

21st June 2022

OBJECTIONS to Eastern Creek Waste to Energy Facility

SSD 6236

I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS WASTE TO ENERGY FACILITY AGAIN.

I have previously objected to this proposal and cannot believe they are still trying to get it approved after they have already been rejected and the state government has banned these facilities from the Sydney Basin.

Tanya Davies MP wrote to the community on 10th September 2021 advising that the state government will ban all Energy from Waste projects in the Sydney Basin. Tanya's letter stated "We want to be up front with the community and industry, and provide certainty about where these projects can be developed and where they absolutely cannot".

This project and any/all other Energy from Waste projects should be rejected outright as the state government has listened to the numerous community health concerns and the govt announced they had made their decision to protect the health of the community as a priority over any Incinerator projects.

I read many of the extensive documents on the government website in 2017, 2018, now 2022 and I have dozens of objections & concerns.

The current amendment is mainly to exclude flux from the processing. This very minor change does not alleviate all the other remaining health concerns regarding burning all the different waste products that they still plan to burn. Burning waste will emit numerous toxins into the air way too close to thousands of residents and new workers within the new industrial estates at Erskine Park and Eastern Creek. Our future health is so much more important than the profits of this one company.

I note that the opportunity for community information and feedback has been very limited. Providing us with only a one-week extension to the feedback period. It is very disappointing that the state government has not actively informed the local community via a letter-drop on such a controversial proposal in our local area. We all thought that this project had been defeated and was truly dead and buried after receiving the letter from Tanya Davies MP last year.

Many people in the local community are completely oblivious to what is about to be imposed on them and their children for the next 25 years and beyond.

My numerous concerns are listed below:

- Residential areas of Erskine Park, Minchinbury & St Clair will be bombarded with numerous chemical & heavy metal contaminates from the 100m high incinerator stacks that will be located less than 1km from their homes.
- All of the employees of the industrial/warehouse areas of Eastern Creek & Erskine Park will also be exposed during the highest output times of the day.
- The proposal is still relying on many reports and estimates prepared back in 2017. I believe the reports should now be considered as outdated reference information as technology and science has greatly advanced since then. My local council would not accept reports that old for a standard DA building application. Why are the outdated reports regarding human health still acceptable for the Land and Environment Court.

- The health concerns for fine particle, heavy metal & dioxin contamination to be distributed to all humans in the surrounding areas. An asthmatic reaction is just one serious concern, but many people could also get skin reactions from the concentrations of chemicals in the air.
- The amount of acknowledged contamination expected from the "Air Quality Assessment" is most likely underestimated to favour the applicant from the actual contamination that all surrounding areas will have to endure. I am very sceptical on the accuracy of all reports that have been paid for by the applicant to gain the govt approvals.
- The surrounding residential & commercial areas are too highly populated to risk the health of many thousands of people for one company to profit at the expense of human health. More & more businesses are being built in this area every month, which increases the population that will be exposed to airborne contaminants.
- 252 truck movements per day. 80 truckloads of ash per day moving around the site or being taken off-site will create toxic dust blowing into the surrounding air to be breathed in by everyone. Ash has such a fine particle size that it cannot be completely contained. It will be on the truck body & tyres & then the roads, to be redistributed every time there's a wind gust.
- No one can accurately estimate the health impact on thousands of people from the long-term cumulative effects of contaminants being released from these incinerator stacks. Air contamination becomes ground contamination which then flows into Prospect reservoir & increases the contaminates in our drinking water.
- The type of waste to be incinerated should be extremely restricted in any license granted to reduce the air/ground contamination generated. PVC plastics should not be permitted to be incinerated due to the contamination it would generate.
- Recycling should be compulsory for all possible waste as 1st preference in any licence conditions. Regardless of future cost benefit analysis. Recycling is currently more profitable but may not be in the future. The company may choose to incinerate recyclable products in the future if it becomes more profitable than recycling.
- Erskine Park houses are only 300-400 metres from the incinerator location – with only an open grassed area (no high buildings) in between that will not prevent the contaminants reaching heavily populated area.
- 80 truckloads of Ash waste product per day. 400,000 tonnes per year. This is a massive by-product of incineration. The applicant should be forced to recycle Ash into new products such as concrete & asphalt for construction. Many tunnel & road projects within NSW will require thousands of tons of fines for concrete & asphalt. Currently these projects are using natural quarry products for fines.
- The incinerator will use 70% of the electricity it generates to supply its own use.
- 472 mega watts used for incinerator but only 137mw exported to the NSW grid.
- This incinerator will only add approx 2% power to the NSW grid. Our rooftop solar systems would provide more power to the grid if the output limit of 5kw/hour is removed.
- This Incinerator/Power Plant is only expected to have a 25 year lifespan. All other power plants have a 40-50 year lifespan.
- The possible long term contamination and possible long term health affects that cannot be known now is not worth it to the surrounding population for a minor 2% power added to the grid and a plant that only has a 25 year lifespan. What happens after 25 years ?
- There are numerous extinct & abandoned quarries and mines in NSW that should be used for waste landfill without the long term risks of chemical contamination to the surrounding population that this incinerator will generate daily for approx 25 years. Methane is a known consequence of landfill & is easily treatable from many existing landfill sites across NSW.

- Noise from the 24/7 operation will impact on the residential areas less than 2km from the incinerator and hundreds of truck movements in/out of the site every day/night.
- Archbold Road will be the entry/exit road to the site once it's upgraded and connected to the M4 & Great Western Hwy. Archbold Road is less than 500m from Erskine Park residents and less than 100m from Minchinbury residents. The noise from the numerous heavy trucks – especially at night will be a constant disturbance to all residents.
- The stacks need to be filtered beyond "Current Best Practice in 2017". Best practice is old technology that's been in use for many years. I would expect any new plant built today would be using the newest possible technology that would exceed the current acceptable practice.
- Any licence should include conditions that the filtering to the stacks should be upgraded every 5 years to continually improve & protect the population. Filtering in 15 years should not be the same as today.
- Stack plumes are estimated to rise to a maximum of 365m AHD, which is substantially above the top of the stacks. Even the estimated average height of 181m is concerning to planes flying over/through the plumes.
- Monitoring details from stack emissions must be published on a monthly basis & available to the public on their website to ensure integrity of emissions information. Sydney Water has provided their information to the public for years.
- Emissions data should be kept permanently. Keeping data for only 5 years is insufficient for tracking of possible future health impacts on human health. In the event that there are long term adverse increases in Asthma, Tumours or Cancer in surrounding residents or employees.
- Twice yearly testing of heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and dioxins is insufficient.
- Testing quarterly for the first 12 months is insufficient.
- These tests should be done monthly for the first 12 months to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Testing should be quarterly thereafter.
- Substantial fines should be automatically imposed if non-compliance of emissions is not rectified between quarterly testing.
- 24 hour construction periods should not be permitted due to the close proximity of residential houses. Standard construction hours should apply through the whole project. All construction within the industrial area of Erskine Park has been within normal working hours. Why would any exemption be given to this project.
- Any surplus stormwater run-off should be stored on site. No stormwater should be permitted to enter the Ropes Creek tributary due to possible contamination impact on local flora & fauna.
- High growing gum trees and lower growing trees should be planted in a dense format to all site boundaries to reduce the noise & visual impact of the development. Highly dense trees could also assist in the photosynthesis of chemicals & dioxins from the stacks.
- Dense tree planting would also assist in reducing the impact of bright external lighting at night for the surrounding residents.
- The reports submitted are unable to establish the possible impact of plume rise to all current and future aircraft flying overhead. It is known that the Western Sydney Airport will have a North-East flight path which will fly directly over Erskine Park and Minchinbury.

**I sincerely hope that the health & well-being of the local population and their children will be considered the governments priority and this project is finally and permanently rejected.
We should not have to keep fighting a wealthy company for their future profits at our expense.**

Regards

Debbie Michalek