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MEDIA RELEASE

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ALTERNATIVE WASTE TECHNOLOGY DIVERTS WASTE FROM LANDFILL

The NSW Government has approved a \$60 million alternative waste technology facility at Lucas Heights that will divert around 70% of the incoming waste away from landfill.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said WSN Environmental Solutions' project was consistent with, and even exceeded, the Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy which includes a 66% resource recovery target for municipal waste.

"The project will generate up to 50 construction jobs with an additional 69 ongoing positions to be created once operations commence," the Minister said.

The new facility, to be located on part of the existing Lucas Heights Waste and Recycling Centre site, will use ArrowBio material separation and anaerobic digestion technology to process around 100,000 tonnes of solid waste per year from surrounding council areas.

Mr Kelly said this technology not only diverts waste from landfill, but has the added benefits of creating biogas that can then be used to generate electricity for the facility's operation.

"This project will generate around 2 megawatts of electricity from biogas – enough to power more than 2,000 homes – which will be used on-site and also exported to the electricity grid," the Minister said.

"The facility will also produce sludge that can be sold as a soil conditioning fertiliser."

A total of 56 conditions have been placed on the project, including:

- Implementation of an ongoing monitoring program to ensure operations are meeting appropriate waste management standards and performance measures; and
- All waste to be processed in negative pressure environments that vent via an approved air quality treatment process designed in consultation with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). An independent odour audit and validation must also be undertaken after six months of operation.

Mr Kelly said the NSW Government is committed to reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and projects like this have a critical role to play in that vision.

"The Metropolitan Strategy, for example, includes a distinct aim to reduce the city's resource usage and the amount of waste produced."