

Submission
No 385

INQUIRY INTO 'ENERGY FROM WASTE' TECHNOLOGY

Name: Ms Michelle McCallum

Date received: 21 August 2017

As an active member of the Demolition Contractors Association (NSW) and the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (NSW) for many years, still involved in the Demolition Contractors Association to date. I have been in the construction industry for over 20 years and assisted many NSW Government departments draft Codes of Practice, Guidance Documents for industry.

I have just read the transcripts from various hearings and believe I must advise the following, based on my MANY years of industry experience within the demolition, construction and waste management industries.

Asbestos is a current major issue which faces all communities, the demolition and construction industry sectors and Local Governments across the Country. I am on the Commonwealth Government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Building Construction Demolition Sector working group. In addition, I participate in the SafeWork NSW Demolition & Asbestos Consultative Committee and am an active participant of NSW HACA (Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities).

So, you can imagine my shock when reading the latest transcript where Mr Malouf pretty much assured the community that he will be able to control/eliminate the incoming loads from having asbestos mixed with construction/demolition waste to be incinerated. For many, many years this has been an issue for recycled concretes then used as road base and aggregate. Hence the development of the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils to develop an asbestos policy, released March 2016.

As a resident of the neighbouring community, which will be LARGELY affected by this Incinerator DA, I have huge concerns with deeming the applicant a 'fit and proper person' under various legislation, including the POE Act. The large number of penalty notices, improvement notices, clean up notices etc (all on public record) that this operator has received from NSW EPA is a huge concern.

Currently, the community have an increase in dust and odour from the Dial A Dump landfill. Complaints are made to NSW EPA, I have made complaints to EPA when required and to Mr Malouf personally. I have advised the dust has increased so much since his landfill operations commenced and his reply was "one day you'll get to like me" and walked away. Hardly the reply one would expect from a person who had any consideration for the environment.

Community consultation to Mr Malouf is just a term. It didn't happen for the Landfill DA and it hasn't happened adequately for this Incinerator DA. Hence, the transcript advising 30 people attending his Genesis tour.

The Community is not dumb, we know the business we are dealing with. We have been through community meetings, petitions and other opposition for approximately 4 years when Dial A Dump submitted a DA for their first project - the landfill. We've had selected community representatives (selected by Dial A Dump) paid to attend meetings, which were then used to tell the opposing community members "look these people agree and support our landfill".

I also read in the transcript Mr Malouf stated he relies on his 'expert waste staff' who are all so experienced in their area of work, so the community should not be concerned, because they know what they're doing at Dial A Dump.

Yet in December 2011 Mr Malouf is quoted in the Sun Herald "Mr Malouf, the self-made millionaire behind Dial a Dump, told The Sun-Herald that he runs a conscientious business and

pollution offences this year arose from employees "breaching strict guidelines and procedures of which they were adequately aware".

I completely oppose this Incinerator DA on the basis of:

- * the concerns about the proposal's potential air quality impacts,
- * human health impacts,
- * the lack of information which would make it possible to assess the potential impacts of the incinerator,
- * the lack of process outlined to STOP the burning of Hazardous materials including lead, asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), contaminated dust and combustible materials, etc which may be included in 'construction/demolition waste';
- * the fact that the applicant has NO REGARD for environmental and other legislation.

The industry experience I have and the issues I experience surrounding the demolition/construction waste and recycling industries have formed my decision to oppose this DA.