

Submission  
No 748

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 18 October 2025

---

Partially  
Confidential

I strongly oppose the proposal to build an incinerator in Tarago to burn Sydney's rubbish. This project poses unacceptable risks to the environment, public health, and local communities.

Incinerators release pollutants such as dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particles, which can settle on land and wash into waterways. Tarago lies within sensitive catchment areas that feed regional water supplies and ecosystems. Any contamination could spread through creeks and groundwater, threatening drinking water, agriculture, and aquatic life far beyond the site itself.

Airborne emissions are also a major concern. Even with modern controls, incinerators emit fine particulate matter and toxic gases linked to respiratory disease, cancer, and developmental harm. Prevailing winds could carry these pollutants across rural communities that currently enjoy clean air and depend on healthy soils and water.

Environmentally, waste incineration undermines climate goals. Burning mixed waste, especially plastics, releases large amounts of greenhouse gases and discourages recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Rather than entrenching a polluting technology, investment should focus on sustainable waste solutions that create jobs and reduce emissions.

Tarago has already borne more than its fair share of Sydney's waste burden. Locating an incinerator here shifts urban waste problems onto rural people and landscapes.

For the sake of community health, water security, and environmental integrity, this proposal should be rejected in favour of cleaner, fairer, and more sustainable waste management alternatives.