

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 573
Petition Sponsored by: Sarah Mansfield
Directed to: Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Tabled on:

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that thanks to industry lobbying and greenwash, some are convinced that waste-to-energy incinerators are the clean alternative to landfill, however the facts tell a different story. Incinerators threaten to stifle our shift to zero waste and a circular economy by locking councils into long-term contracts for waste generation, not reduction. Incinerators also generate significant amounts of hazardous waste, threaten people's health and produce climate pollution. Waste incineration is not a renewable source of energy as it is an extractive industry that burns waste made from virgin resources, mostly crude oil. Without intervention now, incinerators threaten to lock us into the old waste paradigm and become a source of significant environmental problems into the future. The proposed incinerator site on Sunbury Road in Bulla will be located only one kilometre away from the nearest residential area and will add an additional 400 to 800 trucks to local roads a day. This is a prime example of this greenwashing and should not be permitted to proceed.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to reject the proposed Sunbury Road, Bulla Eco-Hub waste-to-energy incinerator.

Reply:

I thank the Member for Western Victoria Region for raising this matter on behalf of the petitioners.

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

A planning scheme amendment has been requested to facilitate the proposal. Consultation will be undertaken with the surrounding community about the proposal. All submissions will be taken into consideration before the matter is determined.

An assessment of the proposal will consider potential impacts to nearby land uses, including residential dwellings, as well as impacts to the road network.

It is noted that a development licence will be required for a proposal of this nature, and this will be assessed and determined by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria.


Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

7/10/2024