

Submission
No 762

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Prior to my retirement I was a subject matter expert in energy for the Australian Public Service including Whole of Government and Net Zero. As such I can write with considerable knowledge of the subject. “Waste to Energy” was specifically excluded from Net Zero plans due to the environmental damage it causes which far outweighs any perceived benefits.

So called “Waste to Energy” from incineration of waste is a cynical attempt to give an act of environmental vandalism a ‘green’ colouration. The generation of electricity from waste incineration is like putting lipstick on a pig. It is still a pig. The motive for the incineration of waste is purely financial with the intent of reducing the volume of landfill and hence prolong the life of existing landfill sites for the advantage of Sydneysiders and the detriment of those choosing to live in a less polluted environment.

Certainly the escape of methane to the atmosphere needs to be minimised and burning methane is a far more environmentally friendly than allowing the gas to escape and generation of electricity from this combustion is an added benefit. Do not confuse the burning of methane with waste incineration.

In Europe waste incineration has been core component of landfill reduction. The environmental impacts are now being felt with many rivers and lakes having such high dioxin content that fishing is prohibited. Similar impacts occur for farming and grazing land.

Australia has a reputation for ‘clean’ meat and produce which this proposal will place at risk.. Will we now need to test for other food contaminants as a result of the by-products of waste incineration?

As with the Sydney deep ocean outfall for sewerage, incineration of waste is not fixing the problem of excess waste from Sydney, just moving the problem elsewhere.

If the “Waste to Energy” proposal is approved, there is a case for class action by a large geographic area of residents for loss of immediate and future capital gain on their properties.

If “Waste to Energy” is so clean, why is it not performed closer to where the waste is produced and the energy consumed? This would reduce the volume of landfill to be transported and hence cost.

The best solution is reduce the waste, not burn it.

Incineration of waste, irrespective of the label applied, is environmental vandalism and must be avoided at all cost.