

**Submission
No 924**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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object to the waste to energy facilities proposed for New South Wales and elsewhere around Australia. Waste incinerators release toxic air pollutants, produce toxic ash, and are the dirtiest form of energy production.

They are a polluting, expensive and unsustainable technology that undermines zero waste circular economy strategies, such as recycling and composting; and stifles innovation in the waste management and energy sectors.

By competing for the same materials as recycling operations, incinerators undermine the recycling sector and destroy valuable resources and their embedded energy. The alternative of recycling and re-use of materials retains most of that embedded energy and reduces the inputs to the production and consumption cycle.

Much of the waste material burned in incinerators is based on petrochemicals. These include plastic bottles, bags, packaging, synthetic textiles and even electronic waste. Petrochemicals are fossil fuels and burning plastics derived from fossil fuels does not create 'green' energy – it is simply burning fossil fuels in another form.

By claiming to produce 'green' energy, incinerator operators can obtain public subsidies, credits, tax breaks and transferable benefits that should be spent on assisting real 'green' energy projects such as wind, wave and solar power.

Independent studies have reported that waste management systems that use recycling, re-use, composting and anaerobic digestion generate many more jobs and far outstrip the few positions required to run an incinerator.

Waste incineration entrenches a linear economy in our society that relies on the extraction of virgin materials and rewards consumptive and wasteful lifestyle choices.

Our society needs to transition as soon as possible to a circular economy where resources are not destroyed through landfills or incineration but rather are conserved through reuse, recycling and composting schemes generally known as zero waste solutions.