

**Submission  
No 948**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

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I strongly oppose the proposed waste to energy incinerator. It would be an environmental catastrophe to burn waste, releasing toxic fumes into the atmosphere. The air pollution it would create would negatively impact peoples health as well as poisoning the environment in a regional food growing area.

If incinerators are banned in Sydney and other parts of NSW they should be banned everywhere. It is not acceptable to subject any community to toxic pollution. To force toxic pollution on Tarago or any regional area in order to deal with Sydney's waste is exploitative and inequitable.

Other ramifications of an incinerator include the poisoning of the soil and water table from the residue containing dioxins, furans, PFAS, lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic. These poisonous compounds lead to cancer, respiratory illness and developmental disorders.

Waste incineration is not a solution. It is a major step backwards for the environment at a time when we need to be working hard to reduce emissions not create more.

We need to channel our efforts into reducing our waste by reducing consumption, reusing what we already have and recycling as much as possible. We need to further the research on other methods of processing waste with a focus on environmentally sustainable solutions such as the use of fungi.

The proposed waste incinerator would cause irreversible harm to the community. It would damage human health by polluting the air with poisonous gases. It would contribute to global emissions and climate change. It would poison the soil and water table and put toxins into the food chain. The waste incinerator proposal should be categorically rejected.