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## Media Release 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

### **Victoria's new Circular Economy Package paves the way for waste incineration across the state**

Today the Victorian government announced their Circular Economy Package – 'Recycle Victoria, A new economy'. This 10 year plan to cut pollution and boost economic growth and jobs lays out the government's response to the states waste management crisis which has been punctuated by deadly waste stockpile fires and a collapsed recycling sector, exacerbated by the federal government's decision to ban waste exports.

Unfortunately, the Victorian governments new policy also lays out a plan to burn most of the state's waste in incinerators.

"It's really disappointing and deeply concerning to see the Victorian government attempt to redefine a circular economy to include waste incineration. The greatest impediment to a true circular economy is waste incineration. This is because these very expensive infrastructure projects rely on a continuous waste stream, under contracts that must be met, entrenching a linear economy of extraction, production, consumption and disposal, the very opposite of a sustainable circular economy model," said Jane Bremmer Zero Waste Coordinator at the National Toxics Network.

"The Andrews Government's credibility in relation to this policy is questionable given that they are fast tracking and approving incinerator projects all over the state before this circular economy policy has even started. Five projects are already in the EPA approvals pipeline with more on the horizon. Together they represent more than 1.2 million tonnes of waste to be burnt in Victoria. This is already more than the 1 million tonne /year cap that the policy proposes for the waste to energy incinerator sector".

"While Victorian households produce 1.18 million tonnes of waste per year, it would appear that the real agenda is to burn the states waste by allowing a 1 million tonne cap on the incineration industry".

"The Victorian government needs to get better advice on how to achieve a sustainable Zero Waste management system which is the backbone of a true Circular Economy".

"Waste to energy incineration is an industry in decline in most OECD countries and Australia must wake up to this fact before it's too late" concluded Jane Bremmer

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