

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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WOLLONGONG SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GOES GREEN!

Methane gas from Sydney's Wollongong Sewage Treatment Plant is being converted to green energy using state-of-the-art combustion technology.

Member for Wollongong Noreen Hay today switched on a new electricity-producing cogeneration engine that will provide enough green energy to power over 20 per cent of the plant.

"The new engine uses state-of-the-art combustion technology to convert methane gas into green energy," Ms Hay said.

"By using this engine at the Wollongong Sewage Treatment plant, the Illawarra is helping to cut Sydney Water's greenhouse gas emissions by about 3,500 tonnes. That is the equivalent of taking over 800 cars off the road.

"Renewable energy generation is a key part of the NSW Government's commitment to making Sydney Water carbon neutral for energy use by 2020."

"We are spending \$60 million on cogeneration engines and hydro electric plants to help us achieve this goal," Ms Hay said.

Minister for the Illawarra, Paul McLeay said more than a million was invested in Wollongong Sewage Treatment Plant's new cogeneration engine.

"I know people in Wollongong are keen to see investment into more renewable energy, and this is a \$4 million investment in a renewable energy project in our area that benefits the environment and the community."

"It is great to see Wollongong and the Illawarra on the list of eco-friendly areas, actively reducing carbon emissions.

"This is a valuable use of a by-product of the sewage treatment process that reduces the dependence on using energy from the grid as the Plant is creating its own green energy," Mr McLeay said.

Mr McLeay said the cogeneration engine at Wollongong is one of 11 renewable energy projects operating or under construction at sewage treatment plants and water pipelines across greater Sydney.

Once all 11 renewable energy projects are complete, Sydney Water will generate one fifth of its energy needs and reduce carbon emissions by almost 80,000 tonnes a year, which is the equivalent of taking about 20,000 cars off the road in total."

Cogeneration engines are already operating at Malabar, Cronulla, North Head, Glenfield, Liverpool, Warriewood and Bondi sewage treatment plants. Three hydro renewable energy projects are currently under construction at Prospect, Woronora and North Head.