 countries and turns over about AUD\$26 billion per annum.

The company has 24 years experience in building and operating world's best practice EfW technologies and is the second largest operator of Energy from Waste plants in Europe. Its 52 facilities recover energy from more than 4.2 million tonnes of waste per annum and it trades its own electricity into the European grid.

REMONDIS proposes to build a \$400 million EfW plant to generate up to 50MW of baseload electricity for Queensland households and businesses by capturing between 300,000 and 500,000 tonnes of waste per year that is not able to be recovered and recycled by other means. 50MW would power the equivalent of about 50,000 average homes and, unlike energy generated by wind and solar systems, electricity from EfW plants is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

The proposed Swanbank EfW plant will incorporate proven technologies and processes to enable REMONDIS to meet strict environmental standards. REMONDIS facilities worldwide are designed to meet the highest environmental standards, as dictated by European emissions standards and their equivalent local jurisdiction requirements.

Bret Collins, General Manager QLD Operations and Business Development, REMONDIS Australia, said the EfW proposal did not rely on additional waste streams coming to the Swanbank site – instead it will divert existing waste streams to a beneficial use.

Mr Collins said REMONDIS' Swanbank landfill, which has been operating for more than 20 years, did not take any of the NSW waste streams that had been the subject of recent media coverage and public interest.

"REMONDIS has been encouraged by recent comments from governments across Australia that EfW technology could provide some relief to the challenges facing the waste management and recycling industry," Mr Collins said.

"There is an opportunity for Australia to benefit from REMONDIS' global experience, and other successful European and UK facilities, and incorporate Energy from Waste as part of the solution to sustainable, best practice waste management.

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“Adopting EfW technology will ensure that wastes with recoverable value are not sent to landfill and, instead, are put to beneficial use.”

Mr Collins said that, while Energy from Waste might not be familiar in Australia, the technology was widespread throughout Europe and a tried and trusted contributor to best practice waste management and energy generation.

“EfW plants are constructed to the strictest European Union environment, emission and health standards and this is the technology we would bring to Australia,” Mr Collins said.

“There are hundreds of Energy from Waste plants throughout Europe, the USA and Asia, and many are part of the fabric of suburbs and communities - there are EfW plants in Paris, London, Copenhagen, Cologne, Zurich, Vienna, Palm Beach and Singapore, just to name a few.”

Mr Torsten Weber, Chairman of REMONDIS Australia, said that REMONDIS designed, financed, built and operated world’s best practice Energy from Waste technologies which delivered sustainable, best practice waste management and wanted that to be part of the solution for Australia.

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For further information, please contact:

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Notes

Recovered energy

EfW plants recover energy through the combustion of waste as fuel for generating power – just as other power plants use coal or natural gas. The wastes used in a EfW facility are generally those that have no other treatment option – wastes that are not able to be recovered and recycled by other means. Electricity from EfW plants is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

About REMONDIS

REMONDIS Australia was founded in 1982 with its first operation in Penrith, NSW, and has grown steadily, with operations in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and regional Australia. In Queensland, REMONDIS employs approximately 380 personnel, servicing more than 7,000 commercial customers, including eight councils, and working with a network of domestic customers. Swanbank landfill is owned and operated by REMONDIS.