



Media release

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Victoria's first energy from waste licence awarded to Maryvale 'Energy from Waste' project

The Maryvale Energy from Waste (EfW) project has been successfully awarded the first Energy from Waste licence from Recycling Victoria under the Waste to Energy Scheme.

The EfW facility will process non-recyclable municipal solid waste (MSW) that would otherwise go to landfill, to generate energy for the Maryvale pulp and paper mill. By doing so, it aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Victoria by an estimated 270,000 tonnes per year, which is equivalent to taking 50,000 cars off the road annually.

The Maryvale Energy from Waste (EfW) project is developed by a consortium of partners including Opal, Veolia and Masdar Tribe Australia.

The licence award coincides with the start of the detailed geotechnical study at the location of the EfW facility, in preparation for construction design and costings. This involves drill holes, surface soil sampling and speciality electro-seismic surveys.

Spanish infrastructure group Cobra Instalaciones y Servicios SA (Cobra) will use the findings of the geotechnical study to enable engineering designs and costings for the foundations of the facility at the Maryvale EfW site.

Victorian Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos said the Waste to Energy Scheme is a key initiative that will help the state reach its target of diverting 80 percent of waste from landfill by 2030.

"Projects like this mean more waste is diverted from landfill while creating new jobs across regional Victoria."

"We have a robust framework to regulate waste to energy in Victoria, this is the first step in the process which will ensure all facilities meet best-practice environment protection requirements, reduce waste to landfill and demonstrate social licence with surrounding communities."

Mr Richard Kirkman, CEO and Managing Director for Veolia Australia and New Zealand, said it brings Victoria closer to its sustainability goals.

"We know we need to look beyond landfill to reach net zero, and EfW is one way in which to divert from landfill.

"These facilities have been converting waste into heat and electricity by means of combustion, as well as enabling recycling of metals and reuse of aggregates. In comparison to landfilling, they also manage waste immediately rather than leaving it to future generations to manage," said Mr Kirkman.

The [National Waste Report 2022](#) found Victoria has the second highest waste to landfill amount in Australia, which has seen a 15 per cent increase since 2016-17.

The facility will provide an innovative and sustainable waste management solution to Councils for their non-recyclable residual waste, by recovering energy and valuable materials and diverting it from landfill.

Councils will not be locked in to supplying fixed waste volumes to the facility which will offer a 'waste arising' contract model, giving them the freedom to pursue alternate waste reduction initiatives without incurring any penalty.

Abdulla Zayed, Masdar's Director, Development and Investment, said, "As the UAE's clean energy powerhouse, Masdar is deeply committed to working with global partners to develop innovative solutions to accelerate our path towards net zero.

"We welcome further development on the Maryvale Energy from Waste project. Innovations in non-recyclable residual waste management are seeing the industry divert more waste away from landfill, while reducing emissions, producing energy and creating jobs.

“Leveraging world-leading technology and expertise, Masdar Tribe Australia, Opal and Veolia’s partnership is now one step closer to supporting reduced emissions and benefitting local communities. We look forward to the prospect of construction commencing and the generation of sustainable energy in Victoria,” said Abdulla Zayed.

Opal’s CEO, Mr Chris Nagaura, said being awarded Victoria’s first energy from waste licence was a significant step forward for the Maryvale project, which is the most progressed of its kind in the State.

“The Maryvale Energy from Waste project will create an innovative new energy industry in the Latrobe Valley. The geotechnical study at the project site demonstrates real progress towards the development of this world-class facility, which is expected to support approximately 500 jobs during the construction phase,” said Mr Nagaura.

The project is the recipient of a \$48.2 million grant from the Australian Government as part of the Modern Manufacturing Initiative and the \$550,000 geotechnical study is funded through the grant.

About the Maryvale Energy from Waste project

The state-of-the-art EfW facility will be constructed at Opal Australian Paper’s Maryvale Mill in the Latrobe Valley. Veolia, which already operates 65 EfW facilities around the world, will operate and maintain the facility. The EfW facility will use non-recyclable residual waste to produce steam and electricity to supply the Mill. It will feature world-class, leading technology providing superior reliability, compliance to stringent emissions standards, superior energy efficiency and is targeting more than 99% diversion of waste away from landfill, consistent with circular economy principles. The Maryvale EfW project has EPA Victoria and Latrobe City Council regulatory approvals for construction.

Learn more: <https://opalanz.com/future/energy-from-waste>

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