

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 March 2020

Councils seek a smarter solution for household rubbish

Glen Eira City Council and 15 other councils from the south east of Melbourne have commenced the first collective tender for advanced waste processing solutions that will process household rubbish instead of sending it straight to landfill.

"This is the biggest tender for new waste management infrastructure ever undertaken by councils in Melbourne," Glen Eira Mayor Cr Margaret Esakoff said.

"Advanced waste processing will transform how Glen Eira manages the rubbish we collect from residents."

Advanced waste processing technologies are being used successfully and safely overseas to recover valuable materials in household rubbish or transform it into energy. These technologies can reduce the amount of household rubbish sent to landfill by at least 85 per cent and reduce our impact on the environment.

Population growth in the south east is driving a substantial increase in rubbish. Household rubbish in the 16 councils is projected to increase by 40 per cent over the next 25 years. Rubbish will all go to landfill unless another solution is found.

Landfills in the south east are set to close in a few years, which means councils will have to transport rubbish across Melbourne to other landfills.

"Advanced waste processing is a great solution for household rubbish that would normally go to landfill. We still need to continue kerbside recycling and green and food waste collection services as part of a total approach to managing waste," Cr Esakoff said.

"Advanced waste processing will do more with the valuable resources that are being put in landfill and achieve better financial, environmental and social outcomes."

The tender has started with an Expression of Interest to identify businesses with the right experience and capability to design, build and operate a facility. It will take another two years before a preferred bid is selected.

No decisions have been made yet regarding the type or location of any facilities. This will be identified during the procurement process.

It will be five to six years before a facility is operating.

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