

ATTACHMENT B

Supplementary Questions – Parliamentary Inquiry into ‘Energy from Waste’ Technology

1. **Page 8 of the transcript quotes Ms Sargeant saying “We have taken one approach, which is to make ourselves available and to communicate as best we can. We could have gone for a public meeting-style or town hall-style forum, but we decided against that. That is based on some advice that we received internally. There could have been different ways, but this is the way we chose to do it.” What was the advice referred to in the above quote and who provided it?**

The Department’s internal Communications Branch provided verbal advice on community engagement strategies for the proposed energy from waste facility proposal. Based on these discussions, it was decided that the best approach was to implement a range of consultation measures in order to engage with a wide public audience rather than a large ‘town hall’ style meeting. On this basis, it was decided the most effective means was to:

- notify in writing widely within the community and provide advertising details of the proposal in a number of local and metropolitan newspapers;
- create a dedicated project website with project details, timeline, Frequently Asked Questions and up to date information;
- utilise social media; and
- offer face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders.

In terms of the face-to-face meetings, the Department did contact a number of key community stakeholders and offered to come and meet and discuss the proposal. However, a number of people that were contacted did not take up the Department’s offer, with the exception of a local primary school who the Department did meet with.

2. **Please clarify what the proposed upper limit of tonnes per annum that is being sought for the proposed Energy from Waste Facility at Eastern Creek? If the development application is for less than 1.34 million tonnes per annum, will the applicant be required to submit a new development application if they wish to increase the limit?**

The Amended EIS states the Applicant seeks approval to thermally treat up to a maximum of 1.105 million tonnes per annum of residual waste fuel, in two phases. Phase 1 proposes a maximum of 552,500 tonnes of residual waste fuel to be thermally treated at the facility per annum. Phase 2 proposes the thermal treatment of an additional 552,500 tonnes per annum of residual waste fuel. The Amended EIS indicates the implementation of Phase 2 would be subject to the Applicant satisfying the EPA of the availability of suitable waste fuel.

On 12 July 2017, the Applicant’s consultants, Urbis Pty Ltd, emailed the Department advising the Applicant is considering seeking approval for Phase 1, with Phase 2 to be the subject of a separate and future application. However, at this stage, the Department has not received a formal request to modify the proposal and any request will need to be provided in the Applicant’s response to submissions which is expected late July 2017.

As the application is still under assessment, the Department considers it would be pre-emptive to consider any possible condition framework around restricting the amount of material that can be processed or future process to increase the amount of material.