

Submission
No 793

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am a primary producer in regional NSW, and I object to the proposed energy from waste facilities being dumped in our regions.

If they are safe, why have they been prohibited in NSW due to the health risk, and how is it equitable to exclude just a few regions from having them. This inconsistency implies that rural communities are valued less compared to urban ones. Regional communities already have poorer health outcomes than urban communities, and their access to health care is not as good. What health problems will arise from this process and unfairly be pushed onto regional communities and how will the healthcare system cope with it.

These regions are our food bowl. If the air from emissions is not good enough for Sydney residents, who live in a city knowing the air quality is different to the regions, how can it be good enough for regional populations, or, for the animals that are grown for food consumption. What contaminants are likely to be generated, how long will they stay in the environment and what effect will they have on both human and animal health. How can they be removed from the soil once the dust settles? Any contamination risks, real or perceived, will be devastating for the agricultural industry that has successfully operated in these regions for generations providing clean healthy food. Further, the cropping areas will be covered in the residues, which will also end up in our food chain. What confidence can we have about the spread and quality of emissions that are generated and where they will end up. What effects will they have on our creeks, rivers and water supplies. If the scoping reports presented to communities in the REZs are any indication, the data will likely be false, misleading, or absent.

How can it be efficient to transport this waste from Sydney to the regions, this goes directly against the NSW proximity principle of waste management. What a complete waste of money and resources when an incinerator can be built in Sydney for Sydney's waste. The electricity will only be fed back to Sydney, so that will require additional costs and burdens on landowners who will have to give up land for transmission towers, all this can be avoided by keeping it in Sydney.

Better, smarter, cheaper solutions are needed for waste management and transporting it to the regions to burn is not the solution. Improve the technology and keep Sydney's waste in Sydney. Our regional communities are dealing with enough as it is, particularly those of us in a REZ. The extra pressure on communities facing threats to their way of life and livelihoods is real and unacceptable. The mental health burden is real, with very little support or help.

For all of these reasons I urge the inquiry to not allow these energy from waste facilities to be built in any of our regional communities.