

# The truth about **CLEANAWAY'S** incinerator project

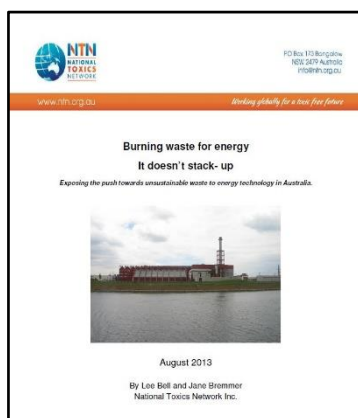
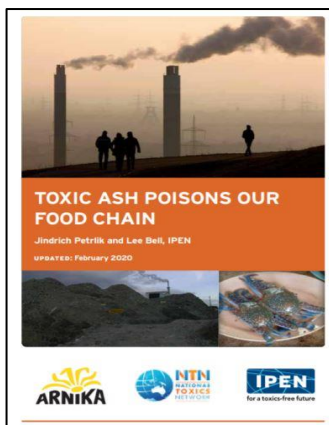
A linear economy or a circular economy. Incineration or zero waste solutions. What would you rather have? For your children's future? For a safe climate?

Waste to energy incineration coming to a town near you!



Cleanaway claims that the project is good for the climate, but how true are these claims?

Waste to energy incineration emits more greenhouse gases per unit of energy than coal, oil and gas. As such, the EU has excluded waste-to-energy incineration from a list of economic activities considered 'sustainable finance', those that can make a substantial contribution to climate change mitigation and which do no significant harm to other environmental objectives such as transition to a circular economy, waste prevention and recycling. The EU, unlike Australia, has removed all renewable energy subsidies and grants for incinerators, instead recommending that countries decommission old plants and place a moratorium on new plants. Cleanaway has failed to mention this in their EIS document while promoting EU incinerators, many of which, like the much touted Amager Bakker Danish Ski Sloping incinerator, which is regarded as an embarrassment having failed to meet many of its claims including energy production and reducing climate pollution. The plant now has to import waste to keep operating.



Waste incineration entrenches a linear economy in our society that relies on the extraction of virgin materials and rewards consumptive and wasteful lifestyle choices. Our society needs to transition as soon as possible to a **Circular Economy** where resources are not destroyed through landfills or incineration but rather are conserved through reuse, recycling and composting schemes generally known as **Zero Waste Solutions**. Residual wastes left after recycling and composting are more safely managed in non-combustion technologies like Mechanical Recovery Biological Treatment (MRBT), Sanitec units (autoclaving and shredding), Gas Phase Chemical Reduction (GPCR) and Anaerobic Digestion facilities (composting) with energy recovery. It is important to acknowledge that Cleanaway has no experience operating waste incinerators in Australia. The company's corporate behaviour has been reported in the Australian Financial Review recently, where the NSW EPA has slammed the company over the management of its operations and environmental safety claims.