

Director - Industry Assessments,
Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,
Locked Bag 5022,
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing in objection to the proposal to build Cleanaway's Western Sydney Energy and Resource Recovery Centre's energy-from-waste facility based on the detrimental impact to local residents' health and wellbeing. As a region that is home to 47 percent of Sydney's total population (2.12 million), houses Australia's third largest economy and produces 31 percent of Sydney's Gross Regional Product (\$104 billion), it is critical to uphold the welfare of this region's residents and employees. Upholding the welfare of these residents and employees would involve rejecting Cleanaway's proposal for the following reasons:

1. Releases toxic air pollutants.

Waste incinerators produce large amounts of toxic air pollution that impact on the environment and human health. These emissions include highly toxic and carcinogenic persistent organic pollutants such as dioxins and furans (PCDD and PCDF), hexachlorobenzene (HCB), PCBs and brominated persistent organic pollutants.

2. Produces toxic ash.

Waste incinerators all generate ash that is contaminated with toxic heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as dioxins and furans. The levels of contamination vary according to the waste burned, the process used and configuration of the pollution controls on the smoke stack but all solid and air emissions contain contaminants, many of which can be at a level that can impact on human health and the environment depending on the disposal method and exposure.

3. Dirtiest form of energy production.

Waste incinerators have re-branded themselves as 'green' energy suppliers. The reality is that burning waste is the dirtiest form of energy generation both in toxic emissions and climate change gases. Waste burning facilities produce far more carbon dioxide per unit of energy

generated than coal, oil or gas fired power stations. In addition to producing larger quantities of greenhouse gas per energy unit than coal, incinerators also destroy the 'resources' in waste that could be recovered if the discarded material in waste were recycled or reused. Much of the waste material burned in incinerators is based on petrochemicals. These include plastic bottles, bags, packaging and even electronic waste. Petrochemicals are fossil fuels and burning plastics derived from fossil fuels does not create 'green' energy – it is simply burning fossil fuels in another form.

4. Waste incineration costs jobs.

Independent studies have reported that waste management systems that use recycling, re-use, composting and anaerobic digestion generate many more jobs and far outstrip the few positions required to run an incinerator. In general terms waste incinerators are expensive, computer controlled, largely automated technology that only require a small workforce to operate. Conversely waste management systems based around recycling, re-use and 'cool technologies' have a high employment generation potential and flow-on effects throughout the community and economy. Installing a waste incinerator means that communities forego employment opportunities while squandering valuable resources.

Therefore, considering these reasons in relation to the health of residents, the region's environment and employment opportunities, it would be in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's best interest to reject Cleanaway's proposal.

I look forward to reading your rejection to this horrendous proposal.

Kindest regards,

A concerned resident of Western Sydney

11/11/2020