



WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

Annastacia Palaszczuk
Premier of Queensland
Member for Inala
PO Box 15185
City East QLD 4002

REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd
Level 4 163 O'Riordan Street // Mascot
NSW 2020 // Australia

Mr Björn Becker
Chief Executive Officer

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Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Dear Ms Palaszczuk,

REMONDIS would like to congratulate you and your team on a successful campaign and re-election to lead Queensland through the post-pandemic recovery phase and into the next term. Due to your successful management of the pandemic so far, Australia and of course Queensland have the opportunity to emerge stronger from the crisis. Investment and job creation will play a key role in this.

REMONDIS is one of the world's leading waste, water and environmental management organisations, employing more than 37,000 people working in 800 locations that span 34 countries and four continents. REMONDIS is part of the RETHMANN group. RETHMANN is a family-owned holding company with three independent divisions: REMONDIS, Rhenus and SARIA. These separate businesses share a commitment to reliable service, customer focus and continuous innovation. RETHMANN also holds a 34 per cent stake in the Transdev Group, a leading international mobility company in the public transport sector. In Queensland alone, the RETHMANN Group proudly employs more than 700 people.

REMONDIS operates recycling, waste and water activities across seven sites, including a number of state-of-the-art waste and resource recovery facilities. These recycling facilities have been a core part of the Queensland waste management infrastructure for decades, processing roughly 1,000,000 tons of domestic recyclables & waste every year. It has long been our focus to expand and further develop this infrastructure with the aim of high-quality recycling in line with the principles of the waste hierarchy and development of the circular economy.

Continuous development of critical infrastructure plays a key role in ensuring our community's long-term prosperity. REMONDIS is committed to delivering positive social, environmental and economic outcomes for Queensland through its proposed *Clean Energy & Resource Recovery Precinct*. The \$700 million *Precinct* includes a flagship \$400 million Energy from Waste (EfW) facility. The *Precinct* will meet the most advanced technical standards and will contribute to the development of the South-East Queensland region. Processing household residual waste and other non-recyclable waste by generating energy is far superior to dumping waste in landfills for social, economic and ecological reasons.

REMONDIS' proposed EfW facility will process up to 500,000 tons of waste each year that cannot be reused or recycled. This infrastructure will significantly reduce the need for future landfills in South-East Queensland and generate up to 50MW of baseload clean electricity. Enough energy to power up to 50,000 average homes. The EfW facility will create approximately 200 jobs during the construction phase and up to 70 new, secure and local jobs once operational. The *Clean Energy & Resource Recovery Precinct* will generate even more permanent jobs in the Ipswich Region, as additional state-of-the art processing and resource recovery facilities are added during the development of the *Precinct*. REMONDIS' approach is following the intention of Australia's local, state and federal Governments to increase recycling rates and improve the circular economy. REMONDIS is committed to substantial investments which will contribute to a strong business location South-East-Queensland.

While REMONDIS welcomes the Queensland Coordinator-General's decision to declare its proposed *Clean Energy & Resource Recovery Precinct* Coordinated Project Status, REMONDIS is disappointed by the project delays experienced to date. REMONDIS submitted an Initial Advice Statement in December 2018, but did not receive the Coordinated Project Status declaration until 29th June 2020. Since the declaration was made, REMONDIS has experienced further delays from the Coordinator-General and has yet to receive the draft Terms of Reference for the project's Environmental Impact Statement.

EfW facilities are currently being built in Western Australia and similar projects are progressing through state-specific development pathways in Victoria and New South Wales. The proponents of these facilities, and the communities and local governments that will benefit from them, understand that without investment in EfW, Australia will continue to rely on landfills for the disposal of all residual waste.

It is REMONDIS' preference to see the *Precinct* succeed and to showcase Queensland as a clean energy and resource recovery leader using world-class proven technology. However, if further delays are anticipated, REMONDIS may be required to redirect the financial backing reserved for this project to alternative investments domestically or internationally.

The proposed *Precinct* is innovative, will generate jobs and direct significant investment into the local economy. As an organisation committed to Queensland, REMONDIS believes the time for investment in essential waste treatment infrastructure is now. REMONDIS is therefore committed to working in partnership with the Queensland Government to reduce further delays in the development process for the project and can provide any additional information upon request.

Kind regards,



Björn Becker

CEO / Managing Director

REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: EP/GM – TF/20/32260 – DOC/20/266581

19 January 2021

Mr Bjorn Becker
Chief Executive Officer /Managing Director
REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15785 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Becker

Thank you for your letter regarding your Clean Energy & Resource Recovery Precinct proposal. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade and I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Premier appreciates your warm congratulatory remarks and acknowledges the important contribution your organisation makes to Queensland's economy and jobs creation.

It was a tremendous honour to receive such strong support from Queenslanders to continue leading a strong recovery from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Queensland Government is getting straight down to business to start the process of implementing the election commitments.

The Queensland Government recognises the ingenuity, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Queenslanders and remains committed to supporting Queensland businesses to grow their businesses and create jobs in a global economy.

It is acknowledged that this year has been particularly challenging and in this new term, the Queensland Government is committed to creating jobs for Queenslanders. The Queensland Government has a clear plan for Queensland's economic recovery and will be working with the business and community sectors to protect Queenslanders' health, create jobs and plan long term for the future of Queensland.

Regarding the REMONDIS Waste to Energy Facility project, REMONDIS originally lodged an application for a coordinated project declaration in December 2018. However, on 4 April 2019, REMONDIS advised it was considering alternative options for assessment, effectively putting the declaration application on hold.

In late April 2020, REMONDIS wrote to the Coordinator-General asking for the reinstatement of its application for a coordinated project declaration and the Coordinator-General declared the REMONDIS Waste to Energy Facility a coordinated project on 29 June 2020, for which an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

In a letter dated 30 June 2020, the Coordinator-General strongly encouraged REMONDIS to discuss the project with the Federal Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) regarding the need for the project to be referred in accordance with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

I have been advised that in late October 2020, REMONDIS referred the project to DAWE for a decision on whether the project is a controlled action in accordance with the EPBC Act and that in late November 2020, DAWE requested additional information from REMONDIS regarding its application. The Coordinator-General has advised that a decision cannot be made by DAWE until this additional information is provided by REMONDIS.

In addition, a decision from DAWE is necessary prior to advertising the terms of reference for public comment, as REMONDIS has indicated its desire to utilise the assessment bilateral agreement between the Federal and Queensland Governments.

The Office of the Coordinator-General has advised that a copy of the preliminary draft terms of reference was provided to REMONDIS and Ipswich City Council for their review just prior to the end of 2020.

Again, thank you for your letter and updating the Premier on your project proposal.

Yours sincerely

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact the signature of Jim Murphy.

JIM MURPHY
CHIEF OF STAFF

Released under RTI-OPG

TF/21/19027

Stacey Kiem

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 9:09 AM
To: The Premier
Subject: ENERGY/REMONDIS Proposal to build an Energy from Waste facility at Swanbank
Attachments: Letter to the Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk MP.pdf

Good Morning,

Please find attached a response to a templated letter being circulated against the proposed REMONDIS Energy from Waste Facility at Swanbank. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or clarification.

[Redacted]
Project Manager – Swanbank Clean Energy and Resource Recovery Precinct

REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd
Swanbank Rd // Swanbank Qld 4305 // Australia
T [Redacted] // M [Redacted]
[Redacted] / remondis-australia.com.au



REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd // Head Office // Level 4, 163 O'Riordan Street // Mascot NSW 2020 // Australia // T +61 2 9032 7100 // info@remondis.com.au // remondis-australia.com.au // ABN 95 002 429 781 // ACN 002 429 781

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[Redacted]
Project Manager
Swanbank Clean Energy and
Resource Recovery Precinct

REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd
Swanbank Rd
Swanbank Qld 4305 // Australia

T
M
[Redacted]

The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of Queensland
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

REMONDIS Proposal to build an Energy from Waste facility at Swanbank

Dear Premier

I am writing in response to a templated letter (see attached) being circulated by a small group of Ipswich residents opposed to REMONDIS' proposed \$400 million Energy from Waste facility at Swanbank, currently a Queensland Government Coordinated Project.

The facility is proposed for a site adjacent to REMONDIS' existing landfill facility and is conceived as an investment in reducing the amount of waste being disposed of in that landfill.

CONCERN: Emissions

The principal concern raised in the attached letter relates to emissions. REMONDIS will be proposing the latest technology, in which waste is combusted at temperatures beyond 850 degrees Celsius, with a moving grate to ensure complete combustion.

Non-recoverable municipal solid waste (MSW) is generally a mix of organic substances, minerals, metals, and water. As this waste mix can vary, so does the amount of energy available so the incineration process is closely controlled to ensure complete combustion in the furnace. Any emissions are captured or purified in dedicated treatment systems.

In complete combustion, the main components of the gases emitted are water vapour, nitrogen, carbon dioxide and oxygen, however, in certain conditions such as incomplete combustion, there are smaller amounts of organic (e.g. dioxins and furans, HCl) and inorganic compounds (e.g. metals) that are not destroyed in the furnace which remain and are largely adsorbed and captured in the treated ash and waste water streams.

Modern, state-of-the-art Energy from Waste facilities are equipped with efficient treatment systems referred to as Flue Gas Treatment (FGT) designed to clean and purify the gases. The FGT includes various air pollution control systems such as organic and inorganic compound scrubbers, sorbents (for capture of compounds) and dust particulate collectors/bag filters that interact with each other to remove potential pollutants.

REMONDIS will ensure emissions meet both national and State regulatory standards.

CLAIM: New incinerators are banned in Europe

It is not true that new incinerators are banned in Europe. Some countries such as Denmark are making the choice to reduce their EfW capacity due to current oversupply in the market, but many other markets, including the UK, are currently developing new facilities.

The decision in Denmark is being presented by protest groups as 'bans' against the technology rather than an acceptance that they had too many facilities and were importing waste to keep them running.

CLAIM: More rubbish coming to the precinct

The reality is REMONDIS is proposing the facility as an alternative to its existing landfill. It will be part of a proposed recycling and recovery precinct where the focus is extracting value from the existing supply of waste. While the Energy from Waste plant is designed to take in material that is currently being sent to landfill in the Ipswich area, the broader precinct is expected to have many different recycling and processing facilities that will divert material away from landfills in other parts of South East Queensland as well.

Ipswich City Council has released a clear strategy to become the resource recovery capital of QLD. REMONDIS' proposed precinct, including the Energy from Waste facility, is aligned with this strategy.

REMONDIS is expecting to lodge a Development Application with Ipswich City Council for a tunnel composting facility in the coming months as part of this broader investment. It will be coupled with a further investment by REMONDIS in a waste reduction community education campaign.

Yours sincerely

REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd



Project Manager – Swanbank Clean Energy and Resource Recovery Precinct



No Incinerators For Ipswich

June 25 at 7:14 PM · 🌐

People have asked us how they can object to Waste to Energy Incinerator proposals. The project is being assessed as a state coordinated project, which means we are not being given any of the technical specifications and have not been advised to when the community consultation period will start.

However you can still register an objection with all three levels of government to demonstrate that the scheme does not have the social licence to operate so close to where our families live.

We have written a template letter for you to copy and personalise, and then email to the leaders of local, state and federal government. Feel free to add your own comments about why you don't want an incinerator near your home. Let us know in the comments what responses you get.

Dear (recipient)

As a resident of Ipswich I wish to express my concerns with the proposed Waste to Energy (WTE) Incinerator proposals for our City.

Energy from incineration is not sustainable, renewable or environmentally friendly and will not assist Australia to meet its greenhouse gas emissions targets, as it immediately releases CO₂ into the atmosphere which then takes many decades to re-sequester.

Incinerators are primary sources of persistent organic pollutants, contaminating food chains and building up to dangerous levels in humans and animals. New incinerators have been banned in Europe. The filtering technology is not capable of removing all of the toxins from the emissions or residues. They produce concentrated hazardous waste and release toxic air pollution.

Incineration will require hundreds of tonnes of waste to be delivered in order to operate 24 hours a day, every day, meaning more rubbish trucks, more waste and more air, land and water pollution. This increases social, health and economic disadvantage in regions already experiencing disadvantage.



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *ENV/EC – TF/21/19027 – DOC/21/199183*

29 September 2021

[Redacted]

Project Manager
REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd
sarah.collins@remondis.com.au

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15785 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of 26 August 2021 regarding the proposed REMONDIS Energy from Waste facility at Swanbank. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade.

The Queensland Government is aware of the community concerns regarding the impacts from waste and resource recovery operations, particularly in the Swanbank region. Therefore, community input into the Environmental Impact Study will be vital in understanding and communicating the project's potential impacts.

Again, thank you for writing to the Premier.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

T. LINLEY
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC POLICY

Released under RTI - DP



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *ENV/EC – TF/21/19027 – DOC/21/199183*

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
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[Redacted]
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Again, thank you for writing to the Premier.

Yours sincerely

T. LINLEY
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC POLICY

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