

**Submission
No 969**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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I am shocked and horrified that the NSW government seems determined to inflict Waste to Energy incinerators upon its residents, food suppliers and natural environment.

Incineration is an outmoded technology and is a lazy and cowardly approach to waste management.

It is completely at odds with the current government's plans for a circular economy.

Waste, especially plastic waste, is a scourge on our environment and our planet. Burning it offers no incentives to seek alternative technologies for packaging and the many, many current uses of intractable plastics.

Other submissions are full of relevant technical details. Mine is more of a moral objection, based on the sound scientific evidence that is offered elsewhere.

Is it right to keep producing plastics that cannot be easily reused or recycled? Even re-purposing has its limits. The production of such materials has to be controlled and stopped. To keep producing and then burning and thereby polluting the environment and compromising your citizens' health and wellbeing is morally offensive.

The fact that a WtE incinerator was declined in Western Sydney, but multiple incinerators are considered to be okay in regional NSW, speaks volumes. The toxic emissions and waste will presumably affect fewer people in the regions. That is a false premise. Emissions travel, by wind and water; they affect everyone. Emissions from an incinerator in the western Lithgow precinct, for example, will travel via Farmers Creek and the Coxs River into Warragamba Dam, Sydney's water supply.

The prevailing winds in NSW are westerlies - they will take airborne emissions from regional NSW straight to the heavily populated metropolitan areas.

There is no moral decision that can be made on WtE except No, we won't have it!

Burning waste is dirty and it doesn't solve the waste problem - it simply demands more waste to feed the huge investment in incinerators and transport systems. Sure, it makes money for some, and it makes a very few jobs in areas where jobs are needed, but it has a negative impact on health and the environment and produces toxic emissions and, guess what? - more intractable waste.