



Wednesday 1 November 2023

TIME TO EXTINGUISH WASTE INCINERATORS

A collective of politicians and advocates for zero waste policy and frontline communities threatened by incinerator projects are today calling for an end to energy from waste incinerators in NSW.

People are gathering outside the Sydney Cricket Ground today to peacefully protest the 2023 Energy from Waste Conference organised by the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR).

Waste incinerators are the most expensive and polluting way to manage waste. They rely heavily on fossil fuel based materials such as plastic. This creates deadly pollution including dioxin, mercury, perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) and microplastics.

Waste incinerators, a linear waste management method, are incompatible with the NSW Government's Circular Economy Policy.

Successful community campaigns in the Sydney CBD to reject massive incinerator projects such as the 'The Next Generation' incinerator by Ian Malouf, caused the NSW government to create legislation to push incinerators into NSW's regional precincts. This legislation change creates a double standard for regional and rural NSW. This will jeopardise the safety and health of food, water, cattle, dairy and tourism industries. The reality is that nowhere in NSW is safe from the dangers of waste incinerators.

[Event details can be found here.](#) Media are invited to attend. Please contact Josh Appleton with any queries on 0439833628.



Quotes attributable to Chris Hanson, Campaign Manager for No More Incinerators, chemical engineer and major contributor to the successful prevention of Suez building a waste incinerator at OPAL's Botany Paper Mill:

"Companies who peddle waste to energy incinerators as a clean and sustainable source are wolves in sheeps' clothing.

These companies claim the only material they want to burn is 'unrecyclable, residual waste', however the reality is very different, as once any recoverable material is shredded it can never be recovered and recycled.

It is not in incinerator companies' interests to attempt to recover any plastics or other fossil fuel-based materials as this would reduce the amount of fuel available for the waste to energy incinerator. Incinerators kill off any attempts to recover materials for recycling as their demand to fuel increases."

Quotes attributable to Greens MP and spokesperson for the environment Sue Higginson:

"Sustainable waste management and recycling programs in NSW have been captured by multinational organisations that have built businesses out of quick fixes and increasing waste products for private benefit."

"With a new Government in NSW that has an apparent appetite for improvements on waste, we are hopeful that there can be a fresh look at how waste is treated in this State and a real examination of what it means to reduce, reuse and recycle products as part of a circular economy."

"Changes led by the previous Government to export metropolitan waste out to regional communities is unfair and just an attempt to move the issue out of sight and out of mind. We need to tackle the waste issue head on and build a system that can safely reduce waste and landfill and avoid incineration here in NSW."

Quotes attributable to Jane Bremmer, Campaign Coordinator at Zero Waste Australia and Chair of Toxics Free Australia:

"The waste to energy incinerator industry wants our government and the Australian public to believe that they are the missing link in Australia's waste management system.



Nothing could be further from the truth. Waste to energy incineration is the most expensive and polluting way to manage residual waste - the smallest fraction of our waste stream.

It makes no sense for our federal, state or local governments to invest in a technology that emits huge volumes of greenhouse gases and toxic air pollutants while generating large volumes of toxic and hazardous ash that will require secure landfill disposal, putting to rest this bogus claim that incinerators miraculously eliminate the need for landfill. They do not.

Our climate, environment and health cannot tolerate this massive new industrial pollution source, whether in the city or in the agricultural regions of NSW.

Instead our government should invest in proven and more effective zero waste policies, expanding and improving the collection and source separation of all waste. There are safer and more effective ways to manage our residual waste.

This dinosaur industry has no place in Australia's clean, sustainable and renewable energy future.

As the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Toxics warned on his recent visit to Australia, 'Waste incineration is the end of the line for fossil fuels. It reflects a linear process that is incompatible with a circular economy. Incineration imposes heavy health and other costs on local communities, and it is a significant source of greenhouse gases. It has been reported that even the most modern incinerators produce dioxins, furans and toxic ash.' "

Mr Hanson and Ms Bremmer are available for comment. Contact Josh Appleton on 0439833628.

