

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **TOXIC WASTE TO ENERGY INCINERATOR PROPOSED FOR BEEF CAPITAL CASINO**

The Richmond Valley Regional Jobs Precinct in Casino, the beef capital of NSW, has been identified as one of four regional locations to build a toxic waste to energy incinerator, according to the NSW Government's recently released *Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan* and *NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement*.

The Government's Plan states it is: "Taking precautionary steps to restrict energy from waste from parts of NSW to protect human health and air quality". The Plan bans incinerators in Sydney because of serious air pollution concerns yet sees fit to dump Sydney's waste and associated toxic pollution in Casino, a region known for its agricultural produce and environmentally sensitive ecosystems.

Outraged residents have quickly formed the group **Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator**. Richmond Valley resident and spokeswoman, Liz Stops is shocked and angered by the Plan and fears the region will be stigmatised by a polluting incinerator.

"I'm no expert but locating a polluting incinerator right next to cattle sale yards and the meatworks surely poses unacceptable risks to industry, exports and the livelihood of the farming community as pollution is spread all over the region," she says.

"As a grandmother I am also concerned, not just for my grandchildren, but for vulnerable residents who may develop serious health effects from exposure to incinerator air pollution emissions," she said.

The group sought advice from incinerator pollution experts, the National Toxics Network about the risks of pollution from waste incinerators.

"We already know from the scientific literature that communities living in the vicinity of waste incinerators have increased risks of cancers and reproductive disorders from exposures to dangerous pollutants such as dioxins and nanoparticle air pollutants that lodge deep in the lungs. Children are at greatest risk," said Ms Jo Immig, Coordinator, National Toxics Network.

"Europe and the USA are removing public subsidies and closing down incinerators because they create pollution and dirty energy while entrenching a disposal mindset".

"No matter how much you dress incinerators up as 'state of the art technology' and 'worlds' best practice', the fact is incinerators create dangerous air pollutants and toxic fly ash that needs to be disposed of in a hazardous waste landfill. Once up and running they don't provide many jobs either".

"The NSW Government must go back to the drawing board and deliver genuine zero waste policies that incentivize re-design, re-use and recycling which are the foundations of a real circular economy. Burning plastic in incinerators for 'energy' is no better than burning coal," Ms Immig concluded.

A Facebook group **Residents against the Richmond Valley Incinerator** has been created.  
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