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Update on Energy from Waste in NSW

13 MAY 2025

Tooloom National Park
Credit: Destination NSW



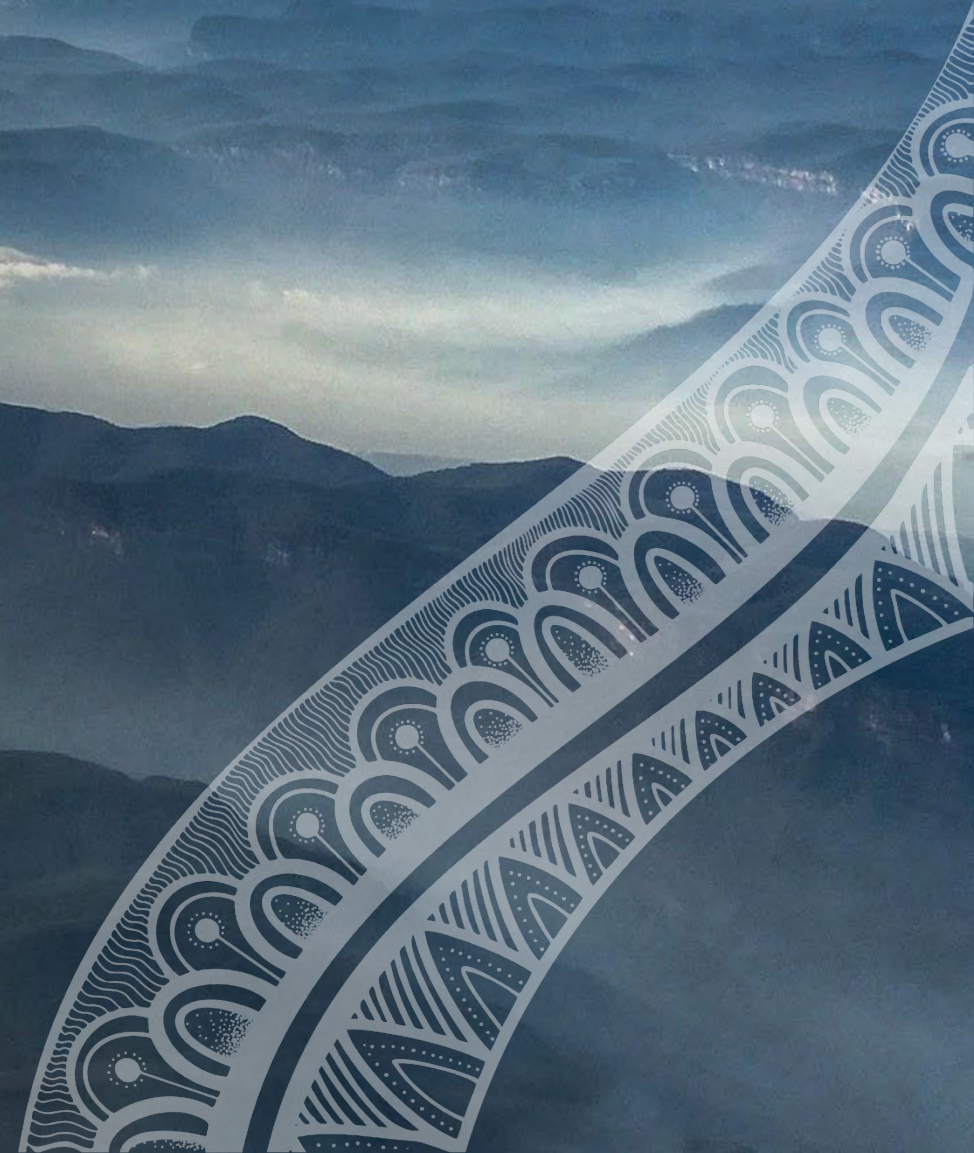
Acknowledgement of Country



The NSW Environment Protection Authority acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, honours the ancestors and the Elders both past and present and extends that respect to all Aboriginal people.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples' spiritual and cultural connection and inherent right to protect the land, waters, skies and natural resources of NSW. This connection goes deep and has since the Dreaming.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce, and recognise the knowledge and wisdom embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and culture.





Energy from Waste in NSW



Setting the scene:

- Waste management context in NSW
- What is EfW?
- NSW EfW framework
- Facilities in place and in the pipeline

Work underway

- EfW Framework Review - Options Paper

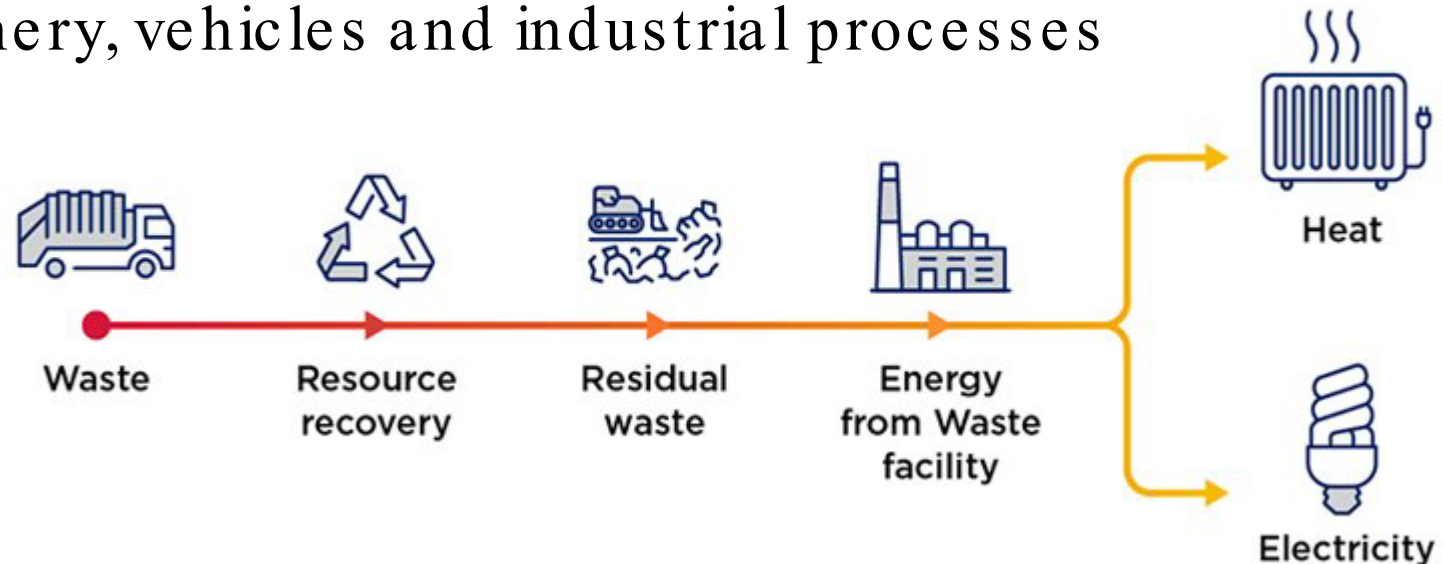
Next steps

- Options paper—recommendations
- Work to assess and advise on new proposals
- Better information for community

What is Energy from Waste (EfW)?



- Waste that is thermally treated to recover the embodied energy in that material
- Energy can be recovered as heat or as a solid, liquid or gaseous fuel
- Outputs can be used to generate electricity or used in machinery, vehicles and industrial processes





Waste Management in NSW



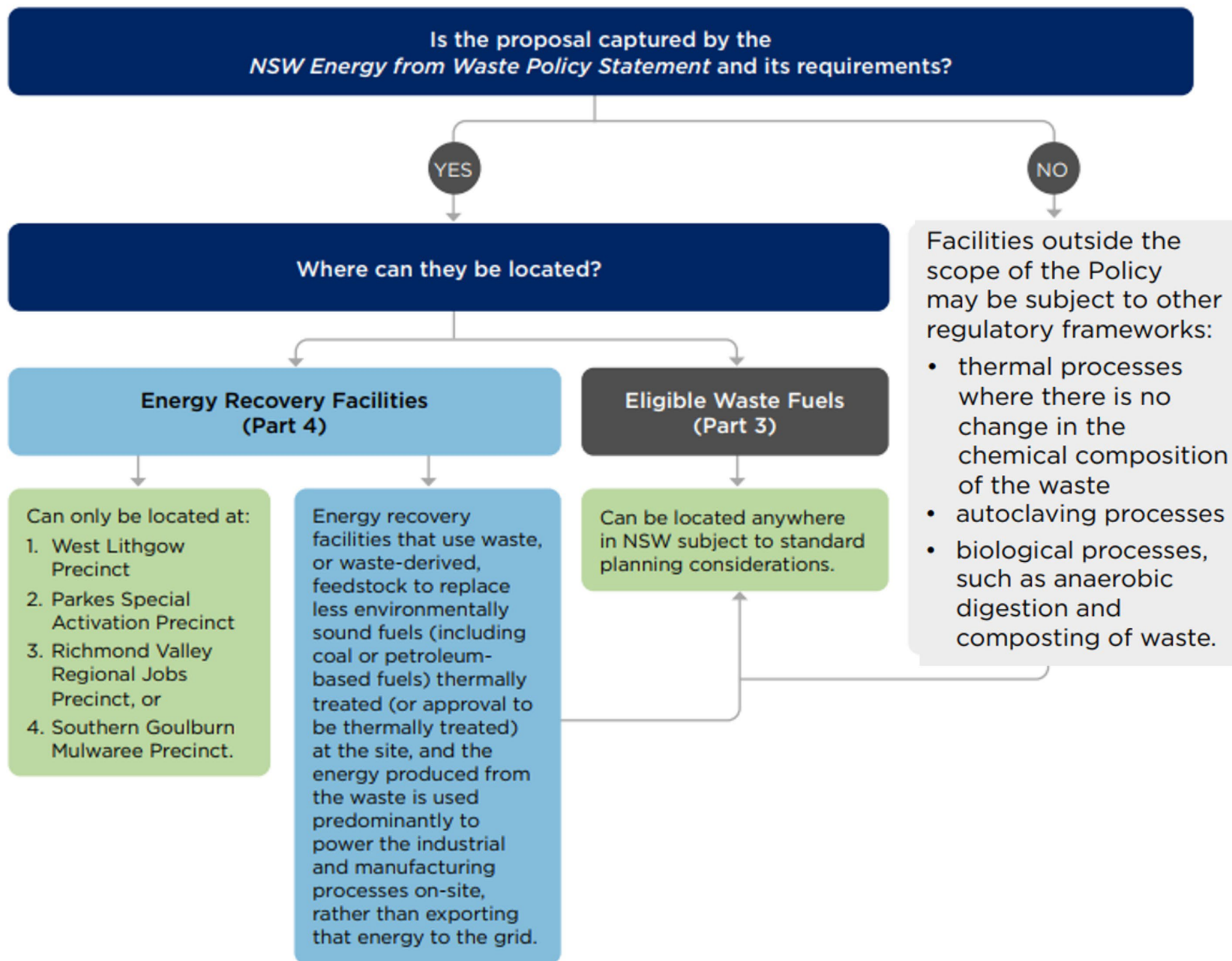
- Range of initiatives - minimise waste, maximise recycling
- Waste Less Recycle More, waste levy, Return and Earn, community recycling centres
- Currently recycle about two thirds of our waste
- NSW 20-year waste strategy – WASM
 - Energy from Waste (EfW) is a legitimate residual waste management option
 - EfW facilities are needed to help meet the State's residual waste disposal needs over the next two decades
- EfW can add diversity and resilience to our system



NSW EfW Framework



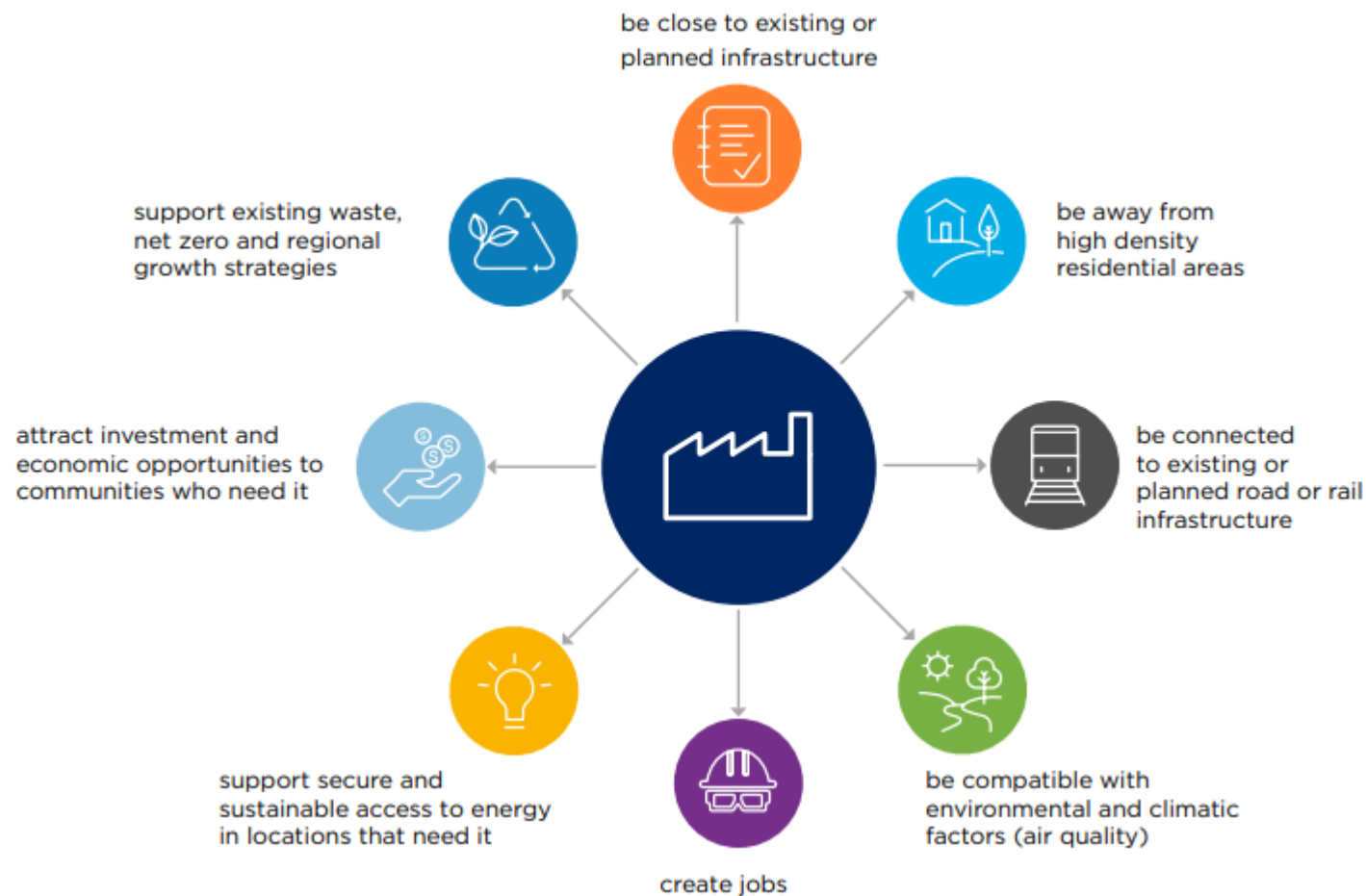
- The NSW Government supports thermal energy recovery as a residual waste management option
- Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulation 2022
 - Prohibits the thermal treatment of waste that involves or results in energy recovery
 - Exceptions to the prohibition-nominated precincts, eligible waste fuels, replacing less environmentally sound fuel
 - Excludes some thermal waste processing activities not considered to be EfW



NSW EfW Framework



The locations should:





NSW EfW Framework



- Energy from Waste Policy Statement
 - Technical requirements for an EfW facility including air emissions limits and monitoring requirements
 - Must demonstrate supply of feedstock in accordance with the resource recovery criteria
- Robust planning assessment framework
 - Thorough assessment required from proponents
 - Advice from key agencies, including EPA
 - Public consultation

EfW Facilities in NSW



- Veolia “Woodlawn Eco-Precinct Advanced Energy Recovery Centre” proposal—currently under assessment. Up to 380,000 tonnes per year of residual waste.
- Tribe Infrastructure Group “Parkes Energy Recovery” proposal— not yet in planning system. Estimated 600,000 tonnes / year.
- Boral cement kiln - Bowral
- Green Distillation Technologies tyre pyrolysis facility - Warren

EfW Framework review



- Options paper released for consultation – closes 16 May
- Seeking feedback on possible changes to the EfW framework:
 - Changes to the precincts
 - Changes to the definition of thermal treatment
 - Changes to the exception relating to powering industrial or manufacturing processes on site





EfW Options Paper



- Precincts –consulting on whether:
 - Richmond Valley Jobs Precinct no longer identified as a priority infrastructure area and the map revoked.
 - West Lithgow Precinct boundaries extended to include the former Wallerawang power station and a map gazetted.
 - A new priority infrastructure area is established for Tomago and a map gazetted.
 - No changes to Parkes Special Activation Precinct and Southern Goulburn Mulwaree Precinct.



EfW Options Paper



- Definition of Thermal Treatment—consulting on:
 - Expand the exclusions to allow processes that treat waste to produce ‘like for like’ products or inputs for those products, not only for plastic.
 - Expand the exclusions to allow for processes that make a product that has a clear environmental benefit in line with criteria specified in the regulation or guidelines.



EfW Options Paper



- Change to exception for powering onsite industrial or manufacturing processes –consulting on:
 - Adjust the exception under clause 144(4) of the regulation to enable the EPA to consider and allow proposals to replace liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas, and liquefied natural gas with energy recovery from waste, on a case-by-case basis.

Next Steps



- Options paper—review subs and make recommendations
 - Over 250 submissions to date
 - Significant community and industry interest
- Work to assess and advise on new proposals
 - EPA has key role in planning assessment and advice
 - Ensuring proposals are sound and assessments are timely
- Better information for community on EfW
 - Based on latest information and studies
 - Sound risk communication principles

Thanks.