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Dear neighbour,

## RE: HELMONT ENERGY CASINO BIOHUB PROJECT

You are invited to provide feedback on a proposed renewable energy project in Casino.

The Casino Biohub will be based at the Casino Food Co-op on Summerland Way. It will process organic waste to create renewable energy and compost for fertiliser. The biohub is being developed by Helmont Energy in partnership with the Co-op and has the backing of Australia's largest and most successful biogas company, LMS Energy.

The project will be assessed under a State Significant Development (SSD) application under Part 4, Division 4.7 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). This requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which includes a social impact assessment.

Element has been engaged by Helmont Energy to develop the social impact assessment (SIA) for the Casino Biohub. The purpose of this letter is to provide preliminary details about the project and invite you to participate in an online survey.

### **About the project**

The Casino Biohub will be built at the Casino Food Co-op's existing livestock processing and tannery on Summerland Way.

It will consist of three anaerobic digestion facilities. The project is expected to process around 900,000 tonnes of waste per year (mainly liquid waste) to generate 2.2 megawatts or 16,000 megawatt hours of electricity yearly. This is equivalent to powering 3000 homes. It will have the potential to expand to produce up to 4 megawatts in the future.

The facility will also use digestate (a by-product of the energy creation process) to create nutrient rich fertiliser for Co-op farmers. While the technology is proven overseas, this will be the first facility of its kind for an Australian abattoir site.

The project site will feature:

- a truck and loader manoeuvring area
- receivals area and pit
- covered anaerobic lagoon
- an anaerobic digester tank
- balance tank and blending tank with macerators
- supporting infrastructure including generators, office building, electricity connections and biogas and wastewater lines.

There will be several benefits generated by the project once it is operational, including:

- creation of 15-20, full time, local jobs
- reduction of waste being sent to landfill

- creation of renewable energy and fertiliser
- 90% reduction in the Co-op's carbon footprint.

## Project partners

The biohub is being developed by Helmont Energy in partnership with the Co-op and has the backing of Australia's largest bioenergy company, LMS Energy. Helmont will develop, operate and invest in the biohub. The Co-op will supply the necessary organic waste for the operation of the biohub. We have included a brief overview for each company below.

### Helmont Energy

Helmont energy is a developer of bioenergy projects focusing on agricultural industries and food processors. They aim to decarbonise the Australian economy by developing and using bioenergy in the agriculture, transport, natural gas and stationary energy sectors.

### LMS Energy

LMS is Australia's most successful biogas company and largest emissions reducer under the Emissions Reduction Fund. It has 62 biogas projects across Australia, New Zealand and the United States with around 250 dedicated biogas employees. LMS Energy projects abate methane emissions and generate enough renewable energy to power around 100,000 homes or 250,000 Australians each day.

### The Casino Food Co-op

The Co-op was established in 1933 and provides a diverse offering of world-class, sustainable processing through its multiple facilities in the NSW northern rivers. It currently boasts:

- 1000+ employees
- 500+ farmers producing quality livestock
- \$900m annual production value
- \$80m invested in innovation for its facilities in the five years prior to 2023
- 50,000 tonnes of quality product each year for national and international customers.

## Your feedback and contact details for future correspondence

We are genuinely interested in stakeholders' views on the Casino Biohub to ensure accurate input into the SIA. Please use the **QR code on this page** to share your feedback.

If you would like to be kept up to date on the project progress, please provide contact details to [jamie@elementenvironment.com.au](mailto:jamie@elementenvironment.com.au) or call or text 0466 413 645. Thank you for your interest in the proposed Casino Biohub project.

Kind regards



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