

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Independent Planning Commission  
**Date:** Monday, 14 May 2018 12:48:38 AM

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## Re: Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility Notes by Keelah Lam

The Director General of the Department of Planning has made a rare decision and wisely put the waste to energy dial a dump incinerator on ice, at least till after the next election.

The EPA recognises the key issue of air quality and unknown health impacts on the Sydney Basin

Once built we must continue to FEED the BEAST. The proposed massive incinerator will undermine incentives and attempts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

According to David Suzuki, incineration of waste to energy appears to be a win-win easier plan. But it's problematic.

Sweden and Germany must now import waste to fuel their generators!

Unnecessary waste of non-renewable resources.

Toxins: mercury, dioxins, furans,  
carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions = climate chaos

Canada: bottom ash =17% of weight of the incinerated waste  
high levels of carcinogenic heavy metal and cadmium of twice the  
allowed limit and high lead levels to be disposed

1993 EPA's Earthworks course on waste minimisation led my 25year  
serious involvement in the issue of waste and vision for zero waste  
legislation.

1995 Waste Minimisation and Management Act  
Industries were required to show how each industry would  
reduce their waste by 60% by year 2000.  
Dairy Industry required to write 1st Waste Reduction Plan.

State Waste Advisory Council consisted of the EPA, the  
relevant industry representatives and LGA reps, and  
community environment reps.

I was a representative for the NSW Nature Conservation  
Council.

EPA and the government let the state down.  
They buckled under industry pressure [political donations?]  
and missed the perfect opportunity to stem the burgeoning  
flow of waste.

Under the required heading '% of refillable bottles', the  
Dairy Industry wrote: 'There will be 0% refillable bottles.'  
The refillable milk bottles were removed from sale shortly  
after.

The Beverage Industry under the leadership of cocacola  
also got away with doing nothing.

I learned from our local tyre man that they would happily  
retread tyres, but there is no limit to the sizes and gauges  
of tyres locally made or imported. Their retread equipment  
was too limited to cope. And the large tyre manufacturers  
instructed them to slash tyres they removed from cars.

Following the collapse of the waste act came the risky plan  
to transport all Sydney waste to fill the huge ex-copper  
mine at Tarago, the base lower than Lake George in the  
south, to the north Sydney's drinking water catchment and  
Goulbourn to the west. Granville residents took this plan to  
the Land and Environment Court and won the case against  
trucking, dumping and plastic- wrapping the stinking waste  
in their residential suburb before transporting it by train to  
Tarago, thence by truck to 'Woodlawn' mining void.  
This win was overturned the next day by government

intervention.

The rapid obscene growth of waste continues, urged on by the plastics industry making every conceivable product contain plastic [cf hospital waste, plastic car parts]

Our waste of non-renewable resources is related to:

Excessive packaging

Planned obsolescence [France outlawed this 2015]

Hyperconsumerism

Lack of awareness

Madness of desiring cheaper newer and shinier stuff  
[watched in horror as my deceased elderly neighbour's solid long-life furniture was crushed, splintered and shattered in the council garbage compacter]

Our oceans, a major oxygen and food source are fast filling with our waste. [bottles, bags, driftnets, fridges etc]

At present NOTHING has a value at end of life [10c deposit]

Waste drives climate change:

The mining of non-renewable resources uses untold water and energy

The transport

The manufacture using water, energy, toxic chemicals, creating toxic waste and environmental destruction [eg aluminium production]

More transport

Consume, consume and

Dispose..... A linear system

Just look at the Hunter Valley coal mining destruction of valuable farmlands leaving a desolate moonscape to future

generations, and destruction from fracking for coal seam gas so that China can manufacture disposable products for us briefly use them to chuck out.

Must change the climate-chaos-driving linear system into a closed loop, cradle to cradle system. The Story of Stuff by Annie Leonard, a staffer at Greenpeace International, spent years visiting factories, garbage dumps in 40 countries and exposed the international toxic waste trade and explains in cartoon form our uneconomic linear system of production to waste.

You may have children, grandchildren?  
Prepared to leave them with this unsolved problem?

My vision:

The ZERO WASTE Solution to this  
shameful waste is NOT difficult.

Zero Waste Legislation means giving everything which cannot go back into the earth a tracked deposit/refund value. Industry must take responsibility from manufacture to end of life for each product [Extended Producer Responsibility EPR]. Ultimately, having producers factor in the impacts of waste will drive greater efficiencies in waste reduction, avoidance and recycling. They will have incentive to design waste out of the manufacturing process; manufacture towards ZERO WASTE with the aim of long life, repair, refit, and closed loop recycling.

South Australia since 1978 was successful in preventing bottle litter via their 10c deposit/refund. Bottles are returned clean and sorted. Had they introduced EPR, bottle refilling would have returned to create more [closed loop] jobs.

Here are some other examples to replace the short term thinking of burning waste to energy.

- . Manly Council about 20yrs ago invested in a mobile dishwasher and ample \$2 deposit/refund plates to serve the Food and Wine Fest. Sadly they trialled several

different pro-choice methods but didn't follow the tried and true example of Nuremberg's successful Xmas festival. On the Saturday of the weekend they did follow the shining example of Nuremberg's Xmas festival they failed to plan enough \$2 coins for each plate returned. They ran out of change. On the Sunday they abandoned the deposit system, but the comparison was stunning. On the Saturday when the plates had a value of \$2 Manly was left clean and shining. On the Sunday when the plates had no value Manly was left filthy, from one end to the other, not only with dirty plates but with all the accompanying litter.

- . The Netherlands volunteers set up Repair Cafes to encourage people to use and teach their skills in repairs of all kinds of consumer items from clothing to electronics to bicycles etc. Now we have the Bower in Marrackville, and Permaculture Sydney North repair cafe in Lane Cove. Sweden has passed a law offering tax incentives for owners and repairers. This creates localised professional and untrained jobs and leads them towards zero waste.
- . Zerox set up a remanufacturing plant in Sydney, renting out their photocopy machines, sending out a mechanic with spare parts, or replacing a machine. They worked steadily on increasing the life-span of their equipment and designing toxic waste out. [Sadly Australia doesn't discourage waste, so companies can sell their short life products very cheaply. Zerox moved their remanufacturing plant overseas.]

It IS possible to reach ZERO WASTE.

We must not invest in such expensive, wasteful technology as incineration of waste to energy.

We must not waste our non-renewable resources.

We must not poison the air and land.

We must plan to leave a better, healthier life for the coming generations.

We must embrace the vision of ZERO WASTE, and work hard and systematically with producers and importers to give them the financial incentives [and disincentives] they

need to design ZERO WASTE into their products.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/11/western-sydney-waste-incinerator-department-nsw>.

<https://www.straight.com/news/421761/david-suzuki-problems-incinerating-waste>.

<https://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/responsible-living/blogs/swedish-government-wants-reward-citizens-who-repair-instead-toss>  
<https://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-stuff/>

Blue the Film

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg-tUZG2vsA>

May 9, 2017 ... **Blue** Official Trailer. A very necessary, if distressing, **film** to see - and do whatever is in our power to save marine life. .

Lack of repair/re-use/recycling and rental constitutes a loss of job creation.

stress the zero waste legislation need, Sweden needing to import waste to feed the beast and urgent need for EPR producer take-back

There is a lack of standardisation to make repair/reuse efficient.

Ultimately companies need to design waste out of their processes. That will happen if product end-of-life take-back is more costly and an incentive to avoid waste

Need to ensure the designing out of waste at the preproduction phase and the encouragement of repair and

reuse service systems. A sliding scale of achievement towards zero waste should be designed. Pioneers in zero waste deserve rewards perhaps along a sliding scale of financial incentives.

1995 Waste Minimisation and Management Act

Industries were required to show how industries would reduce their waste by 60% by year 2000.

Dairy Industry required to write 1st Waste Reduction Plan

State Waste Advisory Council consisted of the EPA, the relevant industry representatives and LGA reps, and community environment reps.

I was a representative for the NSW Nature Conservation Council.

EPA let the state down.

Under the required heading '% of refillable bottles', the Dairy Industry wrote: 'There will be 0% refillable bottles.'

The refillable milk bottles were removed from sale shortly after.

The Beverage Industry under the leadership of cocacola also got away with doing nothing.

I learned from our local tyre man that they would happily retread tyres, but there is no limit to the sizes and guages of tyres locally made or imported. Their retread equipment was too limited to cope. And the large tyre manufacturers instructed them to slash tyres they removed from cars.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Independent Planning Commission [Waste - dial a dump"s Eastern Creek Waste to Energy Incinerator  
**Date:** Friday, 18 May 2018 5:59:21 PM

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Dear Panel,

Further to my address last Monday I submit updated notes. Thank you for hearing me out.

I object strongly to the planned massive waste to energy incinerator in Eastern Creek or anywhere else.

This mad proposal is there because China refuses to take our filthy waste and our government has failed to use the law to rein in our burgeoning waste generation, by now the highest per capita in the world.

The Director General made a rare decision and wisely put the proposal on ice.

The EPA recognises the key issues of air quality and serious health impacts on the Sydney Basin.

No matter how modern the incineration system is there will be toxins; mercury, dioxins, furans and carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions speed climate change. Bottom ash, 17% of weight of the incinerated waste, contains high levels of carcinogenic heavy metals and cadmium of twice the allowed limit and high lead levels to be disposed of.

The proposal may appear to some to be a convenient win win, easier plan. But it is too problematic and is a desperate attempt to make our shameful waste problem 'go away'.

Once built we must continue to FEED THE BEAST. It will undermine incentives and attempts to reduce, reuse, recycle.

It is unnecessary and bad to waste our non-renewable resources.

Sweden and Germany must now IMPORT waste to fuel their generators.

My History:

Being the last generation in Australia to grow up before the invention of disposable plastics and products I have intimate knowledge and practise Zero Waste living. I moved to Malaysia in 1967 when disposable plastic was unheard of and lived in Malaysia for 17 years. The nature based waste was innocently chucked out the door into the monsoon drain... back to nature. I passively watched the embrace of 'best is West' mindless Western consumerism. I return to KL and am sickened by the filthy plastic litter EVERYWHERE. Not out of sight and out of mind. This waste does not go away.

In 1993 I did the EPA's Earthworks 10 week course on waste minimisation which has led to my 25years of serious involvement in the issue of waste and my vision for ZERO WASTE LEGISLATION.

We students were so shocked at what we learnt we started Manly Food Coop [21years ago] to offer waste free shopping.

Our protests helped close down the dirty Waterloo incinerator, and both North Head sewage incinerator stacks [for a slightly better sludge drying system].

In 1995 the excellent NSW Waste Minimisation Act was passed which showed true forward thinking and gave REAL HOPE to stem the waste flow - the Sydney garbage tips were filling fast and NO suburb wants to host a tip.



Each industry was required to write an Industry Waste Reduction Plan to document how they would reduce their waste by 60% by the year 2000

The State Waste Advisory Council was to oversee each plan and consisted of EPA representatives, relevant industry representatives, LGA members and community environment representative. I was a representative for the NSW Nature Conservation Council.

Needless to say the EPA and the Government let the State down. They buckled under industry pressure, and what is widely believed, political donations.

The dairy industry wrote the first Waste Reduction Plan. Under the required heading: "% of refillable bottles" they dictated 'There will be 0% of refillable bottles', the bottles were removed from sale shortly thereafter.

The beverage industry under the leadership of cococola got away with doing NOTHING. I learned from our local tyreman that they would willingly retread ALL tyres. But the wide range of locally made or imported sizes and guages made it impossible for tyre businesses to own all the necessary retread machinery. And the large manufacturers instructed them to slash all tyres they removed from cars.

Following the collapse of the Waste Act came the risky plan to transport Sydney waste to fill the HUGE ex-copper mine at Tarago - its base is lower than Lake George in the south; to the north is Sydney's drinking water catchment; Goulbourn is to the west.

Granville residents took this plan to the Land and Enviroment Court - AND WON the case against trucking and dumping the stinking waste on a factory floor in their residential suburb, before transporting it by train to Terago, thence to Woodlawn mining void [promising plentiful non-existent jobs to the community]. But the very next day government intervention overturned the win.

Burgeoning Waste:

Our plunder and waste of non renewable resources is related to:

Excessive packaging

Hyperconsumerism

Lack of awareness

Manufactured obsolescence

Madness of desiring ever cheaper, newer, shinier stuff. [I watched in horror as my elderly deceased neighbour's quality, solid wood, long life furniture was crushed, splintered and shattered in the council garbage compactor truck].

Our dying oceans, a major source of oxygen and food for our planet are fast filling with our waste [from plastic bags, bottles, driftnets and refrigerators etc].

NOTHING HAS VALUE in this linear system at end of life. But waste is MUCH MORE than stuff we don't want to keep. The cumulative effect of waste DRIVES climate change.

The mining of non-renewable resources

The transport of the raw materials

The manufacturing using water, energy, toxic chemicals and waste and environmental destruction eg aluminium production

More transport

Consume, consume

Dispose - a linear system

Just look at the Hunter Valley coal mining destruction of valuable farmlands leaving a desolate moonscape to future generations, and destruction from fracking for CSG so that China can manufacture disposable products for us to briefly use and then chuck out.

This climate-chaos-driving linear system must convert to a CLOSED LOOP, cradle to cradle system.

Solution:

You may have children and grandchildren - you may not be prepared to leave them with this unsolved problem.

MY VISION:

A ZERO WASTE SOLUTION to this shameful waste is NOT DIFFICULT

ZERO WASTE LEGISLATION will be achieved by giving everything which cannot go back into the earth a tracked deposit/refund and a meaningful value.

Industry MUST take responsibility for manufactured goods till end of life for each product ie Extended Producer Responsibility [EPR]. Ultimately having producers factor in the impacts of waste will drive greater efficiencies in waste reduction, avoidance and recycling. They will have incentives [ and necessary disincentives] to design waste out of the manufacturing process and manufacture towards ZERO WASTE with the aim of long life, repair refit and closed loop recycling.

South Australia has had the successful 10c deposit/refund litter measure since 1978. Bottles are returned clean and sorted ready for recycling. [These would not have been turned away from China] Had they introduced EPR, bottle refilling would have returned to create waste free, closed loop relocalised jobs for many.

Some examples which replace short term thinking of waste to energy:

Manly Food and Wine Festival invested in a mobile dish washer and 20000 long life plates with the intention of avoiding waste and litter and following the successful Nuremberg Xmas Festival system. Unfortunately the council unsuccessfully trialled [\$2 refund for the plates] many voluntary systems in conjunction with paper plates. The only time they they required the public to use the plates they had not factored in the need for \$2 refunds and ran out of refund coins on the Saturday. On the Sunday they put no refund system in place. There was a stark difference; on Saturday Manly was left sparkling clean as people returned the plates and disposed of other rubbish responsibly. On the Sunday without deposit/refund Manly was left with rubbish and plates dumped from north to south, many plates taken as trophies.

Netherland introduced Repair Cafes to encourage people to get things fixed and although it's a drop in the ocean, it leads to people learning how to do repairs themselves. We have these in Sydney now eg The Marrackville Bower, and Permaculture Sydney North's Repair Cafe at Lane Cove.

Sweden introduced tax incentives for repairers and those who get things repaired. This leads to relocalisation of professional and untrained relocalised work.

Zerex remanufacturing plant in Sydney was doing an amazing job by renting out photocopy machines, repairing them and redesigning waste out of their machinery. Unfortunately they couldn't compete financially with cheap brands designed for obsolescence.

Interface rented carpet squarea are the inspiring leader in moral change. They show environmental sustainability is BETTER FOR BUSINESS and they offset their greenhouse emissions. They boast ZERO WASTE and no increase in greenhouse gases.

It is quite clear the present generation of waste and lack of value in products at end of life cannot go on. Incineration of waste is NOT a solution.

It IS possible to reach ZERO WASTE

Food waste can be composted locally and the living compost transported to farmlands to revive dying soils.

We must NOT waste non-renewable resources.

We must NOT poison our air, land and water.

Mindless consumerism MUST END - but it will not happen voluntarily.

We must plan to leave a better healthier life for coming generations.

Industry MUST have incentives to manufacture products for longlife, repair, refit, closed loop recycling with intergenerational equity front and centre.

THIS will create unending relocalised jobs, professional and untrained  
We MUST embrace the VISION of ZERO WASTE

With strict ZERO WASTE legislation, and the 1995 Waste Act as a guide, we must work hard and systematically with producers and importers making sure the financial incentives and necessary disincentives are included for designing and manufacturing zero waste into their products.

ZERO WASTE is my VISION. Without it we will rely on failed and failing short term attempts to deal with waste and its far more serious outcome -CLIMATE CHAOS.

Yours faithfully  
Keelah Lam



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [JPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: ABC News: This Japanese town has 45 different recycling bins  
**Date:** Sunday, 20 May 2018 3:55:16 PM

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Further reasons NOT to go down the path of waste to energy incinerator

Regards

Keelah Lam

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 20 May 2018 at 3:02:04 pm AEST  
**To:** Keelah Lam [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** ABC News: This Japanese town has 45 different recycling bins

### This Japanese town has 45 different recycling bins

If you think working out whether your rubbish should go into recycling or non-recycling, spare a thought for the residents of this Japanese town who sort their waste into 45 different categories in their quest to reach a zero-waste goal by 2020. [Read the full story](#)

Shared from [ABC app](#)



Sent from my iPhone