

Submission to IPC on the Blacktown Incinerator

I strongly oppose this Incinerator proposal for Blacktown.

Blacktown is a rapidly growing population centre in Sydney. It is expected to have the population of Tasmania in the next few years.

Many young families are moving to this area. Already the newly refurbished Blacktown Hospital is unable to cope with the demands of the increased population, especially the birthing unit.

The proposal to build a toxic incinerator in this growing community of young families must be rejected.

To call this proposal one of electricity generation is disingenuous. This is in effect a gas fired incinerator to burn waste – domestic, commercial and industrial. This includes burning a great amount of plastic.

To maintain the very high temperatures necessary will require a great amount of energy – gas. I understand that the input of energy will be greater than the output of electrical energy.

All over the world, these high temperature incinerators fail. They fail to maintain the required temperature. This greatly increases the amount of toxic pollution released into the environment.

This incinerator will inevitably produce toxic air pollution, the remaining toxic ash pollutes the land, and the fallout of the incinerator pollutes the drinking water reservoirs.

The pollution plume has been modelled under various wind conditions and shows a huge impact over western Sydney.

The area of Sydney is called “The Sydney Basin” because pollution is trapped over Sydney.

This incinerator will burn 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It must keep burning huge amounts of waste to try and maintain the high temperature. This means waste will need to be trucked in continuously, so truck movements on the roads will contribute to congestion, noise and air pollution.

Having an incinerator burn Sydney's rubbish distracts from the need for us to reduce waste, in particular reduce the production and use of plastics.

Plastics, of course, are produced from fossil fuels and we need to reduce our extraction and use of fossil fuels. This includes the gas used to power this incinerator. Burning this gas produces carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas. There is irrefutable evidence that our use of fossil fuels is driving Climate Change.

In conclusion, **please reject this Blacktown Incinerator** project.

It will pollute the air, land and drinking water reservoirs in a growing area of young families, the children of which, will be most vulnerable to the toxins in the pollution. We need action to reduce waste, not to burn it.