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Landfill extension great news for Sydney

The NSW Government has approved a \$7.5 million extension of the Eastern Creek waste and recycling centre, which will help meet western Sydney's waste needs.

The Department of Planning's Deputy Director-General Richard Pearson said he had approved the modification sought by WSN for the Eastern Creek site.

The approval provides additional and extended landfill capacity for Sydney, helping to meet existing demand and reduce cross-regional truck movements.

Being centrally located near the corner of the M4 and M7 motorways, the extended Eastern Creek facility is well-connected to major road infrastructure. It will also create 15 construction and 28 operational jobs.

The modification includes:

- Increasing the total landfill capacity from the existing 2.9 million tonnes to 4.5 million tonnes;
- Extending the landfill cessation date from 2014 for a further 36 months to June 2017, to accommodate the approved increase in capacity;
- Increasing the approved current waste disposal rate of 500,000 tonnes per annum to 550,000 through until 30 June 2017 (in addition to a potential 50,000 in emergency tonnage per annum).

The extension modification was exhibited but received no submissions from members of the public or interest groups.

An independent review of Sydney's landfill capacity by Tony Wright, released by the NSW Government earlier this year, found that Sydney had access to enough landfill capacity, but not all this capacity had planning approval.

He found there was a need to ensure this capacity was available to meet Sydney's waste demands.

At the same time, he said the NSW Government's waste levy would over time increase and continue to drive resource recovery of waste.

About 115 conditions have been placed on the development. Conditions include requiring WSN to:

- Offset the impacts of its proposal on local vegetation by taking part in the biobanking scheme;

- Rehabilitate the extension area to a public recreation standard once completed; and
- Commission an independent audit of the landfill's environmental performance every two years.

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