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Working globally for a toxic free future

New report warns of public health impacts from waste incineration.

The Australian Public Health Association (APHA) has published a world first, full systemic review, of health impacts related to waste incineration technologies.

The report finds that both workers and the public are adversely affected by waste incinerator technologies. *“This systematic review highlights significant risks associated with waste incineration as a form of waste management”*

Jane Bremmer, Coordinator of the National Toxics Network - Zero Waste campaign, “Congratulations to the Australian Public Health Association for this timely and important health study which vindicates community concerns in Australia and the experience of host communities all over the world. The implications for waste management policy and the introduction of this controversial industry into Australia can no longer be swept under the carpet”

The authors conclude, *“This review shows contamination of food and ingestion of pollutants is a significant risk pathway for both nearby and distant residents.”*

Waste to energy incinerators are currently being planned for every state in Australia. [See NTN’s new interactive map here](#). Incinerator companies and state government regulators continue to claim that the risks to the host community, general public and the environment are negligible.

“Australian local governments are under siege from powerful international waste management corporations and their financial partners, pushing incinerator technologies as the solution to Australia’s waste crisis. Approvals, including critical health and environmental assessments for this industry, are being increasingly fast tracked in Australia. Yet scientists are warning of the dangers to our climate, environment and public health that this industry brings. Its time Australian governments recognised that there is no social licence for this industry to operate in Australia. This timely report vindicates the public’s widescale opposition to the technology and their demands for zero waste management and circular economy policies instead.” States Jane Bremmer.

As the report concludes, *“Local community groups have a basis for legitimate concern and so siting of incineration facilities needs to take these concerns into account. Early transparent consultation with communities about these facilities is essential.”*

The report can be found here <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1753-6405.12939>

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