

Kim Wright

Independent Planning Commission Public Meeting Rooty Hill RSL 14th May 2018

Speech by Kim Wright, resident of Minchinbury NSW Australia.

Good afternoon, my name is Kim Wright, and I have lived in and raised a family in Minchinbury over the past 29 years. I live 1.19 km from the proposed incinerator.

My first introduction to the possibility of an energy from waste facility being proposed anywhere near my home came by way of a notice of exhibition from the NSW Planning and Environment on the 25th May 2015. However below the headline of Exhibition Of State Significant Development Application it said Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility Blayney Export Meats Smallstock Abattoirs. Due to my lack of knowledge of incineration & the seemingly innocuous heading of export meats smallstock abattoirs, & lack of included information, I disregarded the notice at that time. I did however keep it.

It wasn't until April of 2016 that in a conversation with my neighbour I found out what an energy from waste incinerator was & what it would mean to our community if it went ahead. My neighbour being a person of inquisitive nature had done his own investigation to inform himself. What he told me rang alarm bells & I made contact with other people in the community who were equally concerned.

It wasn't until Jeremy Buckingham from The Greens organised a meeting at Erskine Park Community Hall on the 13th April 2017 that public knowledge began to grow. Because of Jeremy's involvement through advertisements on television, public announcements, the production of anti incineration stickers that were letterbox dropped to local residents, the real nature of this proposed facility was finally gaining some public awareness.

So now having formed a group comprised of local residents we continued to try & educate ourselves ,and also tried to inform the rest of our community, about the proposed waste incinerator. Groups like The National Toxic Network provided us with up to date information on the incineration industry. With this growing knowledge came extreme levels of concern from our group, and we made contact with our local Labor MP's and realised they also shared our concerns.

Since then we have attended community forums held by Blacktown Council, collected signatures for a petition to stop the proposed waste incinerator by door knocking & by attending various community festivals ,by forming several Face Book pages, we've done radio interviews, liaised with many politicians from The Greens & the Labor Party, attended parliament, & generally tried to think of any method we could think of to raise public awareness.

This has been a long drawn out process that has caused immeasurable stress to the people in our group and to those that have followed us on our Face book page. We are a group of people who do not have the benefits of the vast wealth that the proponent has. We have struggled to get our message across in some elements of the media despite making numerous requests. The proponent did not seem to have this same problem going on to do many radio and televuew interviews after we had brought it to the public's notice. They even offered to give some residents of Minchinbury & Erskine Park free solar panels if the development went ahead.

As recently as this past weekend where I handed out 200 flyers about today's public meeting, roughly half of the people I spoke to still had absolutely no knowledge about the incinerator. Every single person in our group has found this to be the case throughout our campaign to raise public awareness. Considering the health and environmental impact this proposed facility will have on Sydney the proponent has not done anywhere near enough to inform the public about the development. When members of our group, No Incinerator for Western Sydney, on a daily basis are asked by the public " why haven't I heard about this before ?" you know that far more was needed to be done by the proponent in this area.

As part of our efforts to educate ourselves about energy from waste facilities we made contact with, & met up with Dr Paul Connett at the completion of his speaking Tour in New Zealand. Dr Connett is a graduate of Cambridge University in Canton New York in America. He has a PhD in chemistry from Dartmouth College New Hampshire in the United States & has taught chemistry & toxicology for 23 years. He has now retired from his professorship & is currently director of the American Environmental Health Studies Project. He travels the world educating the public on the effects of waste incineration.

We learned that **Energy from waste technology is not new, it's been operating in many countries overseas for a long time. Waste incineration is the controlled burning of waste where heat is recovered to produce steam that in turn produces power through steam turbines. Incinerators produce acid gases, toxic metals like Lead, Cadmium, Mercury, Arsenic, & chromium. As a result of the burning process they also produce dioxin & furans. None of these toxic elements can be destroyed, at best they can only be captured** in filters at extreme cost, & even then not with complete success. In their proposal to build the Sydney incinerator , the company even said, & I quote " The proposed Facility may release substances to atmosphere which have the potential to harm human health."

Incinerators produce ash & slag which is the residual material left at the end of the incineration process. The ash & filters become hazardous waste themselves & have to go into special secure landfill so as to not come into contact with animals & humans. However the toxic elements can leech out into nearby land, contaminating it & any nearby water source. The waste-to-energy industry promotes itself by saying that incinerators eliminate waste going into landfill, & as a result stop gases like methane being released into the atmosphere. Interesting that they are not forthcoming about the incinerator's production of toxic ash that requires it to be disposed of in land put aside specifically for hazardous waste.

Waste incinerators produce particulate matter, which is very small solid & liquid particles suspended in the atmosphere that can travel long distances from the original source of the pollution. Particulates carry the toxic metals, dioxins & furans that I have already mentioned. **THESE ELEMENTS ARE SO TOXIC THEY ENDANGER HUMAN HEALTH !!!!!** SO what do these particulates carrying these toxic elements through our atmosphere actually do to US ?? Particulates cannot be seen by the human eye, & are so small they can be inhaled into the lungs. From the lungs they then pass into the blood stream & travel throughout the body. They are capable of crossing the placenta, the blood brain barrier, & accumulate in the organs causing irritation, illness & or even death. This is a documented fact & is discussed at length on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's website. Exposure to particulates in the short term can cause eye, nose & throat irritations, people

with asthma & bronchitis get progressively worse, as do people with pre-existing heart conditions. To such people particulate exposure can lead to an irregular heart beat & heart attack. Long term exposure causes decreased lung function, the development of respiratory & cardiovascular diseases in previously healthy people, a faster progression of these diseases, early death, cancers-especially lung cancer, mental health disturbances, Alzheimer's, lifelong developmental disorders like Autism, premature & underweight babies, interference with hormones that regulate foetal development, they also interfere with the development of male & female sex hormones, with thyroid hormones, & the immune system of the foetus.

Aside from breathing these toxic compounds directly into our lungs, we can also take them into our bodies by locally produced food or from water that has been contaminated by the air emissions. Another way is by eating fish, chickens, & other wildlife that have themselves been contaminated. The toxic metals & compounds are also transferred from contaminated chickens to the eggs they lay, & then of course into us once we have consumed them. With dioxin our bodies are not able to get rid of it once it is present. Like mercury poisoning, the levels can only rise. This however is only if you are a MAN. There is a method for women to reduce dioxin levels, & THAT IS BY HAVING A BABY. The baby receives dioxin from its mother through the umbilical cord & the transfer process increases the concentration of the dioxin. As I've already said this has extreme health consequences for the baby. It's worth noting that Aldi, & Woolworths, have food distribution centres at Minchinbury immediately across the M4 from the proposed incinerator site. Lite & Easy also have a distribution centre that is adjacent to the where the incinerator would be built.

What about our elderly? Their immune systems are already compromised, & their heart, lung, brain function, & blood circulation are also deteriorating due to the process of aging. SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM? It will mean an increased number of hospital admissions across all of Sydney, but particularly in the outer western suburbs. We already have major bed shortages in our hospitals so an even greater admission rate would CRIPPLE our health system!

As a better alternative to incineration we need to move towards a zero waste economy by 1/ reducing the amounts of our waste by removing all unnecessary packaging, 2/Reuse, 3/recycle, 4/compost, 5/say to industry if we can't reuse it, recycle it, or compost it you shouldn't be making it. The recycling industry is better for our economy as it generates more jobs than the waste incineration industry, where most of the jobs occur in the set up phase & then stop. We need to realise that our natural resources are finite, that once they are gone they are gone for good. If we burn them in incinerators not only have we immediately lost a resource, but the time, energy & money that was needed to make something from the raw materials is also lost. There is no quick, easy solution to our waste management problem, but as a society we have to moderate our consumption, turn off our TV's that tell us what to buy every few minutes & consider our children & grandchildren. Because if we take the quick solution we will poison our children with hazardous toxins, render land unusable because of toxic ash, & permanently deplete the world's resources.

I would like to publicly thank everyone who has helped us in our fight to stop this proposed waste incinerator, particularly The Greens & the Labor Party. I wish also to acknowledge the efforts of the rest of our group, No Incinerator for Western Sydney.

I urge you all to please put a stop to this proposed incinerator. Thank you for listening.



Planning &
Environment

25 May 2015

Contact: David Mooney
Phone: 02 9228 2040
Email: david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au
Our ref: SSD 6236



42 BUNKER STREET
MINCHINBURY NSW 2770

Dear Sir / Madam

Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility – SSD 6236

Notice of Exhibition

The Next Generation Pty Ltd has submitted a Development Application (DA) for the Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility, located at Honeycomb Drive, Eastern Creek in the Blacktown local government area. You are being notified of the proposal as you have been identified as a nearby landowner or occupier.

The proposal involves construction and operation of an energy from waste facility for the thermal treatment of up to 1.35 million tonnes of waste per year, including a boiler house, steam turbines for electricity generation and air emissions stacks.

The DA and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal will be on public exhibition from **Wednesday 27 May 2015** until **Monday 27 July 2015**.

If you wish to make a submission on the proposal you should read the submissions section overleaf. Submissions must reach the Department by close of business **Monday 27 July 2015**.

Details on where to view the EIS during the exhibition period are overleaf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Ritchie'.

Chris Ritchie
Manager
Industry Assessments



EXHIBITION OF STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility Blayney Export Meats Smallstock Abattoirs

Application No	SSD 6236
Location	Honeycomb Drive, Eastern Creek
Applicant	The Next Generation NSW Pty Ltd
Council Area	Blacktown
Consent Authority	Minister for Planning

The proposal involves:

Construction and operation of an energy from waste facility for the thermal treatment of up to 1.35 million tonnes of waste per year, including a boiler house, steam turbines for electricity generation and air emissions stacks.

Exhibition

The Development Application, Environmental Impact Statement and other accompanying documents may be viewed on the Department's website (<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au>) and may be inspected from **Wednesday 27 May 2015 until Monday 27 July 2015** during regular business hours at:

- **Department of Planning and Environment:** Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **Nature Conservation Council:** Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown;
- **Blacktown City Council:** Civic Centre, 62 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown; and
- **Penrith City Council:** Civic Centre, 601 High Street, Penrith.

At the time of publishing this advertisement, the Minister for Planning has not directed that a public hearing should be held.

Submissions

Any person wishing to make a submission should use the online form if possible. To find the online form go to the web-page for this proposal via www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/on-exhibition.

Your submission must reach the Department by Monday 27 July 2015. Before making your submission, please read our Privacy Statement at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy or for a copy telephone the number below.

The Department will publish your submission on its website in accordance with the privacy statement.

If you cannot lodge online you can write to the address below. If you want the Department to delete your personal information before publication, please make this clear at the top of your letter. You need to include:

- your name and address, at the top of the letter only;
- the name of the application and the application number;
- a statement on whether you support or object to the proposal;
- the reasons why you support or object to the proposal; and
- a declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous two years. To find out what is reportable, and for a disclosure form, go to www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations or telephone the number below for a copy.

Contact

Phone: Information Centre - 1300 305 695 or 9228 6398

Address: Planning Services, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001, or fax to (02) 9228 6455. Your submission should be marked, Attention: Manager – Industry Assessments.