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**New report shows Australia’s waste incineration plans are not green or clean.**

A new report commissioned by the National Toxics Network (NTN) reveals that the waste incineration projects planned for Australia, will not deliver green energy nor do they perform any better than landfill with pre-treatment, despite government and industry claims.

This report comes at a crossroad for Australia. Australia is on a trajectory to build out a massive waste incineration infrastructure industry at a time when the International Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that we must immediately reduce GHG emissions.

Australian governments have failed to provide independent climate, pollution and health cost assessments for these projects, both individually and combined. NTN has commissioned Eunomia – a UK based consultancy with decades of experience in this field, to do this critical public interest work.

The study concludes:

*Incineration cannot be considered a ‘green’ or low carbon source of electricity, as the emissions per kWh of energy produced are higher than CCGT, renewables, and the likely aggregated future marginal source of electricity in Australia. The carbon intensity deficit of residual waste incinerators will increase as the electricity grid decarbonises. The use of incineration is therefore also incompatible with the achievement of local net zero climate change targets in respect of emissions from energy generation, unless coupled with carbon capture and storage. This technology is not yet commercially viable, and its use will considerably increase the cost of waste treatment.*

Zero Waste Australia campaign coordinator, Jane Bremmer states,

“Key to the challenges facing Australia in both attempting to meet net zero climate change targets while addressing Australia’s increasing residual waste volumes, is the urgent need to invest in residual waste pre-treatment.

The Eunomia report shows that landfill with pre-treatment of residual waste outperforms incineration. However, this fact is not being given the attention it deserves in any narrative by industry or government about future investment in waste management technologies in Australia.

Indeed, the dominant narrative in Australia, reflected in Government waste management policies, is that landfill must be avoided at all costs and that incineration provides a better alternative.

As the Eunomia report demonstrates, landfill with pre-treatment emits less GHGs and toxic air pollutants than incineration, this is further enhanced when Landfill Gas Capture technology is also utilised.”

NTN coordinator, Jo Immig states, “This is a timely report for our government. As such we recommend that the Australian government immediately removes all renewable and clean energy subsidies for waste incineration by amending the Renewable Energy Act, places an immediate moratorium on all waste incinerator projects and invests in proven Zero Waste Policies. This is the only sustainable way to manage our waste without driving up GHG’s, toxic air and ash pollution and climate threats. The time to commit to sustainable waste management for Australia, is now”

For more information

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