



Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: D20/181094

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Brisbane Queensland 4000
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8 December 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition numbers 3416-20 and 3383-20 tabled in Parliament on 8 September 2020, objecting to a waste incinerator in Queensland and seeking that a current proposal within the Ipswich City Council local government area be rejected. I note an interim response was provided by the Honourable Kate Jones, former Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation, on 8 October 2020.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the petitioners, and I note that Members of Parliament from the local area have also conveyed concerns expressed by their constituents about the proposal. This included a private members' statement made to Parliament on 10 September 2020 by Mr Lance McCallum MP, Member for Bundamba, in which Mr McCallum tabled a copy of a letter dated 3 September 2020 to the Coordinator-General regarding the proposed REMONDIS Waste to Energy Facility. On 9 September 2020, four Members of Parliament issued a statement entitled *Ipswich MPs: Better options than waste to energy*. The statement included the position that a waste to energy facility in Swanbank is not appropriate for Ipswich as a growing community.

The Coordinator-General has advised that she will continue to progress the impact assessment process for the REMONDIS Waste to Energy Facility, which will include comprehensive community consultation to understand specific detail about people's concerns, and preparation by the proponent of an extensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to demonstrate if such concerns are able to be avoided, reduced, managed or mitigated. The community will be consulted on both the terms of reference for the EIS and on the proponent's draft EIS.

With regard to the coordinated project declaration for the REMONDIS project, it should be noted that the declaration does not imply government approval, support for, or commitment to the project. Rather, it means the project met the requirements under legislation for such a declaration and will now go through a rigorous assessment of all environmental, social and economic effects which will be informed by extensive community consultation. This includes the most rigorous environmental assessment process available under Queensland law.

The terms of reference for the EIS are currently being drafted. The terms of reference will state what the proponent must address in the EIS to understand the project's impacts and how these are proposed to be managed. The terms of reference will include requirements for wide-ranging public consultation to understand specific detail about people's concerns. Before finalising the terms of reference, the community will be invited to have their say on the document.

In terms of any outcome of the EIS process, the Coordinator-General's evaluation of an EIS may not necessarily conclude that the project should proceed. After considering the environmental effects of the project presented in the EIS, the Coordinator-General may conclude that the project be refused. Alternatively, if she finds that the project be approved, REMONDIS will need to apply for and obtain the relevant development approvals through Ipswich City Council and the Department of Environment and Science. The Coordinator-General's EIS evaluation does not limit the discretion of these regulators to subsequently refuse the project.

The Queensland Government is committed to addressing the issue of reducing waste to landfill, and to building new job-creating industries in the process. Government is also mindful of the legitimate concerns of the community in regard to this proposal and will work with council to ensure that potential impacts to air, water and public amenity are a high priority in considering the project.

I thank the petitioners for raising their concerns and trust this information is of assistance.

In accordance with Standing Order 31, I request this response be tabled.

Your sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
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