

Our vision for Wallerawang Power Station is to create a vibrant world-class precinct that reinstates the site as the heartbeat of the local community. Ultimately on our site we expect a diverse range of uses including industrial, commercial, tourism, residential and recreational to contribute to the ongoing evolution of Lithgow's economy. The site and the Lithgow area more broadly have a wonderfully rich history. Understandably, there are high expectations from stakeholders for our site's next chapter and for the future of the region as a whole.

As part of the mix, we are now exploring the possibility of an energy from waste facility (EfW) in addition to the region's portfolio of circular economy, energy generation and storage facilities. After doing substantial research and liaising with experts in the field, we believe it would be beneficial to our community for several reasons, including:

- Modern technology and world-class emissions standards **ensure health and safety standards are met and/or exceeded**;¹
- It would provide reliable power and heat, which would **attract additional developments and create new jobs onsite and to the area**;
- It would be a **progressive part of the development of our precinct** – taking up less than 2% of the total site;
- It has the potential to **accelerate other development objectives** such as the enhancement of the Lake Wallace foreshore as a priority tourism destination;
- **It uses waste as a resource**, rather than sending it all to landfills.

With innovation and new technologies, there is no reason why we shouldn't be able to recycle and reuse a greater percentage of total community waste and find a better way to manage the residual waste. **EfW is an important part of the solution to Australia's waste problem.**²

What We've Heard from You

Many of you have written to us with your questions about the health and environmental impacts of EfW. We have answered some of these here and you can find more on our website www.greenspot.com.au/efw/.

Has a complete health study been completed yet and will this be made available to the public? A quantitative human health risk assessment using air quality data and modelling would be expected as part of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EIS is a required component of any State Significant Development Application and would be exhibited publicly and fully transparent during the application process.

Do the concentrated emissions at any time of the day exceed levels of safety for humans or animals? No. An EfW in NSW would not be permitted for development if scientific modelling predicted that the emissions are likely to contain pollutants deemed unsafe by the NSW EPA. By law, emissions from an EfW would need to be monitored and published in real time to ensure compliance with those levels.

Is it true residents or anyone with the internet can monitor the emissions in real time, 24/7? Yes. The NSW EPA's 2021 EfW Policy states: "To the extent practicable validated emission monitoring data must be made available publicly through an online portal in near real time."

Our thanks to everyone who has submitted questions via email and social media. You'll find more in-depth answers to your health and air quality questions, along with responses to questions about the EfW process and other topics.

[▶ Information & Resources](#)



What We Know About EfW and Air Quality

People often think of waste burning in a backyard barrel with toxic black smoke billowing out. This is precisely why burning waste in your yard is illegal. Fortunately, it bears no resemblance to a modern EfW facility.

EfW facilities are designed to keep the thermal treatment process completely contained. Gases and steam from the combustion process are treated before being released to ensure impacts on surrounding air quality are managed.³

When considering the emissions, modern EfW facilities perform better than many industrial sites, which are required to comply with lesser standards. By diverting waste from landfill and using it to generate energy, an **EfW facility would reduce net greenhouse gas emissions when compared to landfill.**

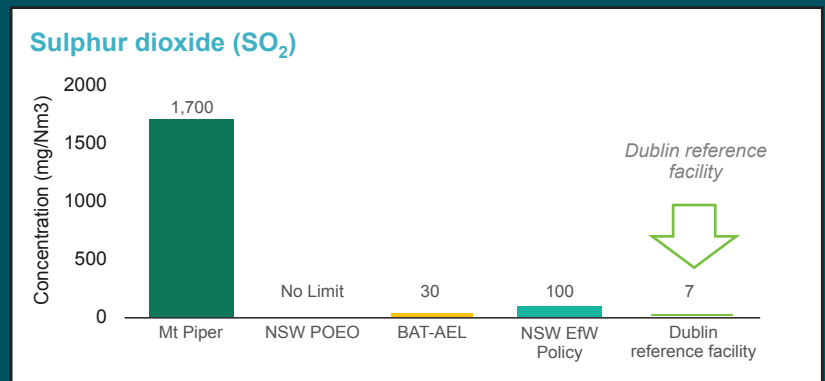
EfW and Health

Concerns about potential health impacts rightly dominate any industrial development project. It is important to know, the most recent studies and literature reviews by reputable independent researchers, show that modern plants meeting the European Union's Industrial Emissions Directive **are not associated with negative health outcomes.**⁵ Many facilities in Europe that don't meet those standards have been or are being shut down in favour of new technology.

NSW Government Regulations would ensure approved facilities are safe for human health.

Find footnote references on our website www.greenspot.com.au/efw
 1. NSW EfW policy statement, EU-IED and BREF best available techniques
 2. Federal government action plan and NSW government strategy
 3. Video of Dublin EfW Facility - a virtual tour
 4. Mt Piper emissions comparisons
 5. Reputable independent studies and literature research

Many members of the community have asked how emissions from a potential EfW facility would compare to Mt Piper Power Station. Here's one example: sulphur dioxide – SO₂ – a common pollutant associated with coal-burning plants that is known to irritate the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory system.



The above graph compares SO₂ emissions from the following:

- EPA prescribed licenced limits for Mt Piper Power Station;
- Standards outlined in the NSW's Protection of the Environment Operations Act (NSW POEO) Emissions Limits;
- EfW "Best Available Techniques" (BAT-AEL), which is the European Standard for EfW;
- NSW's EfW Policy Statement (NSW EfW Policy);
- Actual emissions from a facility in Dublin that is similar in technology, size and waste volume to the one being considered at Wallerawang.

Three other emissions are compared as per above and the analysis can be found on our website ⁴

We will be holding a second Community Consultation Night for anyone from the broader Lithgow Community to attend. Representatives from Greenspot and Cleanaway will share information about the opportunity, including a status report and what we have learned so far. This will include ample time for Q&A and discussion.

Event Details: Wednesday April 6 2022, 6:30pm at the Civic Ballroom Lithgow.

Looking to do your own research? We encourage people to be as informed as possible about EfW. We have compiled a collection of relevant resources for the community on our website, www.greenspot.com.au/efw/. For further research we suggest utilising independent, objective scientific studies. Refer to recent studies (dated 2015 or later) that specifically look at facilities compliant with EU-IED standards, as any facility in NSW will need to meet or exceed these.