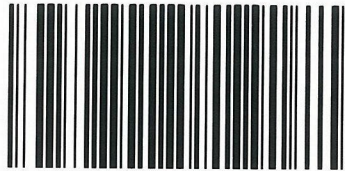


Friday February 7th, 2020



PCU079171

Ms Sally Munk
Principal Environmental Planner
Industry Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Munk,

I am writing to object to the proposed "energy recovery project" at Mt Piper Power Plant, SSD-8294.

In 2017 the IPCC called for "unprecedented changes" in order to avert a climate catastrophe. Although novel to NSW and Australia, waste incineration does not fall into the category of an unprecedented change with respect to averting our current crisis. Rather than help solve any problem it will only foster the continued extraction and dispossession cycle that is the primary feature of modern Capitalism. This will occur by actively encouraging increased production of plastics and papers in the mistaken knowledge that is being used to create "green" power. It will also discourage reuse and recycling with are both much less energy intensive than making piles of garbage and just burning it. We must find a way to stop producing this garbage in the first place and where we absolutely cant we must aim for reuse and recycling.

Waste to energy is not an environmentally friendly approach, rather it is a lazy, feel good strategy that will let people off the hook and absolve them of responsibility to find ways to reduce waste production in the first place. In fact, such a scheme, being capital intensive will become very hungry for raw materials and actively encourage people to consume more waste. It will become the new normal to not worry about it, to just go ahead and feed the machine because hey it helps keep the lights on!

Unfortunately the solutions we require to solve our self inflicted problems are not good for the Capital and shareholder focused economy we now have. For the most part we need to contract this economy or rewrite the rules because a large and growing economy is the crux of the problem here. It is all the frenetic human activity coupled with our endless resource extraction that is making a mockery of the planet.

It is possible to have a healthy economy and an healthy environment but it will look much different to what we have today. We will have to live differently, work differently and ultimately see through the spell we are under. Our civilisation will simply not survive another century at this pace, and the only viable long term solution involves less, not more.

In conclusion, I implore you to stop this flawed project and seek real solutions for a sustainable future.

Regards

Derek Johnston
Wentworth Falls, NSW
dj3@fastmail.com

