

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 499
Petition Sponsored by: Sarah Mansfield
Directed to: Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Tabled on: 18 April 2024

Petition Grievance:

The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that there is a proposal by Prospect Hill International to construct and operate a massive waste-to-energy plant in Lara, Geelong.

The company is proposing to burn 400,000 tonnes of municipal, commercial and industrial waste annually for 25 years, equivalent to 10 million tonnes of waste. The construction is oversized and most feedstock would need to come from outside our region. The huge boiler room and 80-metre-high chimney that would need to be constructed would negatively impact the region's amenity.

Incinerators do not mitigate the need for landfill and are the most expensive way to treat waste. All waste incinerators emit deadly forever chemicals and toxic pollutants that travel long distances and bioaccumulate in the environment. The community fears the impacts on human health and the environment.

Lara's air pollution is already above safe World Health Organization levels. Seventeen schools or childcare centres are within 5km radius of the proposed construction site, and the Urban Growth Zone is 2.7km away. The community opposes the project. Of the 121 submission received by the Environment Protection Authority, 115 have already opposed the project.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to not impose an oversized, unsafe and unnecessary waste incinerator in the region and reject planning permit PA2001035 and development licence APP1004200.

Reply:

I note the concerns raised about the potential impacts of the proposed waste to energy facility in Lara.

A planning permit application for the project (PA2001035) is currently being assessed against the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, which will ensure that all relevant matters are considered.

The planning permit application and the documents that support the application can be viewed by searching for the application number online at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/permits-and-applications/ministerial-permits/browse-ministerial-permits>.

Public notice of the planning permit application occurred in July 2021. All objections and submissions received will be taken into consideration before a determination is made.

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria approved a development licence for the facility on 6 December 2023. Details can be found at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/prospect-hill-international-pty-ltd-lara>.

Further questions or submissions on the planning permit application should be directed to the Development Approvals and Design team at the Department of Transport and Planning via email to development.approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au.



Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

15/5/2024