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STATEMENT ON WASTE TO ENERGY

The pursuit of a circular economy, where resources are in a closed loop of recycling and reuse is a major environmental and climate challenge. Waste to energy is not a circular process as it eliminates resources after one conversion; and as well produces toxic air pollution and residue.

When the EU is outlining strategies to move away from incineration, Australia should take heed and not make the same mistakes.

Nevertheless there is a strong industry push to establish large plants taking hundreds of thousands of tonnes of material, every year. Resources that could and should be recycled. But under the requisite contracts, incinerator proponents demand an assured supply for decades locking out the circular economy and exposing councils to compensation if they reduce the waste inputs.

There are better ways to stop landfilling. Recycling, reuse and avoiding waste are the future.

It is environmental and economic delinquency to go down the incinerator path.

Jeff Angel
Director