

MEDIA RELEASE

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WA GOVERNMENT APPROVES ANOTHER DIRTY WASTE-ENERGY INCINERATOR RISKING PUBLIC HEALTH

The National Toxics Network (NTN) today warned the WA government is taking the wrong path by approving the Phoenix Energy Mass Combustion incinerator, effectively locking the community and environment into decades of toxic pollution and undermining recycling and composting. The WA government has also approved three other so-called 'waste to energy' incinerators to date and there are plans for more.

"These approvals signal a major push in WA to burn waste under the guise of 'renewable energy'. It comes at a time when the focus should be on genuine zero waste solutions and clean renewable energy to address climate change," said Jane Bremmer, NTN waste campaigner.

"It's well known internationally that the same incinerator technologies approved in WA have failed to produce renewable energy and have caused significant pollution risks to human health in other countries." Ms Bremmer said.

"All waste incinerator technologies are known to emit highly toxic persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as dioxin and mercury, despite industry assurances that the technology has improved" warns Mr Lee Bell NTN senior researcher.

"Australia is a signatory to the International Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and we have an obligation to eliminate the generation of dioxin and other POPs to protect human health and the environment globally".

"By allowing waste incinerators, WA has set a course to produce more dioxin and more POPs, essentially thumbing its nose at Australia's international obligations," Mr Bell said.

"Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's) don't stay behind factory fence lines, they travel vast distances in air currents impacting communities and the environment far away from the place they're generated".

"The NSW and Victorian governments are also considering applications for waste incinerators. Once this industry gets a foot hold in Australia, it will significantly set back efforts to move towards sustainable zero waste solutions" Mr Bell concluded.

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