



Creating a circular economy hub for Sunbury

HiQ is proposing to invest in state-of-the-art energy generation and expand its treatment, recovery, and reuse solutions at the Sunbury Eco-Hub, located at 570 Sunbury Road, Bulla.

The Eco-Hub currently provides a soil processing facility, resource recovery, quarrying, engineered disposal, and an organics centre. The new facilities will complement our existing services to provide integrated solutions that protect and preserve precious resources, divert waste from landfill, and deliver jobs and economic benefits for Sunbury, Bulla and wider Victoria. Our existing buffer zones of up to 1.3km are in place to protect the surrounding environment and community.



What is resource recovery?

Material excavated or removed from construction sites, infrastructure projects and industrial operations often has quality and reusable product mixed in with waste material.

Due to a lack of recycling and recovery infrastructure, the material is often sent to landfill, regardless of the potential for reuse.

This means that we lose precious resources and fill our shrinking landfills with material that could otherwise be used to support local industry and major projects.

Effective resource recovery separates quality materials from waste so it can be treated, reprocessed, and turned into new products. Advanced technologies can also immobilise and remove contaminants from material to enable their safe disposal.

Resource recovery is among the highest priorities for EPA Victoria in creating a more sustainable waste system. It means that instead of sourcing new products for every project, we can keep our precious resources in the ground and reuse what already exists.





What is HiQ proposing?

HiQ is proposing to expand our existing resource recovery activities with advanced technologies that allow us to process and recover more types of material from local and state projects, and safely dispose of materials that can't be recycled.

We are proposing to do this in two ways. Firstly, by expanding our resource recovery solutions. Secondly, by increasing our capacity to recycle and treat complex materials.

Each proposed facility will work with the other to create a closed-loop system that diverts waste from landfill and increases our recycling.

All material we receive would go through strict inspection and approval processes before it enters the site. Our chemists, engineers, and scientists would then closely monitor the end-to-end process to ensure it is safely handled at every stage.



The Australian Government has set a target to achieve an 80% recovery rate by 2030. Meeting this goal will require a significant increase in recovery technologies and infrastructure.

1. Expanding resource recovery

To reduce waste to landfill, we need to increase material reuse.

HiQ is proposing to expand its existing resource recovery activities at the Sunbury Eco-Hub to enable it to accept and process different types of material for reuse on-site and to supply local industries and major projects.

We are proposing to bring key activities to the Sunbury Eco-Hub:

- a. **A drill mud plant.** Drill mud is natural rock, soil and clay mixed with water. Sometimes, this material includes contaminants.

We are proposing to build and construct a treatment plant that will process and treat up to 150,000 tonnes of this material each year. Material would be delivered to our site from Councils, businesses, and government projects following EPA transport standards.

The proposed facility would separate the material into solids and wastewater. The solids would then be processed through our other soil washing and resource recovery facilities for reuse on-site or returned to the market. The remaining water would be treated through our existing water treatment plant, with the clean water then reused for onsite activities such as dust suppression and truck washing.

We have existing buffers surrounding the site that provide up to 1.3km of protection to current and future landowners.

- b. Soil washing.** Before we can reuse contaminated soil, it needs to go through a washing process where the clean parts of the soil are separated and scrubbed, leaving it safe for reuse. The remaining water and contaminants are then disposed of in a licensed landfill, which has strict conditions for containing contaminants.

HiQ is proposing to build and construct a soil washing facility at the Sunbury Eco-Hub to work with our existing resource recovery and soil processing solutions.

The proposed facility would screen and wash up to 450,000 tonnes of material per annum. It would then use the separated and recovered product either on-site or provide it to local industry or major projects.

2. Treating and recycling more materials

- a. Recycling facility.** With much of Australia's waste coming from our commercial and industrial, construction and demolition sectors, we need more infrastructure to recycle these materials so they can be used again.

HiQ is proposing to construct and operate a recycling facility that would accept up to 500,000 tonnes per year of waste such as concrete and brick, soil, paper and cardboard, plastics, wood and metals. The material would be delivered to our site by Councils, local businesses or major projects following EPA transport conditions.

The material would be separated and processed before being recovered at the appropriate location on our site. Soils and fine material would be sent to the soil washing facility, while material such as concrete, brick, wood, metals, cardboard and paper would be processed into recyclable aggregates and roadbase, or sent off-site for further recycling.

The proposed facility will be housed in an enclosed shed with separate doors for safe vehicle entry and exit.

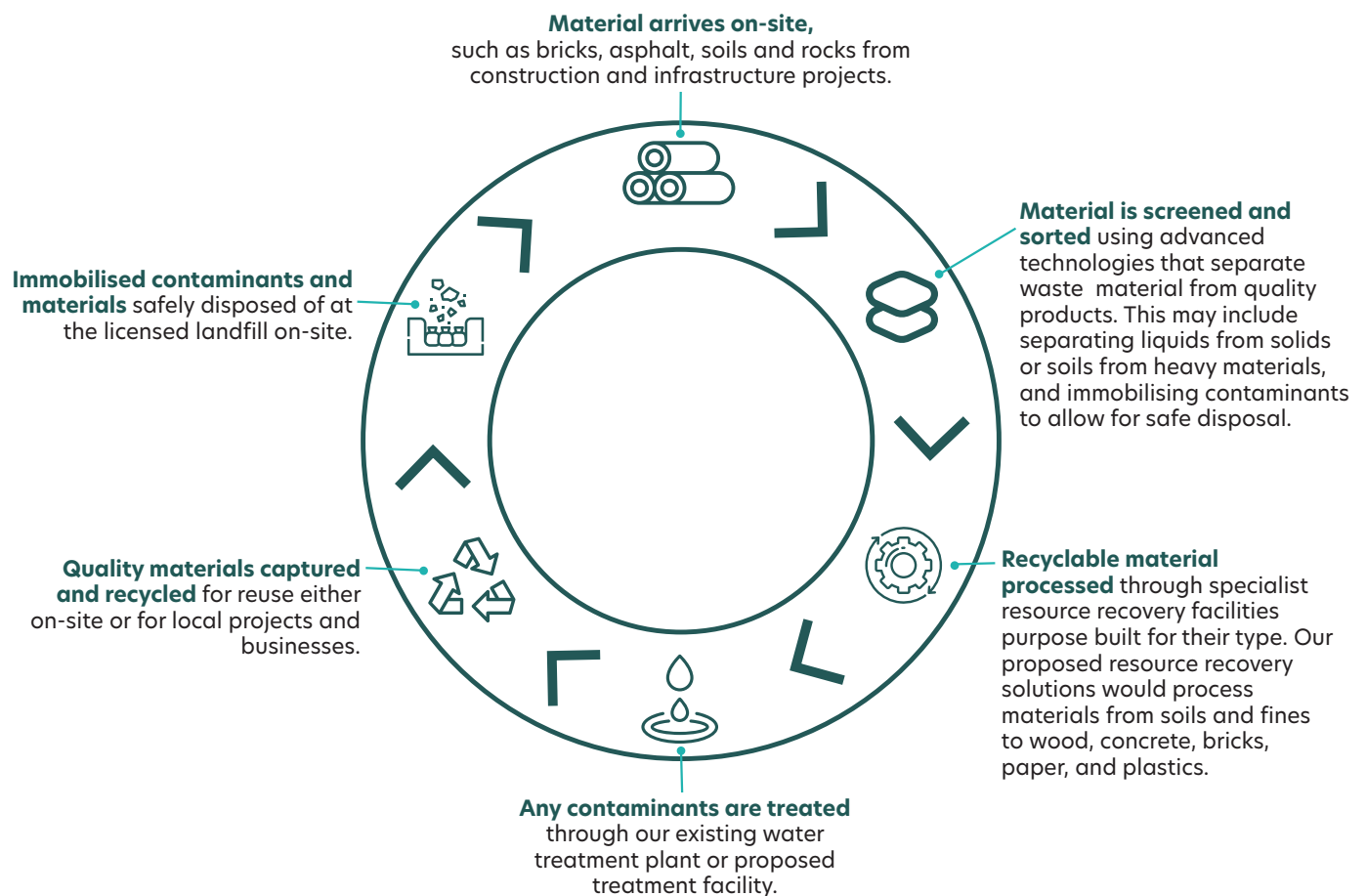
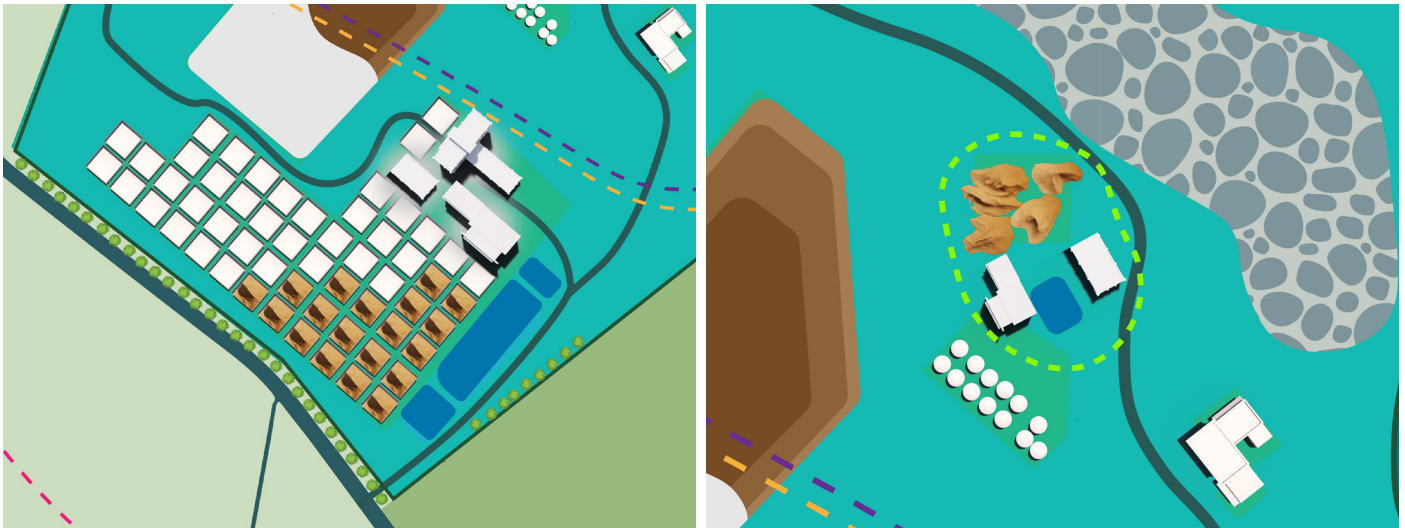
- b. Hazardous waste treatment facility.** Contaminated material accounted for approximately 10% of the total waste produced in Australia during 2020-21, according to the National Waste Report 2022. Safe disposal of this material to properly designed landfill will reduce the risk of pollution or adverse environmental and health outcomes associated with illegal disposal.

HiQ is proposing to construct and operate a hazardous waste treatment facility to stabilise, treat, and safely dispose of contaminated soils, water and sludges that would otherwise be unsuitable for landfill. This facility would work together with a water treatment plant to provide a closed-loop solution.

The proposed facility would process approximately 300,000 tonnes of packaged waste, soils, sludges, liquid waste and mud each year.

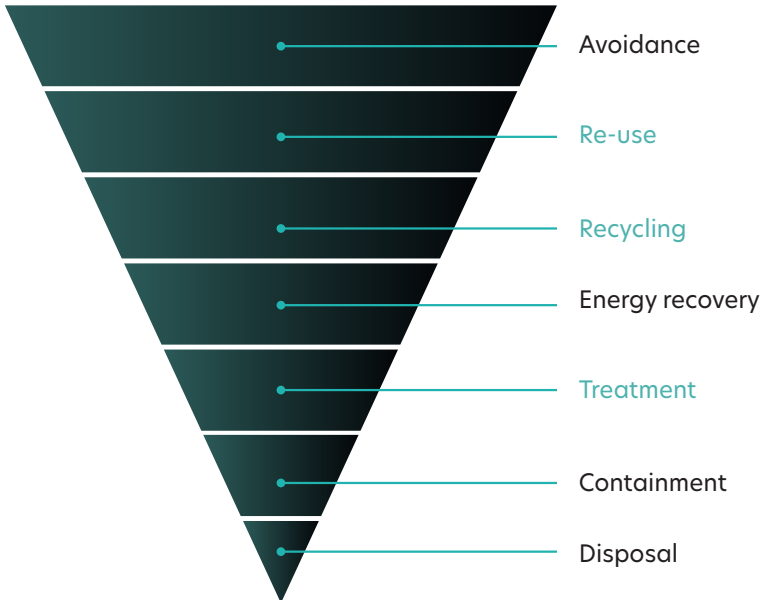
It will be fully enclosed with strict environmental monitoring and controls in place.

For more information on the assessments we have undertaken to support this proposal, please read the Technical Assessments fact sheet.





EPA Victoria's waste hierarchy



Reuse and recycling of products are among the top priorities for improving our waste sector.

HiQ's proposed solutions contribute the highest levels of the waste priorities and helps to design a closed-loop system within the Sunbury Eco-Hub.



About HiQ

HiQ is one of Australia's leading waste management providers. Our sites around Australia provide advanced recycling, recovery, treatment, and disposal facilities that support some of the country's biggest projects.

HiQ has been conducting resource recovery within our Sunbury Eco-Hub since 2010. This has included accepting, sorting, and processing construction and demolition material at a purpose-built site.

We also have state-of-the-art resource recovery facilities across New South Wales and have been leaders in the state's waste sector for over 25 years.

