

**Speech to the Independent Planning Commission  
14.5.18**

**Dear Chairperson Ms Kruk and Commissioners Mr  
Duncan and Mr Pearson,**

My name is Kerri Bradbury and I am a Minchinbury resident, having purchased land in Minchinbury in 1984 and then built on this land in 1989. I have been a long term active member of the local community, I've also been involved in many local community groups. This includes being a long serving committee member of the P&C of Minchinbury Public School, Colyton Public School and Erskine Park High School. I have also been a committee member of the Minchinbury Parks Committee and have been involved in local community action groups, addressing concerns on such matters as the closure of Mount Druitt Pool and No Incinerator for Western Sydney. I am a proud member of my local community, who is passionate and cares about what happens in our community.

My home is within 1.5 kilometres of the proposed Energy from Waste facility. Whilst the incinerator will

obviously have a negative impact on the local environment and is of grave concern to myself, my family and my neighbours, the proposed Energy from Waste Facility/Incinerator is far more than a local issue. It is an issue that has the potential to negatively affect all of Sydney and any other area where such a facility may be proposed to be built in the future.

I would like to state my strong objection to this facility. The reasons why are to do with my family's and our community's health; the quantity and quality of stakeholder consultation that took place; and the continual lack of correct detail in the proponent's submissions.

1. First and foremost, I am concerned for my family's health. My son suffers from asthma and so do many other children in Western Sydney. My father suffers from a chronic lung disease and is adversely affected by high pollution days. I know there are many families in Western Sydney and Sydney who have these same problems. The days of fine Particulate Matter 2.5 & 10, exceeding air quality standards is becoming more common. And because we are on a flat plain here and

bordered by the mountains it causes the air to get trapped. The community of Minchinbury, Erskine Park, St Clair, Colyton, Rooty Hill, and Mt Druitt are all very close to this proposed site. It can't be guaranteed that our health or the environment won't be affected. In the Assessment Report from the NSW Department of Planning April 2018, it has been stated that:

“the applicant has attempted to address these concerns through multiple revisions to the air quality impact assessment and the human health risk assessment. However, the application documents have failed to provide sufficient certainty to the key government authorities and the independent experts, that the air quality impacts and the risk to human health can be predicted with an appropriate level of confidence.”

NSW Health said “it is unable to support the proposal in its current form.” Concerns were raised on accuracy of modelling used for emissions and “the conclusions of the HHRA , management of waste feedstock inputs and the increase in ground level concentrations of ozone levels, particulates, dioxins, furans and the subsequent potential impact on human health.”

2. Secondly, quality and quantity of consultation has been poor:

I strongly feel that consultation of contacting an active community member or two at the very beginning was not enough to inform the wider community of this upcoming development application. I also feel that suggestions that I made overall, were mainly ignored.

I was contacted by Ian Malouf in late November 2013 to invite me to a tour of the Genesis Recycling Facility at Eastern Creek. I went out to the recycling facility on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013 and met with Ian Malouf (Dial a Dump) and Darryl Watkins (KJA consultancy). I was given a tour and then shown a video of The Next Generation (TNG) Electricity Generation Facility. The video showed how rubbish was trucked in and unloaded on a conveyer belt and then put into a furnace where it was heated up to very high temperatures. The video said the emissions were safe due to filtration. I expressed my concerns there that day after seeing the video. I was assured it was safe. They said they wanted to invite the community to an

Open Day at the recycling facility. It was going to be done in December or January from memory.

I rang Daryl later to say that I didn't think the timing was any good for the Open Day. It was Christmas and school holidays. I suggested to try a Saturday in February 2014, but later realised that it was soccer registrations and summer sport too, so I emailed Darryl to say it might not attract a lot of people, due to the many sporting commitments of families. The other issue was it was not easy to get to and would put off most people.

In my email I suggested trying shopping centres at Mt Druitt, Minchinbury and Erskine Park, so residents could see the plans and be informed. Also, that an information session be held at Rooty Hill RSL. My thoughts were that the community needed to know about this. I explained to Darryl that I had tried to communicate on Facebook to the community and that it didn't really have any success. I really felt the best way was to go out into the community to reach people.

Prior to the meeting, I was sent a sample of the brochure that was going to be sent out to residents. Looking back on it now, I feel that it was misleading. It said Electricity Generation Facility. It explained that 'thermal technology would convert waste that would otherwise go into landfill into green power'.

I had no idea what thermal technology meant and I doubt the community would have either. The brochure also said there would be 'extensive community consultation' and that did not happen until the amended EIS. It wasn't until February 2017 when Blacktown and Penrith Councils held information forums for residents with TNG representatives there to talk about the proposed EfW incinerator. The first time that this had occurred with TNG.

I have all the emails relating to my suggestions and the initial meeting.

The Department of Planning also didn't notify enough residents. 3,000 people within a 2km radius. This meant that three quarters of Erskine Park residents, most of St Clair residents and none of Colyton

residents would have been notified. Advertisements were placed in the Penrith papers, and Blacktown Advocate, SMH and Daily Telegraph. Nothing in the Mount Druitt Standard or St Marys Star.

It was evident that not enough was done to inform the community. When getting signatures for petitions, myself and other residents as part of NIWS, found people were not aware of it, or had only just found out since it was on the News on TV, or from a forum held by Blacktown Council and Penrith Council along with the public meeting organised by the Green's Jeremy Buckingham.

When NIWS was surveying residents in Minchinbury in May 2017, we found that 72.5% of residents (i.e. 29 out of 42 people) did not know about the TNG Energy from Waste Incinerator until February/March 2017. Likewise, at a Family Fun Day on 6 May 2017 at St Clair we found 74% of people (i.e. 26 out of 35 people) we surveyed didn't know about it or had just found out about it in the last 2 - 3 months.

I strongly feel letterbox dropping a brochure and CD or USB in both 2015 and 2017 to a limited area did not engage with people. Most people would have just thought it was more advertising and thrown it in the bin. Furthermore, a letter from the NSW Department of Planning dated 25 May 2015 informing us that an application was put in had a misleading title. It had a title of *Eastern Creek Energy from Waste Facility Blayney Export Meats Smallstock Abattoirs*. I have this letter here with me.

It was only that I was already familiar with this energy from waste that I read on. I don't think many people would have read it. Once again when surveying and doing petitions, it was found that most people didn't know about it until Feb/March last year.

Consultation did not happen with all community groups either. The local soccer club Minchinbury Jets Soccer Club (MJSC) did not get approached or consulted by TNG. This is known because my husband has been the secretary and president since 2004. MJSC are located only 1.6 km from the proposed site.



From May 2015, up until the amended EIS came out in January 2017, there was no attempt made to hold an information meeting by TNG. We only had a forum held by Blacktown Council on the EfW incinerator in June of 2016 at Minchinbury where we heard more information about it and for some residents, they found out about it for the first time.

There was a telephone survey done with one of my friends who lives in Rooty Hill on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017. It was from a market research company ringing from QLD. The man wouldn't identify who he was calling for but was surveying about energy. He did admit it was about the EfW Incinerator at Eastern Creek after my friend Julie questioned him. However, the questions were slanted in a way to ask her to agree to energy options he posed. She had no other choice. I have a copy of the conversation Julie had with me on a message about it. Julie's phone number is on the copy.

My point here is if this is presented as evidence today that people accept this, then the questions were slanted in a way that was skewed towards what the person wanted to say. As in, they wanted people to say energy coming from waste is a good idea.

As quoted in the assessment report: “The Department of Planning does not consider the applicant has entered into a genuine dialogue with community nor has it gained their acceptance or support.”

3. Thirdly, the continual lack of correct detail or rigour as put in the assessment, is of major concern. After three attempts it is still not satisfying the same independent consultants, the EPA and NSW Health and the Department of Planning.

“The Department concurs with ARUP (independent consultant) and the EPA that Ferrybridge is not thermally treating a like waste stream.” Therefore concerns are raised for accuracy of modelling

**In conclusion**, the unknown impact on air quality, the environment and on the health of my family and my community, as stated by NSW Health and the EPA, is a major concern.

The lack of community engagement and consultation was a major concern and affected how many people knew about this. The notification process of the

development application going on display for both the EIS in 2015 and amended EIS in 2017 did not notify enough people. It is only after the council forum, the public meeting organised by the Green's Jeremy Buckingham and the news articles on Prime-Time News on TV in Feb and March of 2017, that more people started to become aware in the first few months of 2017.

The fact that the feedstock is not the same as any other facility as proposed here, is cause for great concern, as this changes the emissions, which is why the independent consultants and NSW Health and the EPA cannot support it.

12,000+ signatures on the petition presented to parliament, another 10,000+ presented to the upper house, 98% of the public submissions to this application were against it, is enough to say that there is no community acceptance and I ask the commission to follow the recommendation of the Planning Department to reject the application.

Thank you for your time.