

**Item 13.6****Notices of Motion****Waste to Energy**

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) total NSW waste generated per capita rose from 2.42 tonnes to 2.69 tonnes per capita over the three years to 2017-18;
  - (ii) NSW recycling rates (percentage of total waste stream recycled) are flat lining, from 65 per cent in 2016-2017 to 65 per cent in 2017/18; and
  - (iii) overall, the total tonnes of NSW waste disposed into landfill increased by 8 per cent between 2015-16 and 2017-18;
- (B) Council note, under our 'Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan, that the City of Sydney:
- (i) strongly supports the circular economy;
  - (ii) places a priority on recycling waste before utilising alternatives like waste to energy; and
  - (iii) has a target of 90 percent of waste being diverted from landfill by 2030;
- (C) Council note:
- (i) that the NSW Government is currently preparing a 20-year Waste Strategy, aimed at providing a long-term vision and road map for reducing waste, driving sustainable recycling markets and improving the waste infrastructure network;
  - (ii) the Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean MP, has expressed the view that there is no social license for a Waste to Energy Plant in the Sydney basin;
  - (iii) the Shadow Minister for Health, Chris Bowen MP, has noted "Another stupid proposal to build a bloody big incinerator in our community, this time at Horsley Park/Eastern Creek. No amount of spin our "clean energy" changes the fact that this is a massive incinerator which will emit fumes right across Western Sydney"; and

- (iv) UNSW Scientia Professor Sahajwalla's comments that "It is not a good idea to burn materials for the purpose of generating energy";
- (D) Council endorse that:
- (i) waste to energy technology is not a sustainable waste management option as it treats waste as a single use commodity;
  - (ii) the City of Sydney will pursue an effective circular economy strategy, prioritising the reduction of waste and, where not possible, a recycling strategy that effectively re-uses waste wherever possible;
  - (iii) waste to energy plants contribute to emissions and are not renewable as they depend on single use waste for fuel; and
  - (iv) waste to energy technology should only be used to meet our targets set out in the City's 'Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan' once all options for reducing waste and recycling waste have been thoroughly examined and exhausted; and
- (E) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to develop stronger targets for waste reduction, and recycling, and bring back to Council an amended "Leave Nothing to Waste Strategy and Action Plan' in early 2020, in order to drive a more sustainable outcome.

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