



Alliance for a Clean Environment

Promoting Community Right to Know and Environmental Health and Justice in WA

WA squanders opportunity to improve waste management

Media statement 5th July 2023

Today's announcement that the Kwinana Waste to Energy plant will not be operational until 2025 is an embarrassing, massive, policy failure for the WA government.

The Kwinana incinerator project has been in development since at least 2011 and despite the hype and false promises made by both government and industry, WA is further away from a credible and sustainable waste management system than ever.

"In the nearly 15 years that WA government has entertained the idea of incinerating our waste, WA could have implemented a full Zero Waste Model that would be more cost effective, provide better waste management and environmental outcomes, reduced the need for landfill, supported the reuse, composting and recycling sectors and secured the much-needed resources for a Circular Economy.

West Australians have consistently shown they want better waste management and have embraced FOGO, composting, soft plastic recycling, better recycling practices in the home and in public places. Our government has let them down by investing public funds, time, and energy into the most polluting and expensive technology to manage the smallest fraction of our waste stream. Sold as green energy and a sustainable waste management project, nothing could be further from the truth.

Local Governments especially have been misled as they continue to espouse false claims that waste incineration provides renewable energy, while ensuring their constituents are locked into waste burning contracts for decades, delivering tonnes of climate and toxic air pollutants and huge stockpiles of toxic ash, that perversely requires secure hazardous waste treatment and landfilling.

Industry capture in this state has held back real progress on sustainable waste management at a time when we need urgent action to prevent global pollution tipping points and address the existential threats posed by plastic, waste, and chemicals.

Its time for the WA government to step up and put the health of our citizens, our environment, and our future ahead of this failed, outdated, dinosaur industry that has already cost our state so much in wasted time, resources, and money. Zero Waste models are proven, effective and easily established and as our recent [independent analysis](#) of the best options for residual waste management in Australia demonstrates – landfill with full pre-treatment (ie zero waste policies) provides a more cost effective and better outcome for our health, air quality and climate than incineration. There really is no time to waste!", states Jane Bremmer Coordinator for Zero Waste Australia and the Alliance for a Clean Environment.

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