

14/5/18 Rob Vail's Speech to the Independent Planning Commission NSW ¹⁰

Thank you to the Independent Planning Commission N.S.W. for this democratic opportunity to have my say about the Incinerator proposal.

As a citizen who has lived in western Sydney for the last 30 years and hopes to live here for another 30 years this proposal does affect my family and I.

The Incinerator Plume Plotter shows emissions spread up to 40 km and Quakers Hill, where I live, is within 10 km.

Existing air pollution concentrated in the Sydney Basin would be significantly increased by this incinerator proposal.

We, in the west, already have the worst air quality in Sydney and this incinerator would add more than 500 trucks each day!

These days in our long western Sydney summers temperatures are regularly 10°C hotter than coastal Sydney. This added heat "cooks" the air plus emissions to create "smog" at ground level. It would make it more difficult for the many western Sydney residents with respiratory or heart problems to survive. It would also increase the chances of children and other people developing respiratory problems.

My wife, who is a nurse in western Sydney, works with such vulnerable people on a daily basis and she was incredulous when I told her that the incinerator was still likely to happen. This was despite the opposition of the NSW Parliamentary Enquiry, the EPA, the Health Department, political parties and the people of western Sydney. Yet the wealthy proponent is still, to this day, confident that his proposal will go ahead!

Rightly, most Australians are saying no to new coal fired power stations yet incinerators produce more carbon dioxide emissions per kilowatt hour of power generated (1355g to 1620g)!

So, in my opinion, the proponent's proposal to power homes from burning particulates should be rejected and instead be replaced with clean energy from solar panels (as more than 1.6 million Australian homes are already doing) made more reliable by solar batteries.

We need renewable energy in western Sydney to keep our air breathable not incinerators to make it worse!

As far as disposing of our waste, this requires government leadership to educate us about how to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. This approach also produces 10 jobs per 1000 tons of waste recycled as opposed to only 1 job for dumping the same amount in landfill or incinerating it.

No one, anywhere, should be forced to breathe the carcinogenic arsenic, cadmium, nickel, mercury, dioxin etc. which would be emitted by this incinerator!

In particular, the people of western Sydney deserve better than this polluting proposal!

I, personally, have been moved by the dedicated determination of mothers like Melinda Wilson to protect the healthy futures of her children and their prospective children for the next 50 years.