

**Submission
No 683**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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You will have received many submissions which focus on the inadequacy of the proposed technology to ensure safety of the land, water catchments and all that live within the 'fall out zone' of the incinerator, along with the high carbon cost of transporting the waste such a long distance from its source. I concur with the expertise in those submissions.

My submission focuses on two other aspects.

The incinerator is proposed as a solution to the problem of waste generated primarily in Sydney. It is not a solution for waste generated in the vicinity of the incinerator, by people who live near the incinerator.

This raises two broad problem areas.

1. There is a problem caused by too much waste being generated in the source area, for that source area to deal with. This problem is not addressed by shipping the waste into another area. It allows for the source area to ignore the actual problem. Strong government action needs to be taken to greatly reduce the amount of waste being generated. So far, consumers have largely carried the burden, but governments could and should take much stronger action against manufacturers by:

- a) penalising inbuilt obsolescence
- b) penalise excessive packaging, mixed-material packaging and non-recyclable materials
- c) develop much more efficient recycling and resource recovery technologies
- d) provide much stronger public education to support waste reduction in all aspects
- e) require that waste be dealt with within the local area in which it is generated

The second major problem I see with the proposed W2E incinerator proposed to dispose of Sydney's waste in Tarago arises from the failure of that proposal to give adequate and equal recognition to the rights of people and country in the Tarago region as is given to the people and country in the source area of Sydney.

A proposal to construct an incinerator in Sydney was rejected. Any inhabitant of Sydney is the entire world to that person, as is any inhabitant in the Southern Tablelands. Density of population is irrelevant. Individuals in the Southern Tablelands have chosen to forego the conveniences and advantages of living in Sydney, in favour of the cleaner environment and relative peace of living in a rural area. There is no justification for transporting the downside of the advantages of living in Sydney to take away the advantages of living in the Southern Tablelands.