

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2020 1:29 PM
To: DPE PS Industry Assessments Mailbox
Cc: Keelah Lam
Subject: Re: Formal Objection to Cleanaway's Western Sydney Energy and Resource Recovery Centre. Application No. SSD 10395

On 16 Nov 2020, at 12:44 pm, Keelah Lam [REDACTED] wrote:

To Whom It May Concern

Objection to Cleanaway's Western Sydney Energy and Resource Recovery Centre. Application No. SSD 10395

Cleanaway claims incineration will make a 'sustainable future possible' and will make 'waste a resource'.

It will be supposedly a 'state of the art' recycling, transfer station, and landfill with their aim to be 'reduce waste to landfill'.

HEALTH

The EPA recognises the key issues of air quality and serious health impacts on the Sydney Basin. Air pollution impacts are well studied around the world . George D Thurston, Professor of Environmental Medicine of NY University School of Medicine study shows the serious and well-documented adverse human health effects known to be associated with exposure to air pollution, in particular, from waste incineration. At this time when Health is at the forefront due to debilitating pandemic spread of COVID19 it's inconceivable that this project is even considered .

The Cleanaway proponents claim that the latest Waste to Energy Incinerators are emissions free, 'best practice', (whatever THAT means.). If this is so why then are countries, especially in UK, Europe, USA and Canada moving away from waste incineration, by closing them down due to unacceptable health risks and why do communities oppose incineration?

Canberra has banned waste incineration due to fears of toxic emissions and greenhouse gas emissions from the fossil fuels and the long term impact on health and the environment.

Burning waste creates all kinds of dangerous toxins in the air and in the ash left behind eg. mercury, dioxins, furans - and carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions, which are climate change drivers.

In Canada they found bottom ash was 17% of weight of incinerated waste. High levels of carcinogenic heavy metal and cadmium of twice the allowed levels are left to be disposed of. Cleanaway suggests this toxic ash can be used in road-fill and in construction materials!.....(to spread into the land and waterways as those surfaces erode?)

WASTE HIERARCHY

Once built we must continue to FEED THE GREEDY, EXPENSIVE BEAST. The massive incinerator will undermine incentives and attempts to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE.

In Sweden and Germany (where a serious attempt to avoid waste at source is made) waste must now be imported to fuel their generators, that expensive investment which will soon be a stranded asset.

The banning of export of our waste to China cannot be used as an excuse to burn our waste. We must deal with our waste at the 'top of the pipe'. We must be serious about avoiding waste. It is more economic and environmentally practical to mine our garbage tips for non-renewable resources (resource recovery) once we have zero waste legislation.

And a small comment from a 20+ year veteran of resource recovery, Renewable Recyclers', Miles Lochhead, 'of recently specialising in e-waste..... A forever growing supply of electronic gadgetry, much with designed obsolescence, continues to end up as e-waste. The 'Liable Parties' under the NTCRS (manufacturers/retailers) are just that – liable – for the cost of recovering valuable resources contained in this equipment and should be footing the bill (through product pricing) for this legacy. Ultimately we will all pay as 'consumers' subject to market forces of supply and demand. 'Above ground mining' may be expensive, however, is much more efficient and sustainable than mining dwindling supplies of raw materials.'

As Dr Suzuki said, 'incineration of waste appears to be a "convenient win win" easier plan, BUT it is problematic

Incineration of waste is a desperate attempt to make waste "go away". We all know waste does not "go away".'

It is totally unnecessary and uneconomic to waste by incineration our non-renewable resources.

Modern day waste is the result of overconsumption linked to planned obsolescence, designed short life span of products. It is a linear system.

CLIMATE CHANGE

This linear system is the driver of climate change, driven by our society's shameful practice of WASTING - EVERYTHING - NOTHING HAS A VALUE after purchase.

We voraciously mine non-renewable resources, wasting precious water, energy and toxic chemicals. We transport these long distances, then the manufacturing process mostly overseas, using energy, water and chemicals and then transport the goods back from overseas using more energy, wear and tear on vehicles and roads, then we buy them at the lowest possible price and they are soon discarded with all that embodied energy and water and NO WAY of extending the life of those products.

Our plunder and waste of non-renewable resources driving climate change is related to:

- . Excessive packaging
- . Planned obsolescence
- . Hyper-consumerism
- . Lack of awareness
- . Madness of desiring ever cheaper, newer and shinier stuff.

MY STORY

I lived in Malaysia for 17 years, being the last generation to have lived before the invention of 'disposable' products and plastic. Disposable plastics came late to Malaysia. The nature based waste was traditionally, innocently, chucked out the door into the monsoon drain and back to nature.

I passively watched the embrace of 'West is best' mindless consumerism.

I return to Malaysia and am sickened by the filthy plastic litter and disposed of items - not out of sight and out of mind -

This waste does NOT GO AWAY.

In 1993 when our garbage tips were filling fast I became a ZERO WASTE activist following attending our Manly Council's participation in the EPA Earthworks Course on waste 'minimisation'.

This has led to my 25 year serious involvement in the issue of waste and the vision for ZERO WASTE LEGISLATION.

We Earthworks students were so shocked at what we saw at the tour of the garbage tip and stinking 'recycling' plant we lobbied and succeeded in closing the Waterloo incinerator, and the 2 sewerage incinerators at North Head, got recycling bins on the Manly ferries and our community set up Manly Food Coop to offer waste-free shopping in 1997.

POLITICAL INFLUENCE

The 1995 Waste Minimisation and Management Act gave real hope and a sure method to stem the

waste flow of bigger garbage bins and faster filling Sydney garbage tips.

Each industry was required to document in turn how they would reduce their waste by 60% by the year 2000.

The State Waste Advisory Council to oversee each plan consisted of EPA representatives, relevant industry representatives, Local Government Association representatives and community environment representatives. I was representing the NSW Nature Conservation Council.

The EPA and GOVERNMENT let the state down. They buckled under industry pressure. They wasted the perfect opportunity to stem the burgeoning flow of waste.

The Dairy Industry wrote the first Waste Reduction Plan. Under the required heading: 'Percentage of Refillable Bottles', they dictated under that heading: 'There will be 0% refillable bottles. The dairy industry removed their economic glass refillable bottles from sale shortly thereafter.

The Beverage Industry under the leadership of Coca-Cola got away with doing NOTHING and foiling a Container Deposit Legislation.

The Tyre Waste Reduction Plan went nowhere. I learned from our local tyre man that they would willingly retread all tyres, but the very wide range of sizes and gauges, made locally or imported, made it impossible to own all the necessary retread machinery. And the large suppliers instructed them to slash all removed tyres.

A NEW MEGA TIP

Following the collapse of the Waste Act came the risky plan to transport Sydney waste to fill Woodlawn, the huge ex-copper mining deepest void, at Tarago - its base is lower than Lake George in the south, to the north is Sydney drinking water catchment and Goulburn is to the west. Sydney's stinking garbage was to be dumped on the factory floor and wrapped in plastic in the heart of the Granville community.. Two community **non-lawyers** took Collex and the government to court and won the case against trucking and dumping waste in their residential suburb, before transporting it by train to Tarago, thence by truck to the mine, promising PLENTY OF (non-existent) jobs, of course. The very next day government intervention overturned the win.

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our dying oceans, a major oxygen and food source for our planet are fast filling with our waste, the production of which is contributing generously to climate change..

NOTHING has a value at end of life. 'The Story of Stuff' documents what Annie Leonard learned by visiting factories in 40 countries, and exposes in cartoon form the international toxic waste trade and explains our uneconomic linear system of production to waste.

The whole international waste stream from start to finish is driving the poisoning of people, land and sea and driving up climate change.

ZERO WASTE SOLUTION

The shocking waste problem cannot be solved by incineration. A zero waste solution to this problem is NOT difficult.

ZERO WASTE LEGISLATION means standardising sizes and shapes, imaginatively designing products to have long life and the ability to be repaired, upgraded, have repairable and replaceable components, closed loop recycling, and refillable packaging/containers.

ZERO WASTE LEGISLATION requires giving everything which cannot go back into the earth a meaningful tracked deposit/refund **value**.

Industry **MUST** be legally responsible for their goods from beginning to the end of life of each and every product. Ultimately, having producers factor in all the costs and impacts of waste will drive greater efficiencies in waste avoidance, reduction and recycling. They will have the necessary **incentive and disincentive** to design waste out of the manufacturing process.

EXAMPLES

South Australia has had a successful deposit/refund system since 1978 as a litter measure. Bottles

are returned clean and sorted, ready for recycling. (These would not have been turned down by China). Had they Extended Producer Responsibility, bottle refilling would have been reinstated to create waste free closed loop jobs.

Some examples replacing the short term thinking of 'waste to energy' are:

The previous Manly Food and Wine Festival with mobile dishwasher and deposits on plates
Manly Food Coop with bulk milk churns, and coffee drums traveling back and forth for refilling
Netherland volunteers Repair Cafes; The Marrickville Bower and Permaculture Sydney North repair cafes repairing clothing, electronics, bicycles, jewellery. furniture and more.

Sweden tax relief incentives for repairers (jobs) and owners leading to the growth of ongoing permanent localised professional and untrained work.

Zerex Remanufacturing Plant using a rental (with guaranteed efficient repairs and replacement) rather than purchasing system.

Interface rented recyclable carpet squares for factories. An inspiring business leader in moral change introducing biophilic design, showing that environmental sustainability is better for business, whilst having no increase in greenhouse gases.

SOLUTIONS TO BANNING INCINERATION

It is certainly possible to reach ZERO WASTE.

Give worthwhile incentives and easy availability to compost the (at present, your food waste's shameful 50%) green waste locally for export by train to farmlands..

Consider building vertical composters into new large buildings.

We must NOT EVER - NEVER invest in such expensive , wasteful, dinosaur technology as incineration of waste to energy .

We must NOT waste non-renewable resources.

We must NOT poison out air, land and water and our communities.

Mindless consumerism must cease, but it won't happen voluntarily.

We must plan to leave a better healthier life for coming generations.

Industry MUST have incentives to manufacture and remanufacture products for long life, repair, refit, closed loop recycling with intergenerational equity front and centre.

We MUST embrace the VISION OF ZERO WASTE which creates closing the loop and the growth of limitless localised jobs.

We must work systematically with producers and importers with the financial incentives and necessary disincentives for the design of ZERO WASTE into their products' long life and repairability. .

THE VISION

Without ZERO WASTE legislation we will turn to the **failing** short term attempts to deal with waste at end of life and its far more serious outcome -CLIMATE CHANGE.

PLEASE, DO NOT ALLOW INCINERATION OF WASTE TO ENERGY BE ACCEPTABLE. Please refuse this application for waste to energy incineration

Yours faithfully

Keelah Lam

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Fairlight 2094

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