NSW Environmental Protection Authority  
Locked Bag 5022,   
Parramatta NSW 2124

**INSERT DATE** March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: DRAFT PEO (GENERAL) AMENDMENT (THERMAL ENERGY FROM WASTE) REGULATION 2021

**I do not support the incineration of waste at any location because:**

1. Burning waste is NOT part of a circular economy as once burnt the resource is gone forever and can never be recovered or reused. Burning recovered materials is a prime example of a linear, single use economy – not a circular one.
2. There is a viable alternative to burning waste which is practised widely throughout the EU i.e. the creation of a circular economy where materials are recovered and reused to reduce material going to landfill rather than being burnt – and this is possible even for medical waste[[1]](#endnote-1).
3. A Circular Economy will produce huge economic and social benefits to the NSW Economy in terms of permanent, skilled jobs and a healthier environment. For example, the recent PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) study, “Building a More Circular Australia”[[2]](#endnote-2) estimates that the cumulative economic benefit to NSW of moving to a circular economy through to 2040 would be $648 billion.2a
4. The chronic, 24/7 exposure to low level heavy metals, acid gases and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by the ingestion and inhalation of ultrafine particles emitted when waste is burnt causing long-term health and environmental impacts are unacceptable, e.g. cancers, reproductive dysfunction and congenital birth defects.   
   Recent research carried out in the EU clearly demonstrates this.[[3]](#endnote-3),[[4]](#endnote-4)

**Issues with the draft regulations**

With respect to the draft regulation that has been released for community consultation, I/We would like to make the following points:

1. To protect the health and environment of NSW residents, there should be no exception to the proposed prohibition of the thermal treatment of waste to energy as contained in Clause 128B.
2. Clause 128 C part 3 be retained in its present form without exception.
3. The note under Clause 128D must be removed as it could potentially negate Section 128B by stating that “a licence cannot be refused if it is necessary for carrying out State significant development authorised by a development consent.”   
     
   The effect of this note would be to exempt any State significant project from the regulation and this note must be removed from the regulation.
4. Any variation to the above should require:
5. Proof that no detrimental impact to the health of surrounding communities or the environment is caused and
6. Prior extensive community consultation.

Could you please ensure that these issues are addressed before this regulation is adopted.

Yours faithfully

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

**REFERENCES**

1. # [Clinical clean up: finding ways to recycle medical waste](https://createdigital.org.au/clinical-clean-up-recycling-medical-waste)

   [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [PricewaterhouseCoopers, “Building a More Circular Australia”](https://www.pwc.com.au/important-problems/environment-social-governance/building-a-more-circular-australia.html), 1a (table on page 12) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. [HT Incineration-Hidden POPs Emissions-Arkenbout, Petrlik, 2019](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336650688_Hidden_emissions_of_UPOPs_Case_study_of_a_waste_incinerator_in_the_Netherlands) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. [IPEN, Toxic Ash Poisons Our Food Chain, 2017, Section 9, Case Studies, Newcastle, UK (Byker Waste Incinerator)](https://english.arnika.org/publications/download/154_351dcd078c6351c9794a639d61a175b4) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)