



Hon Tony Kelly MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council  
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **PLANNING MINISTER SCRAPS TIP IN ORCHARD HILLS**

The NSW Government has refused planning approval for a \$12.3 million landfill and waste recovery facility at a former quarry site at Orchard Hills in Sydney's west.

Minister for Planning Tony Kelly said the proposal by Dellara Pty Ltd to construct and operate the facility had been carefully assessed but had been deemed unacceptable.

"After a comprehensive merit based assessment process, I have decided to refuse the application for the Orchard Hills Waste Project," Mr Kelly said.

"I weighed the potential benefits of the project such as the resource recovery aspects of the proposal, along with community and Council concerns, Department of Planning recommendations, and my own observations from when I visited the site earlier in the year.

"I've concluded that the public benefit of an additional resource recovery facility does not outweigh the impacts that the proposal would have on the surrounding community."

The project was refused due to:

- a lack of strategic justification for a proposal of this size in this location close to residential areas;
- unresolved concerns regarding noise impacts on local residents; and
- unsightly visual impacts.

The facility designed to accept up to 450,000 tonnes of waste each year was placed on public exhibition for an extended period of two months concluding on June 30 this year.

"This project is a good example of the important role community consultation plays in the part 3A planning process.

Mr Kelly said he had listened closely to the concerns of local residents, meeting a delegation earlier in the year, led by local Penrith City Councillor, Prue Guillaume.

"There had been a strong community response to the proposal with more than 3,700 submissions received, nearly all of which opposed the project.

"Noise, water quality, dust and air quality impacts were some of the most commonly raised issues, along with concerns about traffic, health and odour impacts," Mr Kelly said.

The Department of Planning assessed the merits of the project and contracted independent waste expert, Mr Tony Wright to assist in the review of key issues.

"From my visit, I could see that there is clearly a need to rehabilitate the site," Mr Kelly said

"However, the scale of this particular proposal does not strike an appropriate balance between development and protection of the surrounding environment nor the amenities of local residents. Consequently, I can't support it.

"I encourage any future application for rehabilitation and development of the site to be undertaken in close consultation with the community, Penrith City Council and the Department of Environment Climate Change and Water."

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