

Tuesday 12 October 2021

Maryvale Energy from Waste – project update

Creating Energy from Waste Information Centre relocates to Morwell Innovation Centre

Opal Australian Paper's Creating Energy from Waste (EfW) Information Centre has moved to the state-of-the-art Morwell Innovation Centre, located on the first floor at 1 Monash Way, Morwell.

To mark the relocation, the Mayor of Latrobe City Council, Councillor Sharon Gibson, officially opened the new Centre on Tuesday 12 October 2021 at 10.30am.

The new location provides a vibrant space where the community can visit and learn about the latest developments for the Maryvale EfW project and how it will make better use of residual waste by generating energy and reducing landfill.

The Creating Energy from Waste Information Centre is open every Tuesday, 10am – 3pm (subject to COVID-19 restrictions).

Bottom ash recycling

The Maryvale EfW project will use residual waste, diverting it from landfill and recovering valuable energy that would otherwise be lost.

During the process of creating the energy, ash residues are produced as by-products. The project is building on its sustainability credentials and alignment with the circular economy principles by investigating innovative and viable options to recycle and reuse these by-products from the energy generating process.

The ash residues, known as incinerator bottom ash or IBA, contain ferrous metals and non-ferrous metals, which can be recovered and recycled. Another by-product is ash aggregate, known as IBAA, which is commonly used in construction materials.

The planned Maryvale EfW facility will feature an IBA recycling facility to be operated by SUEZ. A global leader in waste management, SUEZ operates 26 IBA facilities worldwide, including an IBA Centre of Excellence in Belgium, and will apply best practice to the proposed IBA recycling facility in Maryvale.

In partnership with the project consortium comprising Opal, SUEZ and Masdar Tribe Australia, Monash University is undertaking a research and development program assessing the feasibility of using IBAA materials in a number of construction applications.

Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) has also been engaged to undertake a recycled aggregates market assessment for the Gippsland and metropolitan regions and has identified an increasing demand for recycled aggregates.

Mr David Jettner, GM Corporate Development & Strategic Projects, Opal says there has already been interest from potential off-takers for the ash aggregates.

“Regional recyclers, aggregate suppliers and construction companies have expressed an interest in the opportunity to reuse ash aggregates in a range of applications, including as road base,” said Mr Jettner.

“The project will bring investment of over \$500 million to the Latrobe Valley and create an estimated 500 jobs in Victoria and the Gippsland region during the three-year construction phase, with additional ongoing regional jobs,” said Mr Jettner.

The Maryvale EfW facility, which has EPA works and Latrobe City Council planning approval, will divert 325,000 tonnes of waste from landfill each year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 270,000 tonnes per annum.

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