

# The truth about CLEANAWAY'S incinerator project



The Lakeside Incinerator in London is Cleanaway's reference plant. Yet this plant is not without controversy and is set for demolition due to the Heathrow Airport expansion. In addition, Cleanaway fails to mention that a new study on the London incinerators has shown that they cause the death of 15 London citizens a year and that 70 London NHS doctors have called for a halt on waste incineration due to the known health risks.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/waste-energy-from-waste-feb15.pdf> and

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla\\_efw\\_study\\_final\\_may2020.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_efw_study_final_may2020.pdf)

Cleanaway together with Macquarie Capital are attempting to build a large-scale Mass Combustion Incinerator in Western Sydney. There is no social licence to operate a waste to energy incinerator in Western Sydney or Australia. The community fought hard to prevent a similar project being established at Eastern Creek. The NSW Independent Planning Commission also rejected this project on climate, sustainability, human health and environmental protection grounds. The ACT has passed a bill to ban waste incineration, the NSW Greens have tabled a bill for a ban on

incinerators and NSW Labor have also declared their intention to table a bill to ban incineration in NSW. Despite claims by Cleanaway, there are no waste to energy incinerators operating in WA, Qld or elsewhere in Australia, at this time.

Read more and make a submission here:  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/25896>

## Is this project really “safe”?

Cleanaway suggests to the community that waste to energy incinerator pollution is no different to mowing the lawn, having a BBQ or driving a car. This comparison is unscientific and a typical corporate strategy to ‘normalise’ pollution. The facts are that waste incineration produces one of the deadliest persistent organic pollutants ever created: DIOXINS. Dioxins are regulated under the *International Stockholm Convention* with the aim of elimination. Australia is a signatory to this global convention and obliged to reduce and eliminate the generation of DIOXIN. Incinerators are the second largest source of DIOXIN emissions globally which bioaccumulate in the environment, especially in the Arctic region and which are found in the surrounding environment of incinerator plants, contaminating the food chain and harming human health. In addition, incinerators create stockpiles of highly toxic and hazardous ash where DIOXIN and other toxic pollutants are concentrated. Cleanaway has not identified exactly where this dangerous fly ash residue will go or how it will be managed. Cleanaway has not used the new EU strict emission limits for DIOXIN in their modelling, failing to disclose the exact air pollution volumes and concentrations that the community will be exposed to.

Cleanaway confirms that the project will increase deadly particulate emissions such as PM10 and PM2.5 in the local area. The community in Eastern Creek already suffer from high particulate pollution levels. Increased particulate pollution is widely reported in the scientific literature as being associated with a range of health impacts, particularly for children, babies, the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. The Australian Public Health Association recently warned in their review of the health impacts of incineration that:

*“This systematic review highlights significant risks associated with waste incineration as a form of waste management. Many older incinerators were linked with neoplasia, reproductive issues and other diseases. While the results were not consistent across the literature, based on a precautionary principle there **is insufficient evidence to conclude that any incinerator is safe.**”*

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1753-6405.12939>

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