

Submission Text: I am deeply concerned about any proposed waste-to-energy incinerator, in general in Victoria, and specifically the Sunbury-Bulla site. I strongly believe incinerators should NOT be permitted to proceed. In the 1980's backyard burning was banned, yet the proposed industrial incinerator(s) will burn far more plastic and worse combinations (paints & varnishes etc, cleaning products, pharmaceuticals, building waste), creating numerous dangerous chemical compounds, and not all can be captured by stack filters.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE: Hi-Q is the proposed operator of the Sunbury-Bulla site. This company trading as Hi-Quality mismanaged the toxic soil programme. In so doing were fined more than a dozen times for EPA breaches, demonstrating no regard for the local environment or local population, and demonstrated disregard for laws. No one can be confident they can or will operate safely. EPA fines will be no more than part of the cost of doing business.

FAILED TECHNOLOGY: The operational effects of incinerators are already well documented internationally. Greater Sydney and ACT have already heeded the risk and banned such constructions. Some sites in Europe are being decommissioned. Rubbish incineration is not a safe solution.

ENVIRONMENT: The proposed site is very close (within 1-5 km) of multiple expanding new residential estates (more planned) and new shopping centres; 300m from a creek with platypus - the creek feeds eventually into Port Phillip Bay and toxic pollution could cause massive pollution on the journey through suburbs and city. Fly ash will pollute gardens, fields, outdoor sporting facilities, parklands, schools, waterways forever.

The proposed Sunbury-Bulla incinerator site is very near the green wedge that permits airport 24/7 operations, and the wedge includes waterways, Living Legends, livestock and agriculture, sporting & dining facilities. Importantly, the wedge provides a home for kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, wombats, a large range of bird species, platypus, and aquatic species in waterways. Their habitat has been diminished over the past two decades by burgeoning housing developments. We must not pollute the remaining environment of such iconic Australian species. Once polluted by acidic gases/rain and fly ash, it can never be clean enough to safely sustain these species again.

Additional trucks will add to already increasing traffic congestion, and to pollution, both airborne and spillages (as happened endlessly with the toxic soil transportation). There will be hundreds of trucks bringing rubbish in daily, and there will be trucks removing bottom ash, the latter may fly off trucks wherever they travel. The roads are already inadequate for

local traffic and there is huge population increases expected over the next two decades. The existing roading infrastructure cannot cope, especially the narrow Bulla bridge which is single lane and over 100 years old - built for horses & carts.

Such facilities will lazily detract from recycling efforts. A better focus on developing a circular economy is a better starting point to finding an alternative to incineration. The best way to reduce rubbish is to create less.

DUMPING GROUND: The incinerator will be designed to burn 750,000 tonnes of rubbish annually and will require such a volume for financial viability. The vast majority of the rubbish will NOT be generated from Hume City area where the incinerator would be sited. This means in addition to the negative impact of having an incinerator in Hume there will inevitably be burdensome costs on ratepayers in Hume, cleaning up roadsides and repairing roads. Hume is a social economic zone of many battlers, half of which do not have English as their native language. Please don't allow such an integrated community to become relegated to an unhealthy slum.

BOTTOM ASH STORAGE: Each 4 tonnes of combusted rubbish will produce 1 ton of bottom ash. This must contain toxins, not necessarily inert. It has been suggested the bottom ash could be used in roading throughout the state. How can 187,000 tonnes of bottom ash be safely stored, and contained when transported? There is propensity to pollute far greater areas of Victoria. Can such a volume of bottom ash really be used, or will it become yet another form of pollution for future generations?

PLUME DRIFT: Studies have already been conducted on how far pollution can travel in certain climatic conditions which change daily. Many other residential areas beyond Sunbury-Bulla will be adversely affected.

AIRPORT: Tullamarine is an Australian premium airport (and under considerable expansion). A smoke stack should not be the landmark visitors/travellers first see. The trucks will add to traffic congestion in the vicinity of the airport.

NOISE: It is unknown how noisy the operation will be, but there will be increased traffic noise, operational noise (perhaps 24/7?), and light pollution within one kilometre of housing estates. This does not represent quality of life or peaceful enjoyment of anyone's home. It may not be safe for the closest times to open windows.

WATER: It is believed each incinerator will require 6,500,000 litres of water annually. Where

will this water come from in a metropolis which has an exploding population which is creating huge extra demands for water? Where and how will waste water be discharged and what are the possible effects?

ELECTRICITY GENERATION: Whilst electricity is to be generated, it is likely that the plant's own operational needs will use a significant percentage of it, so the so-called community benefits are much overstated.

HEALTH: It is impossible for any operator to know what each truckload contains. The rubbish can't be sorted and with hundreds of trucks dumping daily there will be compound incineration inevitably producing acidic gases and toxic fly ash. Sunbury is already a high asthmatic risk area and any addition of regularly dispersed unidentified airborne chemicals will add unacceptable serious health risk. The health effects will be cumulative, and probably irreversible. Think of children growing up in this environment. We must not allow an operation that could ruin their future lives.

FINANCIAL: It is strongly anticipated that the value of existing real estate will be substantially devalued as Sunbury-Bulla will be labeled the slum around an incinerator. It is not fair that families struggling with mortgage stress face the prospect of a devalued property which could be very hard to sell in future. The state of Victoria is struggling to encourage more housing, and Sunbury is an area with space and designated to triple its population by 2045. It is unforgivable to encourage expansion in an area which will be air and soil polluted, forever!

HISTORIC TOWN: Sunbury is a gateway point where metro meets the Macedon Ranges. It is a proud bustling community, the Home of The (cricket) Ashes, and some significant indigenous history. No residential or agricultural, or indigenously significant zones, should be subjected to known pollution which will be ongoing for decades, and the negative environmental effects permanent.

PERSONAL: I am recently retired, residing six kilometres from the proposed Sunbury-Bulla site. I will no longer be able to safely enjoy home grown fruit and vegetables, or backyard eggs (all shared with neighbours). I also have a compromised respiratory system that will be exacerbated by airborne pollutants.

For all of the above reasons I say "NO" to an incinerator for Sunbury-Bulla, and respectfully believe the state of Victoria has to pursue other options to deal with the obvious issue of

rubbish disposal. No community should have to tolerate or suffer a waste-to-energy incinerator.