

**Submission
No 320**

INQUIRY INTO 'ENERGY FROM WASTE' TECHNOLOGY

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I herewith lodge a submission to the NSW Upper House Enquiry into 'energy from waste' technology.

For over twenty years I have been involved in protecting residential areas from adverse impacts of air and noise pollution from road traffic and other emitting sources.

I do not support 'hot' or 'thermal' technologies' which burn waste and destroy the resource permanently.

'Cool' technologies which treat waste while extracting energy without destroying the resource or creating toxic emissions is the desirable way to go.

My experience of living in Seven Hills for many years revealed the failure of Waste Services NSW to prevent noxious emissions from the Waste Tip at Eastern Creek from invading suburbs and homes. Depending on which way the wind was blowing suburbs of Blacktown, including Seven Hills, would be subjected to a horrid stench. That still occurs.

When a person can smell something it is due to particulates/bacteria being emitted from a source. That will be the case with the proposed 'Incinerator' as is the case with the Waste Tip. Residents should not be forced to inhale these particulates/bacteria into their lungs.

Drawing from other research papers I provide the following further concerns with waste burning technologies:

- 1.They release toxic and carcinogenic air pollutants. As a signatory to the Stockholm Convention, we are obliged to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate sources of dioxins and furans.
- 2.They produce toxic ash.
3. They are the dirtiest form of energy production. Waste burning facilities produce far more carbon dioxide per unit of energy generated than coal, oil or gas fired power stations.
4. They destroy resources which could be reused, as well as the energy embedded in the waste, which is then lost.
5. They undermine smarter and better recycling efforts.
6. They stifle innovation in other, better, cleaner technologies, and undermine real renewable energy.
7. They entrench an archaic economic structure which relies on the extraction of virgin materials and rewards consumptive and wasteful lifestyle choices. Our society needs to transition as soon as possible to a circular economy where resources are not destroyed through landfills or incineration but rather are conserved through reuse, recycling and composting schemes generally known as zero waste solutions.

Please consider carefully the health of Western Sydney residents when preparing your report on this matter. Think health, not profits.

Wayne Olling