

Submission
No 835

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
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At a time in our history when Energy from Waste Incineration is known to be one of the driving forces in the triple planetary crisis , climate change , biodiversity loss and pollution it seems INSANE that the NSW Government continues along a road of burning waste greenwashed as energy production. Burning waste produces more GHG along with emitting toxic chemicals for less energy than burning coal which will end due to climate change .

Once waste is burnt we still have toxic ash of which to dispose of which is a health risk and environmental hazard . We know this from other countries such as France where whole communities can no longer eat the food they grow or eggs from back yard chickens. Burning Waste is a false solution which encourages waste production and undermines a circular economy. The NSW Government is simply swamping the Witch for the Bitch . This is at a time when our rubbish is more toxic than it has ever been .

There are many alternatives to incineration which is outdated and unsustainable. Why are we not addressing the underlying problems that are contributing to this crisis? Burning may be an easy solution but it is the wrong solution. Moving toward a circular economy using a zero waste model is a long term sustainable solution.

We need to change the way we live . An unsustainable linear model where we buy , use and dispose of everything needs to end . We need to bring our culture of overconsumption to an end and seriously transition to a Reduce, Reuse , Repurpose and Recycle way of life preventing waste in the first place . To transition requires strong government policy , interventions such as levies , reuse targets and a BAN on single use EVERYTHING except medical waste possibly. Continued use of plastic bags stamped with reuse is an insult to the consumers intelligence and tells us the government is not serious about phasing out plastics .

Waste volume once reduced to its smallest volume must have better source separating and collecting methods . Mechanical recovery and biological treatment is well documented as is aerobic digesting (FOGO) and aerobic digestion to produce biogas and nutrition rich digestate . This is being done now and yet rural communities that produce Sydney's Food must fight incineration so as not to poison our food and water supply when there are viable alternatives that will create industry . We in NSW have the opportunity to avoid this mistaken solution that other countries are moving away from .