

**Submission
No 431**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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Submission to the Inquiry

Country towns are dying and that is a tragedy for our State.

Any waste incinerator, anywhere in regional NSW, will only accelerate that trend.

Incinerators will bring no economic benefit to Regional NSW.

There will be no “synergistic” effect bringing other businesses to the region. It will have the opposite effect.

Investors and manufacturers will think why bring new clean industry to Western NSW and live and work under a toxic plume when we can stay in Western Sydney.

Our farming communities will be under threat. It is highly likely there will be restrictions imposed on farmers preventing them selling produce grown within a certain radius of any chimney stack. Even if grown outside that area there will be an informal resistance to buying produce. Buyers will take a cautionary approach of “let’s not take the risk”

Farmers will find it very difficult to obtain organic certification.

An incinerator is not a compost heap. The infrastructure costs are huge and once built these incinerators will need to be fed with plastics and other waste, forever.

The significant air pollutants emitted by these waste incinerators such as particulate matter, acid gases, oxides of sulphur and nitrogen, and innumerable substances of unknown toxicity pose a significant threat to public health and the environment.

The major impact on health is the higher incidence of cancer and respiratory diseases; other potential effects are congenital abnormalities, hormonal defects and stillbirths and low birth weights.

The source material, the waste to be burnt, is already a highly complex material, not including the contaminants that with human frailties and human greed will almost certainly be included.

GIGO garbage in – garbage out. Or in this case TITO toxic in – toxic out.

The proposal is toxic in other ways. Incinerators are seen as a “quick fix” to our ever increasing waste problem.

There are other solutions – permanent and sustainable solutions.

Minimising our waste is one.

Using only reusable and recyclable products is another. These alternatives are eminently do-able.

But they require legislation to implement and legislation requires guts and vision.

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