



HiQ Sunbury Eco-Hub

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS Q&A
March 2024

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Introduction

During February 2024, HiQ held three community information sessions to provide more information to residents and interested parties on its environmental and planning applications for a proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility, expanded resource recovery, recycling and treatment activities, expanded quarry and continuation of Bulla Spoils Facility (BSF).

A total of 79 interested people attended the three sessions, with approximately 37 attendees engaging in questions and discussion.

During these sessions, HiQ committed to providing answers to every question received. All questions asked during these sessions have been captured verbatim in this document. Where questions weren't clear, responses have been developed based on interpretation. The document does not include comments made by participants that didn't pose a question. Answers have been prepared by HiQ, its technology provider, Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI), and technical advisers Arcadis.

This document has been provided to those who attended the community information sessions. It will also be shared with stakeholders and published on the project website at www.hiqualityecohub.com.au.



Glossary of key terms

Arcadis	Arcadis delivers sustainable design, engineering and consultancy solutions for natural and built assets. Arcadis Australia is supporting HiQ on its proposed facilities in Victoria.
Buffer zone	A buffer zone is an area of land designated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) or planning authorities that enables separation distances between a facility and nearby landholders or receptors.
Bottom Ash	Bottom ash refers to the non-combustible residual particles resulting from energy-from-waste facilities. Bottom ash can also be referred to as Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA).
Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS)	CEMS are the tools required to monitor gas concentration and emissions and are used to comply with air quality standards.
CO2	CO2 is carbon dioxide, which is a colourless, odourless gas produced by burning carbon. It is a greenhouse gas.
CO2 emissions	CO2 emissions refers to the carbon dioxide substances that are released into the air.
Construction and Demolition (C&D)	Construction and Demolition waste (C&D) is material generated from construction or demolition of buildings, such as houses, roads, bridges. It is often made up of material such as wood, metals, concrete, and asphalt. Most of this waste currently goes to landfill.
Commercial and Industrial waste (C&I)	Commercial and Industrial waste (C&I) is material generated from trade activities, such as cafes and hospitality, manufacturing, or industrial practices. It can come in the form of general solid waste, liquid waste, or hazardous waste. Most of this waste currently goes to landfill.
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)	The Department of Transport and Planning is the part of the Victorian Government responsible for key transport, planning, land, precinct and policy functions. Together with their key agencies, they bring together planning, building, operating and maintaining Victoria's transport and planning system.
Energy-from-Waste (EfW)	Energy-from-Waste is the process of converting non-hazardous residual waste, that can't be recycled or recovered, into energy sources such as heat, electricity, gas and liquid fuels, while recovering metals and aggregate. It is also sometimes referred to as Waste-to-Energy (WtE).
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	The Environment Protection Authority oversees the General Environmental Duty of all Victorians, whether they are businesses or individuals. It has the legal power to make sure this is complied with.
Encroachment	Encroachment refers to a thing or person gradually getting closer to surrounding activities beyond acceptable limits.
Environmental Effects Statement (EES)	An EES in Victoria requires an assessment of potential environmental impacts of a proposed development.
EPA Publication 1559.1 Guideline: Energy from waste (EPA EfW guidelines)	These guidelines provide a summary of environmental protection requirements.
Flue gas	Flue gas refers to the mixture of gases produced by an Energy-from-Waste facility. This can also be referred to as vapor.
Greenhouse gases (GHG)	Greenhouse gases refer to gas in the atmosphere that trap heat in the Earth's surface, causing an increase in global warming and climate change.
HiQ	Hi-Quality (HiQ) is an Australian-owned national waste management provider that has operated its facility at 570 Sunbury, Bulla since 2003.

HZI	Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI) is a global cleantech company operating in Waste-to-Energy and Renewable Gas. HZI is partnering with HiQ to design and develop the technology for its proposed EfW facility.
Landfill diversion	Landfill diversion refers to the process of managing waste through recycling or recovery facilities instead of sending it to landfill. The purpose of landfill diversion is to reduce methane emissions that come from landfill and to prevent disposing of quality material wherever possible.
Methane	Methane is a colourless, odourless flammable gas that is primarily produced from agriculture, fossil fuels, and landfills. Methane is one of the most powerful greenhouse gases.
Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (MWRRIP)	The MWRRIP was developed by the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) to set out how the waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs of the greater Melbourne region will be met over at least a 10-year period. The priority of the plan is to reduce the need for landfilling by making use of resource recovery and alternative technologies.
Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG)	The MWRRG is a Victorian State Government Statutory Body responsible for coordinating and facilitating the delivery of waste management and resource recovery across metropolitan Melbourne.
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is the material collected by Councils and disposed of at a licensed waste facility. This most commonly refers to general household waste that is collected in red bins.
Precinct Structure Plan (PSP)	A Precinct Structure Plan is a strategic plan for a defined area that sets out the preferred location of land uses and infrastructure to guide development and growth. The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) developed the Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan in consultation with Hume City Council to guide the growth of the Sunbury South area.
Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA)	A Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) typically involves a change to planning scheme to approve a particular facility or site. These approvals are sought through the Victorian Government.
Receptor	People or organisations that have the potential to be directly affected by nearby activities.
Recycling Victoria (RV)	Recycling Victoria is a body within the Victorian Government that provides oversight of waste and resource recovery services to support the circular economy.
Residual waste	Residual waste refers to the material that is left over after recyclable or reusable material has been removed from it.
Resource recovery	Resource recovery refers to the process of separating quality material from waste so it can be treated, reprocessed, and turned into new products. This helps divert waste from landfill and protect our resources.
Resources Victoria Approvals Coordination (RVAC)	RVAC is a new division within Resources Victoria that helps the resources sector navigate approvals processes quicker and more smoothly.
Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP)	The SWRRIP is a 30-year roadmap to improve Victoria's waste and recycling infrastructure developed by Sustainability Victoria. It aims to create an integrated waste and recycling system for the state.
Sustainability Victoria	Sustainability Victoria is a Victorian government agency that delivers programs in integrated waste management and resource efficiency.
Waste-to-Energy Framework	The Victorian Government has established a Waste-to-Energy Framework that recognises the role of Waste-to-Energy to divert waste from landfill and outlines how it is expected to operate in Victoria. You can read more about the Framework at www.vic.gov.au/waste-energy

Key information

The following information is a summary overview of the detailed responses to the Q&A.

What HiQ is proposing

HiQ is proposing to invest in state-of-the-art energy generation and expand treatment, resource recovery and reuse solutions to contribute to Victoria's circular economy.

Our proposed activities include:

- Investing in an Energy-from-Waste facility to turn waste unsuitable for recycling or reuse into energy for nearby businesses and households.
- Developing resource recovery including soil removal and washing and more advanced treatment of contaminated soils, enabling more reuse and safer disposal.
- Expanding quarry operations to generate much-needed quality material for local and state projects.
- Continuing operations of the Bulla Spoils Facility to provide crucial soil management services for infrastructure projects.

Approvals process

The proposed activities will require various approvals:

- Energy-from-Waste will need to be approved by EPA Victoria, given planning approvals by the DTP, and receive a Waste-to-Energy Cap Licence by Recycling Victoria. An Environmental Effects Statement (EES) referral for the EfW facility will also be submitted to DTP.
- Resource recovery, recycling and treatment will require approval from EPA Victoria.
- The ongoing operations of Bulla Spoils Facility will require approval from DTP.
- The proposed quarry will require approval from the Earth Resources Regulator (ERR), part of the Victorian Government.

None of the proposed facilities we shared during the public information sessions in February 2024 have received any approvals. The feedback we receive will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

Anticipated timing



INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- **Late 2023 - early 2024**
Technical assessments completed, including noise, vibration, visual, air quality, human health and
- **Early 2024: where we are now**
Technical assessments complete
Community engagement underway
- **Mid 2024**
Community consultation period closes and feedback is assessed
Proposals updated based on community and stakeholder input
Applications submitted
- **Mid to late 2024**
Public exhibition of proposed Energy-from-Waste facility and technical assessments
- **Late 2024-2025**
Application outcomes
- **Early 2025 - mid 2026**
Detailed design and engineering
- **Mid 2025 - early 2026**
Construction of resource recovery and recycling facilities
- **Mid 2026 - mid 2028**
Construction of EfW facility
- **Late 2025 - mid 2026**
Operations commence at resource recovery and recycling facilities
- **2029-2030**

Staying in touch

We encourage anyone with questions to reach out at any time. Visit www.hiqualityecohub.com.au, email us at getintouch@hiqualitysunbury.com.au or give us a call on 03 9021 0678.

Energy-from-Waste

Safety and role of Energy-from-Waste

1. There are limited studies able to confirm the safety of waste incinerators, but evidence does show that dioxin and heavy metal exposure and contamination are real risks (elevations in animals and humans). This has been demonstrated in countries which use incinerators, even in modern facilities. Why is this considered an acceptable risk to the local population?

When comparing data and studies, we need to be clear on the types of waste the facility is accepting, and whether it is MSW or hazardous waste, and what other industries are nearby and what they may be emitting. HiQ is proposing to run its facility on MSW only, and there would be no hazardous material processed.

There has not been any evidence of human health or environmental impact from modern EFW plants that run on residual municipal solid waste (MSW) and commercial waste, as HiQ's proposed facility is proposing to do.

We encourage you to read up on the information about these modern facilities via the following links: <https://www.cewep.eu/category/facts/health-and-environment/> and <https://eswet.eu/waste-to-energy-facts/>.

HiQ is also preparing a human health assessment in accordance with EPA guidelines to assess the potential impacts from the EFW facility. The results will be considered by the EPA when they assess HiQ's application.

2. You comment on Europe's use of incinerators. Can you comment on why the European Union (EU) is funding the transition from such facilities and no longer supporting their development?

Several EFW facilities have been announced and commissioned in Europe as recently as December 2023. HZI, HiQ's technology partner on the proposed facility in Sunbury, is currently building a large 480,000 tonnes per year plant in Slough, UK. HZI recently commissioned a 350,000 tonnes per year plant in Newhurst, UK and another 350,000 tonnes per year plant in Paris, France to name a few.

HiQ's proposed activities, including EFW, all adhere to the relevant Acts set by the Victorian Government and EPA, including the Circular Economy Act and the updated Environment Protection Act. We are working to divert waste from landfill and better manage Victoria's resources in compliance with policy and decision-making bodies.

3. In regard to the waste hierarchy, this is technically the next step above landfill. The bare minimum.

Improving our waste system is complex. We first need

to avoid and minimise waste when we make and use products, and then reuse and recycling should always be priority. That is why HiQ is also proposing to increase resource recovery, recycling and treatment capabilities at the Sunbury Eco-Hub.

However, there will always be waste that cannot be reused or recycled. In these circumstances, EFW is a safe and proven way to divert waste away from landfill, and an important part of a fully integrated waste system.

Findings from the preliminary greenhouse gas assessments show that the proposed facility would result in a net reduction of approximately 9 million tonnes of CO₂-e. That is the equivalent of taking more than 70,000 cars off the road each year for the 30-year life of the project. In addition, by diverting more waste from landfill, the proposed facility would contribute to reductions in methane emissions, one of the most powerful greenhouse gases.

4. Has this technology been tested in other Australian locations? If yes, for how long, and has HiQ Group conducted studies of the health impact on communities living so close to these processing plants?

Two EFW facilities that use the same technology being proposed by HiQ are currently under construction in Western Australia. The East Rockingham facility, based on HZI technology, will process 300,000 tonnes-per-annum of residual MSW and commercial waste and is expected to be commissioned late 2024. The Kwinana facility will process 400,000 tonnes-per-year of MSW, commercial and industrial (C&I) waste and/or pre-sorted construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Until such time that these plants are commissioned, emissions data in Australia from moving grate EFW plants processing this type of waste is not available. However, numerous health impact studies have been conducted on similar plants operating in Europe and elsewhere and none of the study outcomes indicate a negative impact on human health.

You can find additional information and reports here: <https://www.cewep.eu/category/facts/health-and-environment>

5. Isn't Europe already in the process of phasing out these plants?

Several EFW facilities have been announced and commissioned in Europe as recently as December 2023. HZI, HiQ's technology partner on the proposed facility in Sunbury, is currently building a large 480,000 tonnes per year plant in Slough, UK. HZI recently commissioned a 350,000 tonnes per year plant in Newhurst, UK and another 350,000 tonnes per year plant in Paris, France to name a few.

6. How can you support an incinerator plant given they are at the bottom of the waste hierarchy and there are many more jobs in proper pre-treatment and recycling initiatives? Once this plant is up and running there will only be minimal, but highly skilled positions available.

Improving our waste system is complex. We first need to avoid and minimise waste when we make and use products, and then reuse and recycling should always be priority. That is why HiQ is also proposing to increase resource recovery, recycling and treatment capabilities at the Sunbury Eco-Hub.

However, there will always be waste that cannot be reused or recycled. In these circumstances, EfW is a safe and proven way to divert waste away from landfill, and an important part of a fully integrated waste system. EfW plants provide a path for reuse of residual waste (i.e. the non-recyclable portion of our waste) that would otherwise go to landfill. In the process of diverting up to 96% of residual waste from landfill, these facilities produce electricity, construction materials, and recycled materials which avoid the environmental impact of producing equivalent raw materials. They play a significant role in the circular economy.

The proposed EfW facility alone is expected to create 600-800 direct jobs during construction and 50 ongoing jobs for the life of the facility. It would also contribute to hundreds of additional indirect jobs. Hundreds of additional jobs would also be created by the proposed resource recovery and recycling facilities on the site.

7. Why was an incinerator chosen among other waste to energy initiatives? Where is the transparency with that initial process?

EfW technology provides the safest and most commercially proven pathway for the disposal of residual waste. Currently, there are no other EfW solutions that are safe, commercially proven, and at the scale required to process the quantity of residual waste from cities and towns, which is why this facility is proposed.

8. What about the waste regulator? Is the project contingent on an allocation from the proposed WtE cap?

The Victorian Government's Waste to Energy Framework places a one million tonne cap on the amount of permitted waste that can be thermally treated to recover energy across the state. Recycling Victoria is responsible for licensing Energy-from-Waste in Victoria.

Any interested company will need to submit an expression of interest to Recycling Victoria under this cap and will need to receive the appropriate environmental and planning approvals from EPA Victoria and the Department of Planning. This facility will only proceed if it receives these approvals and is chosen by Recycling Victoria under the Waste to Energy cap.

9. Is there any information of health assessment for workers of the plant?

Studies have shown that EfW plants do not have a negative impact on the health of plant personnel. The EfW would be required to meet Victorian Occupational Health

and Safety requirements. As part of development licence application, EPA will refer the proposal to WorkSafe Victoria who are Victoria's workplace health and safety regulator.

10. Not best practice for energy generation and waste management. Can you comment on past reports by various state EPA agencies which identify the risks associated with energy incinerators and why this risk in now ignored due to energy needs? E.g. NSW EPA's Energy from Waste policy statement (2015)

Improving our waste system is complex. We first need to avoid and minimise waste when we make and use products, and then reuse and recycling should always be priority. That is why HiQ is also proposing to increase resource recovery, recycling and treatment capabilities at the Sunbury Eco-Hub.

However, there will always be waste that cannot be reused or recycled. In these circumstances, EfW is a safe and proven way to divert waste away from landfill, and an important part of a fully integrated waste system. EfW plants provide a path for reuse of residual waste (i.e. the non-recyclable portion of our waste) that would otherwise go to landfill. In the process of diverting up to 96% of residual waste from landfill, these facilities produce electricity, construction materials, and recycled materials which avoid the environmental impact of producing equivalent raw materials. They play a significant role in the circular economy.

EPA Victoria has approved two Energy-from-Waste facilities in Victoria already. In these approvals EPA found that the facilities did not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.



Operational details

1. How many burn days per year?

The proposed EfW facility is expected to operate for 8,000 hours per year. The proposed facility would adhere to any operational requirements for the times of day it's operating to prevent and minimise any potential impact to the community.

2. What is the height and location of the chimney?

The proposed EfW facility will include a stack, which looks like a large chimney. The stack is expected to be approximately 60 metres tall, and would be located behind the facility, approximately 700 metres back from Sunbury Road. The final stack height will be determined by air quality modelling and requires approval from EPA Victoria.

3. What is the height and location of the chimney? The stack on Lara plant in 80m tall - taller than the MCG light towers!

The proposed EfW facility will include a stack, which looks like a large chimney. The stack is expected to be approximately 60 metres tall, and would be located behind the facility, approximately 700 metres back from Sunbury Road. The final stack height will be determined by air quality modelling and requires approval from EPA Victoria.

4. What style filtration system will be used for the flue? Bag type? Water?

The flue gas treatment system will use fabric filters to separate solid particles from the boiler exhaust. There is sufficient room in the design to ensure that the particulate emissions specified by EPA Victoria are met.

5. If the project goes ahead, will HiQ be employing plant operators directly or will the EfW facility be operated by a third party?

As HiQ is early in the application process it hasn't yet confirmed all commercial arrangements. HiQ will always have a role in the facility as the landowner and developer. However, it is likely that we would work with another provider to directly operate the facility, if it is approved. We would provide more details as those arrangements are confirmed, if it is approved.

6. Can we get a ski slope? That's what Denmark got.

While a ski slope might be challenging, HiQ is always open to hearing ideas and suggestions on the facility to make sure we integrate as well as possible into the surrounding area.

7. Can the EfW facility be injected with LFG from the current landfill for methane abatement, etc.?

The EfW facility is self-sustaining and does not require an external source of energy during normal operation. During start-up (which would occur after a planned shutdown which would be scheduled once per year, as well as any unplanned shutdown) when the boiler needs to be heated up before waste can enter the process, natural gas (which could be from any source, including landfill methane gas that meets the required specification) can be used.

8. Your slide says that you wish to use the unburnt product for roads. What are you doing to prevent the fact that over time the toxins in the waste product will end up in the water run-off, contaminating all stormwater over time when it rains? It's criminal to do this.

The fully combusted (or burnt) bottom ash from the EfW facility will be a safe and high quality lightweight recycled aggregate suitable for road construction. The recycled aggregate will be aligned with EPA requirements and VicRoads Class 3 and Class 4 aggregate performance standards, which are used in Victorian road construction.

9. How will the waste to energy plant be powered? Have these emissions been considered in these overall emission reduction assessments?

A portion of the electricity produced at the proposed EfW facility would be used on the site, including the EfW operations and other existing and proposed HiQ activities. The proposed EfW facility would therefore not require any external source of electricity during normal operation. The thermal efficiency of the EfW plant must meet the criteria as defined in the Victorian EPA's Energy from Waste Guideline. The latest version of the guideline can be found here: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1559-1>.

As part of preparing our applications, we have conducted a greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment. Findings showed that while the proposed facility would still produce some GHGs, it would result in a net reduction of approximately 9 million tonnes of CO₂-e. That is the equivalent of taking more than 70,000 cars off the road each year for the 30-year life of the project.

In addition, by diverting more waste from landfill, the proposed facility would contribute to reductions in methane emissions. Methane is one of the most powerful greenhouse gases, and landfills are currently one of the main sources of it globally. The UN forecasts methane to have a 100-year global warming potential 28-34 times more than CO₂, which is why landfill diversion is crucial to meet global and local climate targets, and facilities like the one we are proposing are an important step.

Energy output

1. What percentage of the 30MW will be exported to the grid? I would assume some power output from the turbine will be to allow power to facility?

The proposed facility would generate approximately 32 megawatts. About 10% of the gross electricity produced would be used for internal consumption by the EfW facility. Further electricity will supply HiQ's existing activities, rather than using electricity from the grid. The remaining electricity will then be exported to the Jemena grid system to power local homes and businesses.

10. Does gas operate the facility?

The EfW facility would be self-sustaining and would not require an external source of energy during normal operation.

11. What max temperature will the furnace reach and for how long?

The boiler will operate at > 850oC to ensure the time and heat criteria outlined in the Victorian EPA's Energy from Waste guideline is maintained at all times.

12. Will the technology meet BREF standards?

Yes, the EPA development licence application submitted by HiQ will outline how the plant will comply with the BREF standards (EU BREF 2019).

13. How is human error mitigated if the crane operator misses the paint can or refrigerator?

The proposed facility would be robust enough and has sufficient design margin to accommodate small quantities of non-compliant waste. The odd paint can is well within the design margin of the facility.

14. Are all of these efforts just to make a road base? Seems like a lot of effort for not a lot of payoff.

While making road base from recycled products is a benefit of the proposed facility, there are several other reasons we are proposing it.

Firstly, the facility would help to divert more waste from landfill, which is one of the biggest sources of methane globally. Methane is one of the more powerful greenhouse gases, with [the UN forecasting](#) it to have a 100-year global warming potential 28-34 times more than CO2.

It will also generate electricity for Victoria. Our assessments show that the proposed facility would generate up to 29,000 kilowatts of electricity per hour, enough to power approximately 36,000 homes. With ambitious net zero targets in Victoria and Australia, new ways of generating electricity are crucial.

Lastly, the facility will generate hundreds of direct and indirect jobs for the local community, helping to provide employment for one of Australia's fastest growing regions.

15. The bottom ash is hazardous. It still contains toxins and must go to a secure landfill somewhere. Where?

The fully combusted (or burnt) bottom ash from the EfW facility would be processed on-site at a specialist treatment facility. The process includes separation of metals and treatment to align with EPA Victoria guidelines. Metals will be sent to offsite recycling facilities and the recycled aggregate adhere to VicRoads Class 3 and Class 4 aggregate performance standards, which are used in Victorian road construction.



Water supply and processing

1. Will the waste from red top bins include chemicals, oil, etc.?

Waste feedstock provided to the EfW would be subject to a Waste Acceptance Protocol, which would assess the suitability of feedstock prior to arrival to the site, and once it's arrived.

Waste loads would be monitored at the receival hall within the facility. If the waste tipped into the bunker is observed to contain material that is not permitted in the Waste Acceptance Protocol, this will be removed from the waste bunker and placed in a skip bin for safe disposal.

2. Is the waste from the trucks sorted before it goes through the plant?

The Victorian Waste-to-Energy Framework outlines strict sorting for thermal treatment of permitted waste, including that these facilities can only accept the following:

- Residual municipal waste from a council that has at least a three-bin kerbside system in place and collects waste in accordance with any applicable regulations.
- Commercial waste that has been source-separated in accordance with any existing legislation or regulations or can be demonstrated through a market assessment to be impracticable to recycle, even after sorting.

Waste loads would be monitored at the receival hall within the facility and non-compliant waste would be removed for safe disposal.

HiQ has also proposed a C&I waste recycling facility where it can conduct sorting of commercial waste on-site. Suitable non-recyclable material would be processed in the EfW facility.

3. Would Sunbury produce 300,000 tonnes as a town, or would Sunbury be burning waste for other suburbs as well?

According to Sustainability Victoria, Hume City Council collected approximately 50,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste between 2019-2020. Additional modelling shows that Councils within 45 minutes travel time to the site have combined more than 350,000 tonnes a year of municipal solids waste available and there are more than 700,000 tonnes a year of municipal solid waste within an hour and a half travel distance.

4. Do you have Councils willing to send their waste to your plant?

We have been in discussions with several councils in the area, from Bendigo down to Melbourne. Many of these

Councils have expressed interest in the facility as an alternative to landfill to meet regulatory and strategic targets. These discussions are ongoing.

5. Hume Council have closed their landfill. Is this facility going to be where the Sunbury garbage trucks are taken to?

The Sunbury Eco-Hub already accepts red bin waste from Hume City Council at its existing landfill. The proposed EfW facility would mean we can divert the material already coming to us to a more sustainable, responsible technology, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing jobs and energy to Victoria.

6. Who will be classifying the material as "clean and non-hazardous" and where will these materials be inspected before sending to Sunbury?

Any municipal and household waste would need to be sorted before it arrives on-site. We would have constant manual inspections to provide another layer of safety before material is processed.

All commercial and industrial material we receive at the facility will be pre-sorted either at the source or on-site prior to being processed through the EfW facility. Any material that is suitable for recovery, recycling or reuse would then be sent to our proposed recovery facilities and returned to the market. Any other material permitted by the waste acceptance protocol would be processed through the EfW facility.

Waste will be processed in accordance with the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) (Waste to Energy Scheme) Regulations 2023 and any conditions of the cap licence if it is approved. Industrial waste must be classified in accordance with EPA requirements prior to transporting to a facility licenced to manage the specific waste classification.

7. What happens if you do not meet your 300,000 tonnes per year quota? These facilities promote wastefulness.

As organisations of all kinds work to meet state and federal landfill diversion targets, there is high demand for EfW as an important alternative to landfill. EfW facilities typically operate under long-term contracts with waste providers to ensure predictable and consistent sources of waste. This can include Councils, major industry, and businesses.

The Victorian Government's Waste-to-Energy Framework has been designed to ensure the number of EfW plants in the state, support reliable supply of waste to those facilities that are approved.

Water usage

1. Where will the water come from?

The proposed facility has been designed to be water neutral, meaning that the water required for the facility will be reused within operations. During the operation of the plant, if minor quantities of water require disposal, the first preference is to re-use the water elsewhere within the plant, e.g. storage in the fire-fighting tank, irrigation of landscaping, or use in the bottom ash treatment area. The water consumed in the administration building and ablutions areas will create wastewater which will be disposed of according to regulation. To further minimise reliance on external water supplies, stormwater will be collected and stored for reuse and, subject to approvals, water will be sourced from the existing onsite water treatment plant wherever possible.

2. Can high quality recycled water from Sunbury Recycled Water Plant be used?

It is our intention to use recycled water within the facility. To minimise reliance on external water supplies, stormwater will be collected and stored for reuse and, subject to approvals, water will be sourced from the existing onsite water treatment plant wherever possible. The treated water will be demineralised on-site and used in operations.

3. Will this use town water supply?

The proposed facility has been designed to be water neutral, meaning that the water required for the facility will be reused within operations and very low levels would need to be discharged from the facility for safe disposal. To further minimise reliance on external water supplies, stormwater will be collected and stored for reuse and, subject to approvals, water will be sourced from the existing onsite water treatment plant wherever possible.

4. Can HiQ build tertiary treatment if needed to polish the recycled water, or else it goes into Jacksons Creek.

Any water used in the EfW facility would be treated through an on-site demineralisation plant. The proposed EfW facility will be designed to be self-reliant from external town water by collecting and storing stormwater for reuse and, subject to approvals, water will be sourced from the existing onsite water treatment plant wherever possible.

The proposed facility is designed to have no excess process wastewater during normal operation. Process wastewater will be collected separately in treatment areas, reception halls and in the floor of the boiler and reused in the process.

No wastewater would be discharged into Emu Creek or any other waterway.

Vapor

1. Is the vapor that is released clean or contain toxins?

All vapor (otherwise known as flue gas) released by the facility will adhere to the EPA's conditions of approval and be well within EU best practice emissions. It will be monitored whenever the plant is operating.

2. How would you describe the smell of the vapor released? Especially for houses near the processing plant.

As part of the air quality impact assessment for the applications, odour risk is being assessed in accordance with EPA publication 1883 Guidance for Assessing Odour. The proposed EfW facility is designed to manage potential odour by using fast acting roller doors and having the reception hall and bunker operating under negative pressure, which means dust and odour would be controlled and contained within the enclosed facility. During maintenance or shutdown periods auxiliary ventilation systems would be in place to ensure that dust and odour continue to be managed. With regard to the flue gas emitted to the atmosphere (or vapor), the combustion process fully destroys waste odours and the flue gas will therefore not have any waste related odours.

3. What is the radius in metres/kilometres that toxins will be released into the air. In other words, how far north, south, east and west will residents be impacted by the toxic plumes?

As part of the air quality impact assessment for the application, air quality modelling is being undertaken to understand the transport of emission from the facility, as well as the expected air at ground-level. The modelling assesses 10 km x 10 km radius, in accordance with EPA guidelines. The predicted ground-level concentrations will be assessed against EPA's Air Pollution Assessment Criteria, that are designed for the protection of human health and environmental systems. Furthermore, a detailed human health risk assessment will be conducted to determine the associated risk.

The proposed EfW facility would be required to meet emission limits set by EPA Victoria and within EU best practices. Air quality will be continually monitored to ensure emissions are safe for the surrounding areas, and the data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA conditions of approval.

4. The plant may well be within the facility. How will you keep the vapor within the facility and stop it from filtering down and contaminating soil or waterways?

The EfW Facility will be designed to comply with EPA Publication 1559.1 Guidelines" Energy from Waste and EU best practices to meet strict emission limits and monitoring requirements. Key components are:

- Semi-dry flue gas cleaning system using hydrated lime and activated carbon to removing contaminants, dust and heavy metal compounds
- A bag filter to remove solids from the flue gas
- Controlled combustion temperature
- Continuous emission monitoring system.

The emissions will be continuously monitored whenever the plant is operating.

5. Could the contaminant order be full of asbestos?

All vapor released by the facility will adhere to the EPA's conditions of approval and be well within the emissions requirements specified in EPA Victoria's guidelines. Emissions will be continuously monitored whenever the plant is operating.

Monitoring and reporting

1. Some facilities in the EU are fitted with real time pollutant sensors available publicly. Are you planning to use similar sensors and reporting?

The proposed EfW facility will have a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. The data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA conditions of approval. The EPA also regularly visits and inspects HiQ's operations to ensure it is operating within guidelines, and this EfW facility would be no different.

2. Will there be smart monitoring measures?

Yes, the proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas.

3. Will it be shut down if it is operating outside of controls?

In the very unlikely event that that plant may exceed the permitted emissions limit value/s the plant will be safely shut down.

4. How often will monitoring take place if this is to go ahead? If there is a problem, will that area of the facility be closed until it meets requirements?

The proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. The data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA conditions of approval. The EPA also regularly visits and inspects HiQ's operations to ensure it is operating within guidelines, and this EfW facility would be no different. In the very unlikely event that that plant may exceed the permitted emissions limit value/s the plant will be safely shut down.

5. If there are any issues discovered during monitoring, what steps will be taken to prevent harm from toxins that are already airborne?

The proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. In the very unlikely event that that plant may exceed the permitted emissions limit value/s the plant will be safely shut down in accordance with EPA guidelines.

6. Will the monitoring be live to the public or kept in-house?

The proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. The data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA conditions of approval.

7. If you are found in breach of required EPA standards, will the plant be able to continue operating or will it have to shut down? How quickly would that take effect?

The proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. The data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA conditions of approval. The EPA also regularly visits and inspects HiQ's operations to ensure it is operating within guidelines, and this EfW facility would be no different. In the very unlikely event that that plant may exceed the permitted emissions limit value/s the plant will be safely shut down in accordance with EPA guidelines.

8. Will it be shutdown though?

In the very unlikely event that that plant may exceed the permitted emissions limit value/s the plant will be safely shut down.

Location

1. How many other sites/companies are applying for in Victoria and where are these located?

HiQ is aware of four facilities in Victoria that have been approved prior to the requirement for a cap licence in Victoria, including one in the Latrobe Valley at Maryvale, one in Laverton North and one in Dandenong. We are also aware of further proposals that will be required to be within the cap licence, including in Lara, Wollert, and in the South-East. These facilities are at various levels of planning and development. It is likely that more than six facilities would operate in the state to service various areas and regions.

2. If there is already on waste-to-energy site earmarked in Laverton and another in Somerton by 2028, why do we need another in Sunbury?

As organisations of all kinds work to meet state and federal landfill diversion targets, there is high demand for EfW as an important alternative to landfill. EfW facilities typically operate under long-term contracts with waste providers to ensure predictable and consistent sources of waste. This can include Councils, major industry, and businesses.

Hume is one of Australia's fastest-growing communities. In 2021, Hume City Council developed a Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to help it meet state-wide legislative targets, including reaching 80% diversion from landfill by 2030.

Reaching these goals requires new, advanced technologies.

HiQ has operated in the region for over 20 years. The Sunbury Eco-Hub is recognised as a Hub of State Significance in the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan and in the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan, and currently provides a range of technologies, including resource recovery, disposal, treatment, and soil processing.

The Victorian Government's Waste-to-Energy Framework has been designed to ensure the number of EfW plants in the state, support reliable supply of waste to those facilities that are approved.

Other

1. The operation drawings are a copy straight out of Thun Waste-to-Energy. Copyright?

The process drawing referenced in the community briefing presentation and the images of existing facilities were all supplied by HZI directly to HiQ.

HZI is HiQ's proposed technology partner and gave HiQ permissions to share these assets so the community and interested parties could better understand how the process and existing facilities look and operate.



Resource Recovery

1. With the recyclable material that would be processed through the specialist resource recovery facilities, what would then happen to those recyclable materials? i.e. plastics

Any metals, wood, or masonry product such as brick and concrete would be recycled and repurposed into construction materials, such as road base. Any residual material, such as plastics, would be processed through the proposed EfW facility.



Quarry expansion

1. Providing new materials is taking away from potentially recycled/recovered/reused materials being used in the industry, which seems contradictory to the waste hierarchy and only serves to make money for your company and kick the problem down the road for future generations.

Victoria is the fastest-growing state in Australia, with population levels set to exceed 10 million people by 2050. The infrastructure required to support this population growth relies heavily on construction materials, including clay, stone and sand. Currently, quarries in Victoria produce approximately 50 million tonnes of stone, limestone, sand and gravel each year. 2015 forecasts saw demand for these resources set to double by 2050. By 2018, demand was far higher than previously forecasted.

Demand for these resources increasing rapidly, however supplies are not keeping pace with demand.

While increasing the proportion of recycled and recovered materials used in construction materials is a priority, these materials can only replace part of what's required to maintain quality and strength in construction products.

To ensure Victoria can sustain the construction required for its population growth, while meeting recycling and recovery targets, HiQ is focused on providing responsible solutions for each element, ultimately forming an integrated waste and resources system.

Our proposed resource recovery and recycling facilities will help advance the use of reused materials, while our proposed quarry expansion will provide the natural material needed to complete the products.

2. You're extending the quarry? It's already close to Emu Creek.

The majority of the quarry extension will take place north of the site adjacent to the existing landfill and in the western side of the existing quarry. There are only minor increases proposed towards the creek, which will ensure we continue to protect and preserve the local waterways.

Proposed location

Proximity to homes and waterways

1. Lance, would you honestly be happy to live near this?

EfW facilities are commonly found in high-density areas, including major cities, with people working and living nearby to these facilities. The reason for that is because the most efficient treatment of waste is closest to its source, and these facilities are proven to operate safely in proximity to residential areas.

Strict emissions control is in place for these facilities, and any facility built in Victoria would need to comply with the rigorous Victorian EPA emissions requirements. These requirements are aligned with the emissions requirements in the European Union (EU).

HiQ's technology partner, HZI, has worked on a range of EfW plants and more information can be found here: [https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to-deliver-technology-for-north-london-energy-recovery-facility/#:~:text=London%2C%20UK.,London%20Waste%20Authority%20\(NLWA\)%20and%20https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/](https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to-deliver-technology-for-north-london-energy-recovery-facility/#:~:text=London%2C%20UK.,London%20Waste%20Authority%20(NLWA)%20and%20https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/)

<https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/>

2. Why don't we build it next to your home Lance?

EfW facilities are commonly found in high-density areas, including major cities, with people working and living nearby to these facilities. The reason for that is because the most efficient treatment of waste is closest to its source, and these facilities are proven to operate safely in proximity to residential areas.

Victoria's Waste-to-Energy Framework sets a cap of 1 million tonnes of waste that can be processed through these facilities across the state. HiQ's proposed facility would process up to 300,000 tonnes of waste material. If HiQ receives approval on its proposed Energy-from-Waste facility, it would not be the only one to operate in Victoria.

There are already four facilities approved, and more that are embarking on approvals processes to construct similar facilities across the state. It is likely that there will be more than six facilities in total operating in Victoria to service all areas and populations.

3. Is the East Rockingham waste facility also located with this same proximity to waterways and residential areas?

The East Rockingham facility is located approximately 1km from a residential property and less than 5km from the Kwinana Town Centre. It is approximately 1.5 kilometres from the Indian Ocean and 3. Kilometres from Lake Cooolongup and deemed safe to operate close to

these water bodies. Kwinana has a population of around 50,000 people. The facility is located approx. 40km from Perth's CBD.

4. Is it appropriate to operate a facility like this near residences and waterways when it is reasonably practicable to locate it at an alternative site away from vulnerable receptors that would reduce the environmental and human health risks? Is this consistent with general environmental duties?

The Sunbury Eco-Hub has operated in various forms since the 1960s. It is recognised as a Hub of State Significance in Victoria's Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP) and a hub of state importance in Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (MWRRIP). The proposed EfW facility is located within the existing Sunbury Eco-Hub site.

The EPA operates within a General Environmental Duty (GED) approach which requires all persons engaging in an activity, that may give rise to risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste, to understand those risks and to take steps to eliminate or minimise them, so far as reasonably practicable. Specific risks need to be identified and assessed and a determination made as to what is reasonably practicable in relation to the minimisation of harm associated with the identified risks.

In compliance with this, HiQ is using a risk-based approach to identify and understand the potential risks to human health and the environment of the proposed EfW facility. This includes engaging specialists to undertake a broad range of technical assessments in accordance with relevant guidelines. The methodologies used in the technical assessments follow best practice and will identify strategies to eliminate or mitigate any risks so far as reasonably practicable. The development licence application will provide a detailed response to how GED has been or will be met.

5. Why must they be close to suburbs? Why can't they be outside of suburbia?

EfW facilities are commonly found in high-density areas, including major cities, with people working and living nearby to these facilities. The reason for that is because the most efficient treatment of waste is closest to its source, and these facilities are proven to operate safely in proximity to residential areas.

HiQ's technology partner, HZI, has worked on a range of EfW plants and more information can be found here: <https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to->

<https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/> and <https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/>

6. How close to other communities have those other facilities been?

There are operating EfW plants in major cities such as London, Paris, Dublin, Dubai and more. Many facilities are within less than 500 metres to residential properties.

Below are links to information about some of these facilities:

- [https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to-deliver-technology-for-north-london-energy-recovery-facility/#:~:text=London%2C%20UK.,London%20Waste%20Authority%20\(NLWA\)%20and%20https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/](https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to-deliver-technology-for-north-london-energy-recovery-facility/#:~:text=London%2C%20UK.,London%20Waste%20Authority%20(NLWA)%20and%20https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/)
- <https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/>
- <https://www.hz-inova.com/wiki/dublin/>
- <https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/dubai-uae/>
- <https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/lucerne-che/>

Many facilities are within less than 500m radius to residential properties including: South East London Combined Heat and Power Site and Isseane on the banks of the River Seine in Paris which is less than 4km to the Eiffel Tower.

The proposed facility has a similar buffer to that of the East Rockingham facility which is located approximately 1km from a sensitive receptor.

7. If other facilities in Australia aren't operating yet, how do you know they're safe?

HiQ's technology partner HZI is a global leader in developing EfW facilities around the world. The proposed HiQ facility is based on HZI's proven operations in other markets. All EfW facilities require robust assessments and approvals before they can operate and they must have a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas so that mediation action can be taken if necessary.

8. Are the other facilities operating run by HiQ and going well?

HiQ is currently submitting proposals for EfW facilities in Victoria and NSW. As this is a new form of technology for Australia, HiQ is aiming to be a frontrunner in the domestic industry.

HiQ has a long track record of providing complex, custom waste management solutions spanning hazardous waste treatment, soil processing, quarrying, resource recovery and recycling, and disposal. In addition, it is partnering with HZI, a world-leader in EfW technology, to bring dedicated, international best practice support.

9. Would you like to live 1km away from this site?

EfW facilities are commonly found in high-density areas, including major cities, with people working and living nearby to these facilities. This is because the most efficient treatment of waste is closest to its source, and these facilities are proven to operate safely in proximity to residential areas.

10. Minimising harm would suggest a location away from residences?

EfW facilities are commonly found in high-density areas, including major cities, with people working and living nearby to these facilities. The reason for that is because the most efficient treatment of waste is closest to its source, and these facilities are proven to operate safely in proximity to residential areas.

HiQ's technology partner, HZI, has worked on a range of EfW plants and more information can be found here: [https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to-deliver-technology-for-north-london-energy-recovery-facility/#:~:text=London%2C%20UK.,London%20Waste%20Authority%20\(NLWA\) and https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/](https://www.hz-inova.com/hitachi-zosen-inova-to-deliver-technology-for-north-london-energy-recovery-facility/#:~:text=London%2C%20UK.,London%20Waste%20Authority%20(NLWA) and https://www.hz-inova.com/projects/ivry-sur-seine-fra/).

Buffer zones

1. Define what is a 'significant' setback distance from residents?

Victoria's Waste-to-Energy framework doesn't currently require any buffer zones around these proposed facilities, given their proven capability to safely operated in highly built-up areas around the world. However, HiQ has several buffers in place for existing site activities – including landfill, quarry, and organics – and has located the proposed site away from Sunbury Road to provide an added layer of protection.

2. 1km buffer is meaningless when higher levels of exposure found past a 5km range.

The 1km buffer is a planning buffer that restricts future encroachment by sensitive receptors to the facility. Emissions from the proposed EfW facility would be managed at the source in compliance with EU best practices. Detailed air quality modelling assessments are being undertaken for the site. As a requirement to obtaining a permit to construct and operate the facility, HiQ will need to demonstrate to EPA Victoria that all air quality requirements will be met irrespective of distance from the facility.

3. If the buffer is 1.3km but the closest house is 1km?

HiQ's existing buffer of 1.3km is in place for the organics facility on-site, run by Veolia. The facility and corresponding buffer are towards the south of the site and are designed to cover that area. The house 1km away from the site is towards the north, outside of the area that 1.3km buffer covers. The proposed EfW facility is located within 300 metres of the organic waste facility, which therefore provides at least a 1km buffer from future residential uses.

4. Why were the original buffer zone screenings not finished?

The buffer zones for the existing organics facility and landfill were determined by EPA Victoria and the quarry buffer was determined by the Department of Primary Industries. They were all in place prior to the Sunbury South PSP being finalised. During the development of the Sunbury South PSP, these buffer zones were highlighted to ensure planning considered all existing conditions in the area.

5. Please explain these buffer zones in more detail and why are they there. Do they stop airborne particles?

The buffer zones are recognised in the Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan, which identifies that land within these buffers are required to be kept free of sensitive uses to help protect future residences from any potential impact and prevent encroachment on industry

Emissions will be managed at the source in compliance with EPA requirements and EU best practices. There would be no exposure exceeding the emission limits set in EPA's condition of approval. This will be continually monitored and reported.

6. Were the buffer zones put in place with the knowledge of landholders?

The buffer zones for the existing organics facility and landfill were determined by EPA Victoria and the quarry buffer was determined by the Department of Primary Industries. HiQ is not involved in the processes of setting those buffers.

7. I see the new estate at Maplestone is inside the buffer area? Were the residents made aware of this?

Part of the Maplestone estate is within the buffer area, which means no houses can be built while the buffer is in place. HiQ understands that the developer is aware of this buffer and that the houses are currently being developed outside of the buffer area.

8. Why are you still mentioning that there is an existing buffer when it is not required?

We know that proximity to residential areas is a focus for residents and the community, and buffer zones help to demonstrate how we are proposing to operate in the area.

While buffer zones are not required under the Victorian Waste-to-Energy Framework, HiQ's existing buffers provide an additional layer of protection against encroachment for current and future residents.

Sunbury location

1. Are there other sites proposed around the state that could facilitate this complex? Possibly to recycle the unused buildings in Altona? Is this servicing all of Melbourne or just Hume?

HiQ's proposed facility would service Hume and surrounding areas, potentially spanning up to Bendigo and down into Melbourne.

Victoria's Waste-to-Energy Framework sets a cap of 1 million tonnes of waste able to be processed through facilities across the state. HiQ's proposed facility would process up to 300,000 tonnes of waste material. If HiQ receives approval on its proposed Energy-from-Waste facility, it would not be the only one to operate in Victoria.

There are already four facilities approved, and more approval processes underway to construct similar facilities across the state. It is likely that there will be more than six facilities in total operating in Victoria to service all areas and populations.

2. Why is Sunbury the best location for this?

Hume is one of Australia's fastest-growing communities. In 2021, Hume City Council developed a Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to help it meet state-wide legislative targets, including reaching 80% diversion from landfill by 2030.

Reaching these goals requires new, advanced technologies.

HiQ has operated in the region for over 20 years. The Sunbury Eco-Hub is recognised as a Hub of State Significance in the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan and in the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan, and currently provides a range of technologies, including resource recovery, disposal, treatment, and soil processing.

The company is proposing to construct and operate an Energy-from-Waste facility and expanded resource recovery activities to prioritise recycling and recovery, and divert as much of the residual waste away from landfill as possible.

The existing Sunbury Eco-Hub operates on approximately 261 hectares of land. The proposed Energy-from-Waste facility would take up approximately 5 hectares, or approximately 2% of the total site.

It also has significant existing buffers in place and HiQ has carefully considered the location of the proposed Energy-from-Waste facility to provide distance from nearby receptors and allow for best practice environmental standards. The proposed location sits well within the existing buffers. It's approximately 700 metres back from Sunbury Road, and approximately 1 kilometre from the nearest house. It also ensures the ambient air is not affected.

3. I understand this plant was originally planned for somewhere out near Melton and it was declined because of strong objection. What has changed to make this an improved version that has encouraged approval by the EPA and the Victorian Government to go ahead near Sunbury? Why did you not seek a plot of land away from homes?

HiQ is not aware of any proposed facility in Melton and is not affiliated with it in any way. HiQ's proposed EfW facility is separate and is being designed and developed by HiQ, its proposed technology providers and technical advisors.

Sunbury Eco-Hub Community Information Session Q&A

4. What about the rest of Melbourne?

There are currently four facilities approved, and more that are embarking on approvals processes to construct similar facilities across the state. It is likely that there will be more than six facilities in total operating in Victoria to service all areas and populations.

5. So, is this facility just for Hume City Council?

HiQ's proposed facility would service Hume and surrounding areas, potentially spanning up to Bendigo and down into Melbourne.

6. So, what are the benefits for the residents of Hume?

The benefits include a reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill, and the creation of energy. This will provide reduce costs for the City of Hume, which ultimately benefits all ratepayers. In addition, there will be new jobs created during construction and in operation of the plant.

7. What is the PSP?

The PSP refers to the Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan. It's a document that was developed by the Victorian Planning Authority in consultation with Hume City Council to guide the long-term urban development of the Sunbury South precinct. You can read more about the PSP at vpa.vic.gov.au/project/sunbury-south/.

8. During the PSP you said it had a short-term life. Now you have changed this.

The Sunbury Eco-Hub is identified in the SWRRIP and MWRRIP as a Hub of State of Significance for waste management in Victoria beyond 2046. This distinction was made by Sustainability Victoria and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group, who emphasised the significance of the hub during the PSP consultation. The site is also earmarked in the PSP as future industrial and commercial land, and potentially future residential land as per the planning panel's recommendations. The land would be transitioned to future uses once would the waste management activities have been completed.

9. What is happening to the waste generated in the Eastern suburbs?

There are currently four facilities approved, and more that are embarking on approvals processes to construct similar facilities across the state. It is likely that there will be more than six facilities in total operating in Victoria to service all areas and populations. HiQ's proposed facility would service Hume and surrounding areas, potentially spanning up to Bendigo and down into Melbourne.

10. Will this proposal be a 24/7 facility?

The Sunbury Eco-Hub already operates 24 hours a day. The proposed facilities will adhere to the existing operational hours.

11. Have you put this project/development up for any other sites or suburbs?

HiQ is only proposing one facility which, if approved, would be located at its existing site in Sunbury and would service Hume and surrounding areas, potentially spanning up to Bendigo and down into Melbourne.

There are currently four facilities approved, and more that are embarking on approvals processes to construct similar facilities across the state. It is likely that there will be more than six facilities in total operating in Victoria to service all areas and populations.

Technical assessments

General

1. With these assessments, are these done by an external independent body or completed by HiQ?

HiQ has engaged independent consultants to manage the planning and approval process for each of the developments, including the technical assessments. Assessments will be undertaken in accordance with EPA guidelines and best practice.

Each of the assessments will be submitted as part of the relevant application. These will be reviewed by the EPA as part of its approval process. The Department of Transport and Planning will also review them as part of the EfW application process. All assessments will be available as part of the statutory consultation process where the community can review and comment on findings from these assessments.

2. I note the previous slide said that only preliminary testing had been completed regarding health impacts, yet the pamphlet we all received advised us that there was NO risk to health. How can that statement be made when testing hasn't been completed?

The pamphlet that was sent to all letterboxes in Sunbury and Bulla was to encourage residents to attend information session and didn't provide any information on the proposals or the testing outcomes. The briefing presentation provided to community members who attended the online information sessions included information on the preliminary testing results. More information will be provided once these are final, and you will be able to view the full documents once they have been submitted to the EPA.

3. How often are the risk assessments conducted?

The risk assessment process is ongoing throughout the project lifecycle, from conception through to operation. A risk assessment will form the basis of the development licence applications and a risk register will be included in the application. This risk register will be updated during design development as required, and in the future incorporated into the operating systems, if the project is approved.

4. I'm keen to hear about the risks to the environment/community.

A risk register will be provided for each of the proposed facilities. The potential impacts to community and the environment vary by the different project proposals. Risks aspects that have been considered in the register include:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Air quality
- Contaminated land

- Ecology
- Energy and greenhouse gas emissions
- Fire
- Groundwater
- Historical heritage
- Landfill gas
- Landscape and visual impact
- Noise and vibration
- Social and business
- Waste
- Water.

5. Will the detailed impact assessments for air quality, groundwater, surface water, traffic, visual amenity, noise, human health, heritage be available to the community as part of the consultation?

Yes, the development licence applications and planning applications will be made available to the community by the EPA via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>). Each application will include a copy of the relevant technical assessments.

The technical assessment reports and other documentation can be viewed via this website once they have been accepted for consideration by the EPA. Being accepted by the EPA does not mean they will be approved. Instead, it just signals that there is adequate information and detail to enable the EPA to make a thorough assessment and decision.

Anyone interested in the proposals will be able to make a submission to the EPA on the development licence application and DTP on the planning approval via the above website.

6. There seems to be a lot of concern about HiQ's ability to operate the current facility within the existing licence to minimise harm to the community and environment, which will be exacerbated by needing to operate an expanded facility with a complex incineration system. Have the impact assessments considered if the facility is not properly operated and what the impacts to community/environment will be?

The impact assessments consider risks from non-routine operations, accidents, incidents, and account for unforeseen events as far as practicable. In addition, the proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. The data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA requirements.

7. Has "why somewhere else" been assessed as part of the GED for the incineration facility?

HiQ has addressed the general environmental duty in its development licence application and this will be assessed by the EPA when it considers whether to approve the application. HiQ's application will present the Sunbury Eco-Hub as strategically located to manage environmental issues due to:

- Being recognised as a Hub of State Significance in Victoria's SWRRIP and MWRRIP.
- Planned buffers from future residential encroachment.
- HiQ's experience and long track record managing council wastes and commercial and industrial wastes.
- Improving onsite environmental outcomes, including using treated water from the water treatment plant and residual waste feedstock in the EfW operations.
- Opportunity to use energy products and residual materials produced by the proposed EfW facility within onsite activities.
- Existing environmental management plan and monitoring on the site.

8. Are risk assessments made public?

The risk assessment and risk register will be available as part of the development licence applications and planning approval applications. These documents will be available online via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>). The risk assessment included in the development licence application considers risk from construction through to decommissioning.

9. Will there be large lights around the facility and, if so, will these affect residents and be turned off during working hours?

Site lighting will comprise adequate lighting to roadways and work areas according to applicable Australian standards and building codes including AS 1680 and AS 2293.

10. Where is the closest EPA air monitoring site? Will you do soil tests in surrounding areas?

Alphington is the closest EPA air quality monitoring site. Data from this site has been assessed and deemed appropriate for use in the air quality impact assessment. This has been decided in consultation with EPA and is detailed in the air quality impact assessment report which will be publicly available on the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>).

Offsite testing is not required for any current or proposed activities.

11. Could you please share the numbers on waste produced by Victoria's regions?

HiQ has undertaken municipal solid waste and commercial and industrial waste modelling based on Sustainability Victoria 2019/2020 data.

The modelling undertaken has shown that the combined waste from councils within 45 minutes travel time of the Sunbury Eco-Hub have more than 350,000 tonnes a year of municipal solid waste available. There are more than 700,000 tonnes a year of municipal solid waste available within an hour and a half travel distance.

Information within HiQ's waste modelling will be provided as part of the planning and environmental approval applications.

12. Can we have a breakdown of the waste just produced by Hume City Council, Sunbury and other areas? Will this be part of your submission?

Based on Sustainability Victoria data, Hume City Council collected an estimated 50,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste during 2019-2020. HiQ does not have information on further intra-council separation within Hume Council. Waste modelling, where available, will be included within the development licence application.

13. I would love it if you could share the numbers of waste per area/suburb. I think it is fair to put a plant like this near to the area that produces the higher waste, and I strongly doubt that is Sunbury.

Hume is one of Australia's fastest-growing communities, and one of the state's largest waste producers. Based on Sustainability Victoria data, Hume City Council collected an estimated 50,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste during 2019-2020.

Waste modelling undertaken has shown that the combined waste councils within 45 minutes travel time of the Sunbury Eco-Hub have more than 350,000 tonnes a year of municipal solids waste available. There are more than 700,000 tonnes a year of municipal solid waste available within an hour and a half travel distance.

On top of residential waste, there is a significant amount of commercial and industrial waste already being managed at the Sunbury Eco-Hub landfill.

1. Will there be technical studies detailing the long-term impacts on human health? Beyond 'odours and dust'? Dioxins? If there are breaches, I'm sure fines will be issued by the EPA but I'm sure the community doesn't want to be continually exposed to hazardous, toxic, carcinogenic waste products.

An air quality impact assessment and human health impact assessment will be undertaken to assess the potential impacts of emissions from the proposed EfW facility. These will be provided as part of the development licence application.

2. Reduce of carbon dioxide to the environment at the expense of local community health?

The project would result in a significant net reduction in greenhouse gases over its lifetime.

As part of EPA's conditions of approval, the EfW will be required to meet emission limits within EU best practices. Air quality will be continually monitored from the stack to ensure that emissions are within limits. Monitoring results will be reported to the EPA.

3. Do dioxins, VOCs can be potentially low levels, but what about if they are continually being released and residents exposed long term? Do dioxins just disappear? What about half life?

The chemicals that are emitted from an EfW facility are the same as those that are commonly found in the air at all times from industry operations, vehicles, gas stoves, etc. These chemicals are always present in the air we breathe at low levels. Given the extensive air pollution control equipment built into an EfW facility, and the management requirements as part of the EPA approvals, the contribution such plants make to the levels in air is small.

Metals do not bioaccumulate in the environment. They are attached to particles that do not present in the air as a vapour. Larger particles travel small distances from where they are sourced - they are heavy and fall to the ground. Smaller particles can travel long distances but often never reach the ground or the air people breathe..

Other chemicals present in emissions from these facilities and all types of burning include dioxin-like chemicals. These chemicals take a very long time to break down into their component parts, but they do eventually break down. They are also attached to particles so will not travel far if attached to larger particles and may travel further if attached to fine particles, but these are unlikely to reach air where people live and breathe. These chemicals can bioaccumulate, but these facilities do not produce enough of them for accumulation to be of concern.

Other chemicals include nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide. As with metals and dioxin-like chemicals, these chemicals are always present in the air in urban areas as they come from all forms of burning. The Victorian Government monitors many of these gases throughout Melbourne to ensure levels are in compliance with national guidelines. Facilities like this one make only a small contribution - negligible in most cases.

4. Was the air quality assessment done for normal operations or for upset conditions?

The air quality assessments will be conducted for the proposed EfW facility, hazardous waste treatment facility, resource recovery, recycling facility and quarry expansion. The assessments will include the operational air quality impacts associated with each facility individually as well as the cumulative impacts from the various existing and planned activities within the Sunbury Eco-Hub.

The Energy from Waste facility will consider both normal operations and other than normal operating conditions (for example start up, shut down and maintenance periods).

If the facility is approved, a CEMS will provide ongoing monitoring of emissions generated. The CEMS will monitor, log and report on a range of parameters to provide strict control over process conditions. This will provide early warning of any non-standard operating conditions to allow process supervisors to initiate early remediation.

5. Does the emissions assessment consider the number of trucks facilitating this site? Overseas these sites are often co-located with rail lines.

The air quality modelling considers dust produced by truck movements on site and noise from trucks.

6. Does the air quality plume exceed the buffer zone for upset conditions?

As part of the approvals process, air quality modelling is being undertaken to understand the movement of the emissions from the facility and the likely ground-level concentrations of emissions. The modelling assesses the dispersion across a 10km x 10km area in accordance with EPA guidelines. Emissions will be managed at the source in compliance with EU best practices.

1. How can a human health impact assessment be done without having no inputs on the theoretical system? By the time something came up release would be too late.

The human health risk assessment is prepared using results from the air quality modelling and the noise modelling to assess the potential impacts to community health in accordance with relevant guidelines. The potential impacts from air emissions are assessed using a quantitative approach, while potential impacts to community health from noise using a qualitative approach.

As part of EPA's conditions of approval, the EfW will be required to meet emission limits set by EPA Victoria within EU best practices. Air quality will be continually monitored from the stack to ensure that emissions are not toxic to the community. Monitoring results will be reported to the EPA.

2. Additionally in worst case scenarios what are the potential impacts on the human health?

A human health impact assessment will be prepared on the EfW facility and the hazardous waste treatment facility based on the air quality and noise impact assessments. The human health assessment will be an attachment to HiQ's applications to the EPA and DTP. The methodology used in the human health impact assessment is in accordance with the following guidance:

- enHealth, 2012. Environmental Health Risk Assessment: Guidelines for assessing human health risks from environmental hazards (enHealth 2012b)
- enHealth, 2012. Australian exposure factor guide (enHealth 2012a).

The full human health impact assessment will be included in the development licence application which will be available online via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>).

3. Do you have a plan in place for any health issues developed in the local community as a result of this, given that many of the chemicals known to be released are known to cause human health?

As part of the air quality impact assessment for the application, air quality modelling is being undertaken to understand the movement of emission from the facility, as well as the expected air at ground level. The modelling assesses 10km x 10 km radius, in accordance with EPA guidelines. The predicted ground level concentrations will be assessed against EPA's Air Pollution Assessment Criteria, that are designed for the protection of human health and environmental systems. Furthermore, a detailed human health risk assessment will be conducted to determine the associated risk.

The proposed EfW facility would be required to meet emission limits set by EPA Victoria and within EU best practices. Air quality will be continually monitored to ensure emissions are safe for the surrounding areas, and the data will be made available to the public in accordance with EPA conditions of approval.

4. Have you considered how this will impact the mental health of many in the community, particularly those who moved into Sunbury when it was a "green wedge"?

HiQ believes in the importance of green space to contribute to the wellbeing of residents across Australia and around the world. Our existing site does not operate in a green wedge zone.

HiQ's site is identified in the SWRRIP and MWRRIP as a Hub of State of Significance for waste management in Victoria beyond 2046. This distinction was made by Sustainability Victoria and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group. The site is also earmarked in the PSP as future industrial and commercial land to support the growing population of Sunbury.

5. Is there any human health impact assessment done on current facilities and not "indicative modelling"?

Yes, a human health impact assessment based on HZI's existing facilities will be provided as part of the development licence to EPA and planning approval application to DTP. Interested parties will be able to view these assessments via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>). Further assessment and learnings from the commissioning of the East Rockingham Facility will be incorporated into the detailed design of the Sunbury Eco-Hub facility.

6. If the incineration system is operated outside its quality control systems - will this cause harm to community?

The proposed EfW facility will have a CEMS that continuously records pollutant levels in the flue gas. In the very unlikely event that that plant exceeds the permitted emissions limit value/s the plant will be safely shut down. The EPA also regularly visits and inspects HiQ's operations to ensure it is operating within guidelines, and this EfW facility would be no different.

1. Emu Creek water samples. Are they publicly available still?

The Sunbury Eco-Hub tests Emu Creek twice a year at five locations. This is done in accordance with the site's Risk Management and Monitoring Plan. Testing results are then reviewed and audited by an EPA Accredited Auditor every two years and made available on the EPA website.

2. What effect is this going to have on Emu Creek?

None of the proposed developments will be within the Emu Creek conservation area. The impact assessments will consider risks to Emu Creek, primarily from a water quality and ecological perspective.

The majority of the quarry extension will take place north of the site adjacent to the existing landfill and in the western side of the existing quarry. There are only minor increases proposed towards the creek, which will ensure we continue to protect and preserve the local waterways.

The proposed EfW facility is approximately 450m from Emu Creek at the closest point. The other facilities are setback further. There will be no native vegetation proposed to be removed from the Emu Creek catchment and no wastewater discharged into Emu Creek. Each of the resource recovery facilities and EfW facility will be bunded (have a retaining wall round it) to prevent surface water runoff into Emu Creek.

3. What toxins run off into Emu Creek from this facility and after the proposed site amendments?

The resource recovery and the EfW facility is setback more than 450 metres from Emu Creek. No water emissions are proposed into Emu Creek from any of the facilities. The current facility is bunded to prevent surface water runoff which means all surface water is managed within the site. The proposed facilities will operate the same way.

4. Just worried about wildlife within the waters of Emu Creek. I know studies done within a local school has shown changes already over the years so how often will this be monitored moving forward?

Management of air emissions (including to surface water) will be in accordance with EPA guidelines and EU best practices ([EU BREF 2019](#)). Water quality monitoring at Emu Creek will continue in accordance with the site's licences. An ecology assessment is currently being undertaken to recommend actions to minimise any potential impacts. HiQ was also part of a Stream Frontage Program with Melbourne Water to protect and preserve Emu Creek. The formal program ended however HiQ is continuing the protection efforts along Emu Creek.

1. Does the transport plan include the elimination of Deep Creek Bridge?

The traffic assessment prepared for the site includes proposed routes via the Bulla Bridge. It also proposes to disperse traffic movements via several different approved truck routes to prevent impact on a single route.

2. Does the noise and air quality assessments include all the extra trucks that will be travelling on the local roads?

No changes are proposed to kerbside collection. The traffic impact assessment models anticipated truck movements once the proposed developments are fully operational. The traffic assessment prepared for the site includes proposed routes via the Bulla Bridge. It also proposes to disperse traffic movements via several different approved truck routes to prevent impact on a single route.

Both the noise and air quality assessments include impacts from onsite truck movements. Air quality modelling considers dust produced by truck movements on-site, and the noise modelling considers truck movements on-site.

3. How many truck movements per day?

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030. These movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road.

4. Traffic issues at the back of the airport is terrible now. What is the expected traffic footprint?

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030. Movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road.

The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on single route.

5. Are these truck movements per day?

Yes, modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030.

6. What time is considered peak hours - during school hours too? On weekend?

Peak hours considered include between 8am to 9am, and 5pm to 6pm Monday to Friday.

7. Does that mean some truck traffic movement will be through main town of Sunbury?

The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on single route.

8. What is the exact route the trucks will take?

Exact truck routes would be determined closer to the commencement of operations if the facility is approved and commercial arrangements with suppliers are finalised.

9. How many extra movements of trucks will this facility create per day?

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030. These movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road.

10. How much extra trucks/traffic will be using the roads nearby?

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030. These movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road.

11. Through Sunbury? Down Horne Street?

The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on any single route. Exact truck routes would be determined closer to the commencement of operations if the facility is approved and commercial arrangements with suppliers are finalised.

12. 400 additional trucks per year? Day? Hour?

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030.

13. So semis through the middle of town?

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030. The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on single route.

14. Who's paying for the extra lane? Who is going to maintain the roads? The roads are shocking now, what will they be like with 400 extra trucks?

The extra lane at the site entrance recommended in the traffic impact assessment would be fully funded by HiQ. Maintenance of the external road network is undertaken by either Hume City Council or the State Government, depending on the road.

15. What policies are in place to move away from petrol/diesel trucks to EVs etc?

The trucks transporting material to and from HiQ's facility won't be run by HiQ - they will be through external suppliers, including councils, businesses and governments. Any plan to move towards electric vehicles would sit with these bodies. The Victorian Government has developed a zero emissions vehicle roadmap to support its transition to net zero. You can read more about it at energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/zero-emission-vehicles.

16. Can you please supply more information regarding the hours of proposed operation and proposed traffic route.

The Sunbury Eco-Hub currently operates as a 24/7 facility and it is proposed that this would continue. Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 400 trucks (or 800 additional truck movements) per day by 2030. These movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road. The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on single route.

17. So Road Trains coming through Bulla. How is the bridge going to cope?

As part of HiQ's applications, it has engaged an independent traffic engineer to assess the capacity of the site entrance and local road networks. The report considered the cumulative impact of current and proposed activities on the site, taking into account anticipated future traffic volumes on the local road network in 2031, when the facility would be fully operational.

The assessment found that the site's signalised intersection has the capacity to comfortably accommodate the proposed activities.

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 800 additional truck movements to and from the site per day by 2030. These movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road.

The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on any single route.

18. Why is there no plan in place for the effect and maintenance on the road pavements that lead to the facility? This includes Sunbury Road and roads in Sunbury such as Macedon Street and Horne Street.

Maintenance of the external road network is undertaken by either Hume City Council or the State Government, depending on the road.

19. Has there been an assessment done on the impact of the increased traffic through the township of Bulla? And the impact on the single land bluestone bridge? What will be done to ensure the township remains safe and clean for residents given increased rubbish truck movements?

As part of HiQ's applications, it has engaged an independent traffic engineer to assess the capacity of the site entrance and local road networks. The report considered the cumulative impact of current and proposed activities on the site, taking into account anticipated future traffic volumes on the local road network in 2031, when the facility would be fully operational.

The assessment found that the site's signalised intersection has the capacity to comfortably accommodate the proposed activities.

Modelling for proposed energy, recycling and resource recovery activities considers approximately 800 additional truck movements to and from the site per day by 2030. These movements would be distributed across operational hours, with approximately 8% of these expected to occur during peak hours. That is the equivalent of an approximate 1.5-2% increase on anticipated 2031 traffic volumes for Sunbury Road.

The total truck movements will be dispersed through Bulla and Sunbury to prevent impact on any single route.

Community consultation

Job creation

1. Are you sure that the jobs will be filled by local residents? This was stated for the WGT [West Gate Tunnel] spoil going to the Bulla Spoils Facility, but in the end very few locals were employed! Please comment.

Our priority is providing jobs to Sunbury and Bulla residents and residents of the broader Hume area. However, with labour shortages and pressures on finding staff, this can be difficult and we may have to look further afield. We will assess our recruitment plans and the job market if the facilities are approved and we progress to more detailed commercial arrangements.

2. Will there be an Enterprise Agreement under the Fair Work Act 2009 for workers on the job during construction and on completion for your workforce?

All permanent HiQ employees are covered by an Enterprise Agreement under the Fair Work Act. This also applied for all staff working on the Bulla Spoils Facility during the West Gate Tunnel Project and would be applied for any future proposed activity.

Approvals process

1. Has this already got EPA approval?

None of the proposed facilities we shared during February 2024 have received any approvals so far.

We are undertaking this engagement to hear your views before we submit our applications for the proposed facilities. The feedback we receive will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

2. Is this already a done deal and the community effectively has no say if this proposal goes ahead or not?

None of the proposed facilities we shared during February 2024 have received any approvals. The feedback we receive during this consultation process will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

3. Has this waste to energy facility been approved? If so, who was the responsible authority who approved it?

None of the proposed facilities we shared during February 2024 have received any approvals, including the proposed Energy-from-Waste facility. The feedback we receive will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

Once the EPA has reviewed our submission, it will publish all documentation via the Engage Victoria website before a decision is made. Interested parties will have the opportunity to provide written submissions for the EPA to consider when making their decision.

For the application to be successful, it will need to be approved by EPA Victoria, given planning approvals by DTP, and receive a Waste-to-Energy Cap Licence from Recycling Victoria.

4. So, does the community really have a voice here or is this just part of the process of application?

We are undertaking community consultation to share information with interested residents and stakeholders and understand views and sentiment towards the proposed activities.

The feedback we receive will contribute to any required changes to the proposed design, details on the technical assessments and information, and help inform how we manage and operate the facility – including how we continue to share information of interest to residents.

We also provide a detailed feedback report to the relevant authorities who will consider it as part of their decision-making process.

5. Is this already a done deal? Or is there an opportunity for the community to voice their views? Or is this just an exercise to get a tick in the box?

The consultation HiQ conducted in February 2024 was done prior to submitting applications for the proposed facilities. The feedback we receive will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities. Before a decision is made, the EPA will publish the application as part of its public exhibition, and any interested party will have another chance to share their views. We expect this will take place in late 2024 to early 2025.

6. How do we vote for this monstrosity not to be built near our homes?

Before a decision is made, the EPA will publish the application as part of its public exhibition, where any interested party can share their views. We expect this will take place in late 2024 to early 2025.

7. This sounds to me like these sessions are simply to tick boxes. This has already been approved, hasn't it?

None of the proposed facilities we shared in the information sessions during February 2024 have received any approvals. The feedback we receive will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

8. Are you misleading the community when you say that this process is prior to the application stage? This sounds like the WGT spoil going to BSF again! The

government have asked you to apply for this. Correct?

None of the proposed facilities we shared in the information sessions during February 2024 have received any approvals.

We have been in discussions with the government about applying to extend our Planning Scheme Amendment to facilitate the ongoing operations of the Bulla Spoils Facility, which we have submitted to DTP for consideration. No decision has been made.

We have not submitted any applications for the remaining activities, nor have we been approached to apply for these services by the government or any other decision-making body.

9. We've been informed this is a done deal. Sunbury residents did not even get advice on this. 800 trucks a day driving through Bulla?!

None of the proposed facilities we shared in the information sessions during February 2024 have received any approvals.

The consultation HiQ is conducted in February 2024 was done prior to submitting applications for the proposed facilities and was designed to inform residents about the proposed activities and answer any questions you might have about what we're proposing. We also included detailed information in fact sheets and information on www.hiqualityecohub.com.au.

This is not the last time you will be hearing from us. We plan to be active in the community during this process, and as applications progress you will also have the opportunity to submit your feedback to the EPA and DTP as they consider their decision.

10. Who are you seeking approvals from?

The proposed activities will require various approvals:

- Energy-from-Waste will need to be approved by EPA Victoria, given planning approvals by the DTP, and receive a Waste-to-Energy Cap Licence by Recycling Victoria. An Environmental Effects Statement (EES) referral for the EfW facility will also be submitted to DTP.
- Resource recovery, recycling and treatment will require approval from EPA Victoria.
- The ongoing operations of Bulla Spoils Facility will require approval from DTP.
- The proposed quarry will require approval from the Earth Resources Regulator (ERR), part of the Victorian Government.

11. Approvals from who?

The proposed activities will require various approvals:

- Energy-from-Waste will need to be approved by EPA Victoria, given planning approvals by the DTP, and receive a Waste-to-Energy Cap Licence by Recycling Victoria. An Environmental Effects Statement (EES) referral for the EfW facility will also be submitted to DTP.
- Resource recovery, recycling and treatment will require approval from EPA Victoria.
- The ongoing operations of Bulla Spoils Facility will require approval from DTP.
- The proposed quarry will require approval from the Earth Resources Regulator (ERR), part of the Victorian Government.

12. Who do the operating licences come from?

Operating licences for the proposed EfW facility, and the proposed resource recovery, recycling and treatment facilities are required from the EPA.

13. Do residents have any say in this going ahead?

None of the proposed facilities we shared during the public information sessions in February 2024 have received any approvals. The feedback we receive will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

Once the EPA has reviewed our submission, it will publish all documentation on the Engage Victoria website before a decision is made, and anyone interested will have the opportunity to provide written submissions sharing their views for the EPA to consider when making their decision.

14. The slide states it is an early indication and may change as the project progresses. Does that mean, despite these consultations, this project is definitely going ahead and here in Sunbury?

None of the proposed facilities we shared during February 2024 have received any approvals.

We included an artist impression of the facility as an early indication of what it may look like if it is approved. However, this may change based on community and regulator feedback on the proposal.

15. Where is this information made public? Is it easy to access or like looking for a needle in a haystack?

The EPA will publish their information on the Engage Victoria website here: (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>).

HiQ's information is available [here](#).

16. Does a planning permit need to be obtained from Hume City Council?

The EfW facility will require a planning approval from the Department of Transport and Planning. Under the Hume Planning Scheme, DTP is the Responsible Authority for energy generation facilities with an installed capacity of 1 megawatt or greater.

HiQ's application to DTP will be made available to the community for comment via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>).

17. Does the consultation impact on the outcome of the applications? Or HiQ's approach?

The consultation HiQ conducted in February 2024 was done prior to submitting applications for the proposed facilities. The feedback we received will form part of our submissions, which will be considered by the EPA and other decision-making authorities.

Before a decision is made, the EPA will also publish the application as part of its public exhibition, where any interested party will have another chance to share their views. We expect this will take place in mid 2024 to early 2025.

18. What about 2026?

The traffic modelling accounts for projected numbers in 2030, which is when the facility would be fully operational.

Staying informed

1. How are you engaging the community further and advertising this?

This consultation is a voluntary activity by HiQ prior to submitting our proposals to Victorian Government regulators. There will be further consultation from the Victorian Government prior to their decision on the proposals. HiQ will also continue to communicate with the community.

Prior to the February consultation, we ran advertisements for three weeks in the Sunbury Macedon Ranges Star Weekly, distributed a flyer through Australia Post to 15,122 eligible letterboxes in Sunbury and Bulla, shared emails with everyone who signed up to receive project updates since 2020, and contacted surrounding landholders and neighbours.

These efforts were to encourage anyone interested to join our information sessions during February 2024.

Since then, we have been in contact with several local media outlets to share information with them.

This consultation period will inform our applications and we will remain active in the community over the coming months to ensure anyone with questions has the opportunity to learn more.

We also have a dedicated project email address (getintouch@hiqualitysunbury.com.au) and phone line (03 9021 0678) and we encourage anyone to contact us at any time.

2. Assuming we don't get to answer all the questions on this call, is there a plan to respond to all questions in writing? Not only for this session but for others as well

This Q&A document captures all questions received through the community sessions and provides answers. Arcadis, HZI and HiQ have contributed to provide complete responses.

We encourage you to contact us at our dedicated project email address (getintouch@hiqualitysunbury.com.au) and phone line (03 9021 0678) if you have further questions.

3. Would be great if you can share the whole presentation for those of us who would like it. Is this presentation on YouTube?

The briefing presentation was developed to support presenters talking to the information shared and as such isn't suitable as a standalone document. The information from the briefing slides are covered in the fact sheets, which you can download from www.hiqualityecohub.com.au.

4. Can you please provide a link to where we can find these assessments? EPA website is not exactly easy to navigate.

HiQ's technical assessments will be made public via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>) once they have been submitted to the EPA and the EPA has had a chance to review the details. We expect that will be late 2024 to early 2025.

5. Where is all the info made public? Is it easy to access or like looking for a needle in a haystack?

HiQ's technical assessments will be made public via the Engage Victoria website (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>) once they have been submitted to the EPA and the EPA has had a chance to review the details. We expect that will be late 2024 to early 2025. Information is already live on HiQ's website at www.hiqualityecohub.com.au.

6. Can you clarify what will be on the engage.vic.gov.au site and when?

HiQ's application submission for our proposed EfW facility will be made public, including all supporting documentation and technical assessments that informed the application.

We expect that will be mid 2024 to early 2025.

7. Is the map to scale?

The map was designed based on Google and Nearmap aerial images of the surrounding area, which were overlaid with stylised graphics of the current and proposed facilities to make it clear for anyone interested. The documentation submitted to the EPA and made publicly available will have technical maps and plans available to scale.

8. Have you considered how this will affect the housing prices of people living here? This will make our suburb much less desirable.

The Sunbury Eco-Hub is identified in the SWRRIP and MWRRIP as a Hub of State of Significance for waste management in Victoria beyond 2046. This distinction was made by Sustainability Victoria and Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group. The site is also earmarked in the Sunbury South PSP as future industrial and commercial land, and potentially future residential land as per the planning panel's recommendations.

As a long-term operator in the area, we strive to integrate with the local community and uphold high safety and operational standards.

9. Why can't this meeting be longer to allow for questions?

We appreciate the interest and involvement of everyone who attended our sessions, and we want to be respectful of the time people are giving up to do so. We kept the meetings to one hour to present the information and provide some time for Q&As without taking up too much time from people's evenings. We have prepared this document to respond to all the questions we received during the sessions as a follow-up that anyone interested can read in their own time.

10. As you have our email, will you be providing us with regular updates?

Yes, we will be updating at key milestones of the process.

11. Will these slides be available on the website?

The PowerPoint was developed to support the presenters talking to each slide, and as such isn't suitable to share as a standalone document. All the information covered in the presentation is in the fact sheets and FAQ currently on the website, and in this document.

12. What types of jobs will be available or electrical, engineering or lesser "educated" blue collar jobs, i.e. labourers?

The proposed activities will require a wide range of roles - including engineers, skilled trades, technical specialists and essential operators and labourers.

13. Is there an email that we can register so we can be informed like from the EPA?

Yes, if you would like to be added to our database you can email getintouch@hiquality.com.au, or sign up at www.hiqualitysunbury.com.au.

The EPA will publish their process for community engagement on <https://engage.vic.gov.au/project>.

14. After 2 previous meetings, you would think more time would be allocated to enable open discussions.

We appreciate the interest and involvement of everyone who attended our sessions, and we want to be respectful of the time people are giving up to do so. We kept the meetings to one hour to present the information and provide some time for Q&As without taking up too much time from people's evenings. We have prepared this document to respond to all the questions we received during the sessions as a follow-up that anyone interested can read in their own time.

If you would like to be added to our database to receive any further updates you can email getintouch@hiquality.com.au, or sign up at www.hiqualitysunbury.com.au.

15. How will our questions here on the chat be answered 'through the process?'

This Q&A document captures all questions received through the community sessions and provides answers. It has been contributed to by Arcadis, HZI and HiQ to provide complete responses. It has been shared with everyone who registered for the sessions and published on the project's website (www.hiqualityecohub.com.au).

16. Can you please let us know on what website the compilation of answers will be posted after these consultations?

This document can be downloaded at www.hiqualityecohub.com.au.

17. Perhaps someone can write a list of abbreviations and post the list as an attachment we can download when we review this presentation on YouTube?

A glossary of key terms, including abbreviations and acronyms, can be found at the start of this document.

1. HiQ has incurred multiple EPA breaches for the PFAS waste storage. Can you comment on these and comment on the risks associated with potential dioxin exposure from breaching the standards?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedance in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. None of the issues covered by the charges caused any environmental harm or had any link to air quality.

We are taking these seriously, and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our environment team who are solely focused on compliance and environmental management.

2. Only 7 months ago HiQ in Sunbury received a total of 33 charges from the EPA for considerable failures. Why are they still being considered for this project?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedance in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. None of the issues covered by the charges caused any environmental harm.

We are taking these seriously, and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our environment team who are solely focused on compliance and environmental management.

3. 35 charges from the EPA? Why?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedance in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. These charges involved several underlying factors. None of the charges caused any environmental harm, and we have operated safely in Sunbury since 2003. All proposed activities will continue to uphold best practice standards.

We are taking these seriously, and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our environment team who are solely focused on compliance and environmental management.

4. Why is HiQ allowed to expand their operations when they had over 30 breaches?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedance in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. None of the issues covered by the charges caused any environmental harm. We are in discussions with the EPA about these charges and expect they will be resolved in the coming months.

We are taking these seriously, and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our environment team who are solely focused on compliance

and environmental management.

5. I don't think this increases your credibility or safety record. What about all of the spills of soil?

During the West Gate Tunnel Facility operations we acknowledge there were several instances of soil spillages when trucks were on route to HiQ's facility. External contractors working for the West Gate Tunnel Project were responsible for the truck movements and management of spoil, and HiQ didn't have any role in their compliance. However, we worked closely with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the EPA, and all project parties to resolve that issue. As the project progressed, we saw a significant decline in spill occurrences.

6. Given that HiQ had over 30 breaches during the West Gate Tunnel saga, what credibility do you have with the community that this will be conducted as you have stated?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedances in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. We are taking these seriously, and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our environment team who are solely focused on compliance and environmental management.

They are not related in any way to the West Gate Tunnel Project, and they didn't cause any environmental harm. We have operated safely in Sunbury since 2003. All proposed activities will continue to uphold best practice standards.

7. How is this being funded?

If this facility is approved, it would be designed, constructed, and operated as a commercial operation, and likely funded through a private consortium or joint venture, which would include HiQ.

8. Will you continue to expand in the future? Will Bulla/Sunbury continue to become a dumping ground for Victoria?

The site our facility operates on has been a quarry since the 1960s, and HiQ has operated there since 2003. Over that time, as the way society manages waste changes, we have evolved our facility to provide best practice technologies that manage and process material sustainably. As new technologies emerge, we will always assess and see if we can improve the way we operate, like we are doing now.

Our site is also earmarked for future commercial and industrial land in Sunbury South PSP, and we have a master plan for the site that aligns to Hume City Council's vision for the area.

9. Does HiQ have a fit and proper person to be permission holder considering the numerous EPA licence breaches at the existing site? Who is that person?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedances in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. None of the issues covered by the charges caused any environmental harm.

We are taking these seriously and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our Environment team who are solely focused on compliance and environmental management.

10. Were you still able to continue to operate with all those charges, and if so, will this take place if this facility goes ahead, and similar problems arise?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to licence exceedances in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. None of the issues covered by the charges caused any environmental harm.

We are taking these seriously, and have restructured our Victorian operations including adding members to our Environment team who are solely focused on compliance and environmental management. We have operated safely in Sunbury since 2003 and all proposed activities will continue to uphold best practice standards.

11. Given HiQ's previous performance, what credibility do they have with their "compliance"?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to slight exceedances in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. The charges are not related in any way to the West Gate Tunnel Project, and they didn't cause any environmental harm. We have operated safely in Sunbury since 2003. All proposed activities will continue to uphold best practice standards.

12. Not if they've shrewdly issued fines for 30 breaches. How can one feel confident?

EPA Victoria laid several charges against HiQ's Victorian site, largely in relation to slight exceedances in our leachate system and coverage in our landfill. They are not related in any way to the West Gate Tunnel Project, and they didn't cause any environmental harm. We have operated safely in Sunbury since 2003. All proposed activities will continue to uphold best practice standards.

