



Residents Against Richmond Valley Incinerator

info@norichmondvalleyincinerator.org
www.norichmondvalleyincinerator.org

RARVI NEWSLETTER

12 JULY 2023

Welcome to our first Newsletter

RARVI is your local community group committed to taking up the fight to stop a waste incinerator in our community. We are residents from Casino (and other areas in the Northern Rivers) and so we have called ourselves 'Residents Against the Richmond Valley Incinerator' or RARVI. A waste incinerator is also called an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility.

Subscribe to our Newsletter

This is our first newsletter and we hope that you find it informative. We intend to publish it regularly so if you have any particular questions or topics that you would like more information about please let us know and we will try and include them in one of our next newsletters.

You have been sent this newsletter because you have indicated through email, petition, web or our Facebook that you are interested in this important local issue of stopping a waste incinerator. If you know people who would like to be on our mailing list then please encourage them to visit our website <https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/> and just scroll to the bottom of the homepage and hit subscribe.

As a group we are attending a number of workshops and meetings bringing this important issue to the attention of people in government and other regulatory bodies. We want them to know that we **do not** want a waste incinerator in our community or elsewhere in NSW (see over page).

If you have any skills or time please get involved — acting on this issue together is the only way we can stop this happening! We would like to do more rallies, offer more workshops and attend as many local meetings as possible. Please contact us info@norichmondvalleyincinerator.org if you would like to invite us to speak to a group near you.

Petitions for download — get your friends, families & workmates to sign

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/norichmondvalleyincinerator/files/files>

- (1) **Legislative Assembly of Parliament** requires 10,000 hard copy signatures to trigger a 30 minute debate in Parliament.
- (2) **Petition to Richmond Valley Council** for debate as a community group opposing the waste incinerator.

Information Links



RARVI

www.facebook.com/groups/norichmondvalleyincinerator

NO RICHMOND VALLEY INCINERATOR

<https://norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/>

INCINERATOR FACT SHEET 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/norichmondvalleyincinerator/files/files>

CONTACT US

info@norichmondvalleyincinerator.org

SUBMISSION TO RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL

RARVI recently submitted a submission to council's 'Draft Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic' Plan norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/workshop/

1

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS

We have been campaigning hard in Casino and need more volunteers to go out into other areas in the NR. We can provide training, materials and support.

2

MEETING WITH OTHER REGIONAL ACTION GROUPS

We met with the 3 other groups cited for an incinerator. We're now joining forces to produce a NSW state wide petition to be presented to Parliament.

3

RICHMOND RIVER

Members of RARVI attended a workshop in Casino with scientists & community members discussing critical issues affecting river catchment health. We shared aspirations, one which was for our river not to be affected by a waste incinerator.

4

SUBMISSION TO RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL

Richmond Valley Council (RVC) recently invited people to comment on their 'Draft Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan'. Objective 9 of this plan outlined the Council's plan to transition to a circular economy (pg 41 online exhibition). In the plan the RVC stated that the NSW Government has set a target to phase out problematic single-use plastics by 2025. As a result RVC must now work with the community to come up with new ideas for reducing single-use plastics in our community. One consideration outlined was a 'Energy from Waste' facility to be located at a site in Casino.

The strategic plan outlined that the **Regional Job Precinct site in Casino** is one of four places identified by the NSW Government as a possible location. The other places are Tarago/Woodlawn (near Goulburn), West Lithgow and Parkes. <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/assess-and-regulate/state-significant-projects/energy-from-waste#inPageNav-0> In the past, incinerators have also been proposed in Eastern Creek and Matraville but refused planning approval.

RVC stated in the strategic plan that they are keeping an open mind about the issue of a 'EfW' facility and also stated they have no commitment to building a 'EfW' facility. Is this because as RVC said in their strategic plan that 'these facilities are too hi-tech and expensive for Council to contemplate building, so any future proposal must come from private enterprise'?

In 2019 RVC sent a large number of representatives (2 councillors and 5 senior staff) to Japan to inspect some of the waste incinerators operated by Pacific Consultants. See 'Japan to investigate Energy from Waste facilities' – pages 7 - 12. https://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CO_20190319_AGN_3099_AT-1.pdf. The tour was funded by Pacific Consultants via a Japanese Government Grant.

RARVI is concerned that Council may support '**a private enterprise**' building a waste incinerator at Casino and so we submitted a response of strong opposition to such a consideration. You can read this at norichmondvalleyincinerator.org/workshop/. You can also read the full submission of local doctor Dr Jurriaan Beek <https://www.facebook.com/groups/norichmondvalleyincinerator/files/files>

In total the council received 66 submissions, 60 of the submissions were in opposition to a 'EfW' facility.

STOP PRESS

Council held an extraordinary meeting on 29 June to consider Council's 'Draft Richmond Valley 2040 Community Strategic Plan'. See the full article published at <https://indynr.com/words-on-waste-leave-councils-incinerator-position-unclear/> by Susanna Freymark on June 29, 2023. Below is an excerpt from this article.

RARVI members attended this meeting and voiced the community's strong opposition **again** regarding any proposal for a waste incinerator being located in Casino or the Northern Rivers (by Council or private enterprise). The final vote however was unanimous in supporting the Community Strategic Plan without amendment.

At a Richmond Valley Council meeting, Thursday, June 29 2023, four residents addressed councillors about one particular sentence in the Draft Community Strategic Plan document that had them concerned.

“It was all about the wording in the document”

Ms Lyons, Ms Bastow, Ms Beek and Dr Beek spoke at the beginning of the meeting.

The wording in the Draft Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program was:

That RVC has no commitment to building an Energy from Waste (EfW) facility.

Ms Beek wanted that sentence changed to: *RVC has a commitment to neither build nor support the building of an EfW facility in Richmond Valley.*

“Then people will know exactly how you feel,” she said.

The State Government has designated Casino and the Regional Jobs Precinct at Reynolds Rd as a “permissible” site for an EfW facility.

“In the past, some of you went to Japan and presented a report to council... and you thought an EfW was great.”

Ms Beek said the council’s statement did not preclude someone else building an incinerator.

Councillor Deegan put forward an amendment to the document.

He wanted the sentence to be: *The council opposes an Energy from Waste facility in Richmond Valley.*

Councillor Debra McGillan seconded his amendment.

In the final vote, councillors Hayes, Humphrys, Mustow, Cornish and Morrissey voted against the amendment. The sentence in the ‘Draft Community Strategic Plan’ document stayed as it was.



WASTE INCINERATORS ARE A THREAT TO OUR HEALTH

“A waste-to-energy incineration facility in Casino would emit dioxins and furans, which belong to a family of compounds known to be highly toxic and cumulative. These particles are so small they cannot be effectively filtered. Dioxins have been proven to result in a myriad of harmful medical outcomes, ranging from birth defects to cancer formation, and population studies suggest that there is no safe margin of exposure for humans”.

Local GP Dr Jurriaan Beek

WASTE INCINERATORS ARE A THREAT TO LOCAL FOOD INDUSTRIES

“Is Casino going to be a sad place with a big, toxic waste incinerator that causes chronic health problems and contaminates air, soil and water? Or will it be a thriving town, famous for its world-class, safe and sustainable beef, dairy and agriculture? Ask your councillors and MPs if they value the well-being of locals over the profits of outsiders”.

Local beef producer Dr Wayne Somerville

WASTE INCINERATORS WILL POLLUTE THE REGION FOR DECADES

“Both local residents ingesting food grown in close proximity to incinerators, as well as more distant populations consuming food transported from areas near an incinerator, are open to exposure”. **Australia and New Zealand Journal of Public Health 2019**

WASTE INCINERATORS DON'T CREATE LOCAL JOBS

“Incinerating 10,000 tonnes of waste creates one job; land-filling 10,000 tonnes of waste creates six jobs; and recycling 10,000 tonnes of waste creates 36 jobs”. **Environment Victoria**

WASTE INCINERATORS ARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY CATASTROPHE

“Waste incineration is a carbon-intensive process undermining the efforts to decrease carbon emissions and, thus, to reach carbon neutrality on time. It harms rather than supports the transition to a circular economy”. **Zero Waste Europe**