



## \$160 mil waste processing plans unveiled for Weston

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**Plans have been unveiled for a \$160 million waste processing and energy facility in the Hunter Valley, to take rubbish from multiple regions from the Central Coast to northern New South Wales.**

Omega Energy is proposing to build the resource and energy recovery plant at the Hunter Industrial Ecology Park at Weston.

The first stage would involve processing 90,000 tonnes of waste per year.

Omega's business development manager, Shannon Sullivan, said the waste would be heated to produce a clean, synthetic gas.

"It's a plasma arc furnace, similar to steel industry and other industries use it," he said.

"It gets elevated to around 1200 degrees, breaks down at a molecular level so you produce a clean syngas.

"And then the gas goes through scrubbers, and other things - a gas turbine - and then you produce energy."

Mr Sullivan said high tipping costs will make it financially viable.

"Normally the feasibility doesn't quite stack up for processing municipal solid waste," he said.

"But in Australia, and New South Wales in particular, because the tipping fee is so high with the waste levies and that, the EPA is driving that policy.

"We support the hierarchy in terms of reuse, recovery and recycling of materials, but there is always a residue and we're targetting that residue that would normally end up in a landfill."

**Topics:** recycling-and-waste-management, alternative-energy, electricity-energy-and-utilities, weston-2326, newcastle-2300

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**PHOTO:** Artist's impression of plans for the Omega Energy Hunter resource and energy recovery facility at Weston. (Omega Energy)

**MAP:** Weston 2326