

Submission
No 316

INQUIRY INTO 'ENERGY FROM WASTE' TECHNOLOGY

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 28 May 2017

Partially
Confidential

I strongly object to the proposed construction of the Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility.

The burning of 1.35 million tonnes of residual waste per year may solve the problem of the amount of waste being sent to landfill but will it be creating another one in the future.

So many times when a solution to a problem is implemented it causes another problem. For example, take the introduction of cane toads to control the cane beetles in Queensland. What was thought of as a good idea at the time has led to a bigger problem in subsequent years and it has had a huge impact on the environment.

The proposal to build this facility in a densely populated area surrounded by peoples' homes, schools and childcare centres does not make sense. Not to the people living and working in the area and not for the surrounding environment particularly as this proponent has been issued a number of clean up action orders for other sites.

When the Genesis Waste Facility was developed at Eastern Creek the very same proponent stated that it would include state-of-the-art recycling technology and he promised there would be no odours or leaching.

I challenge all NSW ministers to drive along the M7 from the Great Western Highway to The Horsley Drive turn off anytime during the day or night and 9 out of 10 times they will smell a putrid stench emanating along that stretch of road. This is where the Genesis Waste Facility is located and where it has been proposed to build this facility.

The solution to the city's waste is not to implement an archaic or band-aid solution by proposing to burn residual waste, which in itself still creates land fill, but to look to the future and a more innovative solution.

All Councils across the state should have a universal waste strategy. At the moment different Council areas have different methods of waste collection. Some have 2 bins some have 3 bins. Only garden waste is accepted in some green bins and all compostable material is accepted in others.

Lismore and Penrith City Councils both have a 3 bin service which allows all green waste ie. any compostable material to be collected and used as compost. All recyclable items are collected in a separate bin and all residual waste goes into a smaller bin. Penrith City Council holds a chemical and electrical waste collection once or twice a year which provides a drop off point for residents to leave their old paint, pool chemicals, computers, small electrical appliances etc. This is the waste reduction strategy the state needs to be looking at.

Society needs to change and peoples throw away attitudes need to be addressed and legislated against if necessary. Re educating the population and encouraging residents to sort their waste in order to achieve a higher rate of recycling should be promoted. If just over half of all domestic waste being diverted from landfill at the moment imagine what could be achieved if the idea of reuse, reduce, recycle was taken to the next level, if the populations participation rate was increased.

As a society we should demand that products being sold come with less residual waste packaging and look at banning plastic bags as South Australia have.

Millions of taxpayers money is currently being spent on programs to "modernise the waste sector in NSW" and "ensure a clean environment". If this installation is built I have no doubt that it will undermine the current recycling programs in place as well as any future programs. Peoples attitudes

to how their waste is being treated will not be changed particularly if other areas of Sydney can just send their waste to Western Sydney to be burnt.

As our elected representatives, the NSW government has a duty of care to all its constituents. The emissions from this installation however miniscule are still emissions. The air quality will still be compromised for the residents and the workers in the area.

I beseech the Planning Minister do not abandon the people of Western Sydney. We do **NOT** want this facility in our back yards. Surely if the Environment Protection Authority and NSW Health object to this proposal and have voiced serious concerns over the impact on air quality and human health this project must not proceed. This proposal must be given a very clear and resounding DENIED.