



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 31 October 2025

Collaboration not Combustion: CATTI Calls for City and Bush to Unite Against Waste-to-Energy Incineration

Communities Against the Tarago Incinerator (CATTI Inc.), established in 2021, has today lodged its formal submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Facilities.

CATTI's submission calls on the Parliament to reject the proposed incinerators at Tarago and Parkes, citing community opposition and overwhelming peer-reviewed evidence that waste burning threatens public health, agriculture, biodiversity, and climate goals.

"This is not just a Tarago issue, it's a test of how the bush and the city work together for a cleaner, fairer future," said a CATTI spokesperson. "Sydney's waste should not become the Southern Tablelands' burden. True partnership between metropolitan and regional communities means tackling waste at its source, not exporting the problem."

Key Messages from CATTI's Submission

- Peer-reviewed science is clear: Global studies (Jelínek et al., 2024; Tait et al., 2020) show waste incineration releases persistent pollutants, dioxins, furans, PFAS, and heavy metals, harmful to human health, that bioaccumulate and remain toxic at extremely low concentrations.
- No safe level of exposure: Research across Europe and Australia confirms that ultrafine particles and dioxins have no safe threshold for human or ecological health.
- Burning waste burns the climate: Plastic-rich feedstocks make EfW one of the most carbon-intensive disposal methods—emitting roughly 900 kg CO₂-e per tonne, nearly twice that of modern landfills with methane capture.
- Toxic ash, toxic legacy: Each tonne of waste leaves behind ~250 kg of hazardous residue, enriched with lead, cadmium, and dioxins. NSW has no facility meeting EU hazardous-waste containment standards.

- Track record of breaches: Veolia's Woodlawn site has faced repeated EPA warnings, fines, and odour complaints—evidence that operational assurances cannot replace accountability.
- Circular economy contradiction: The Productivity Commission's 2024 Interim Report warns that early investment in EfW will divert resources away from recycling, reuse, and genuine waste avoidance.
- Call for collaboration, not combustion: CATTI urges NSW to build a shared city-bush waste strategy that supports recycling industries, local jobs, and clean regional environments.

Echoing Rachel Carson's Warning

CATTI's submission honours the legacy of Rachel Carson, whose 1962 book **Silent Spring** sparked the global environmental movement:

"The 'control of nature' is a phrase conceived in arrogance." Rachel Carson, **Silent Spring** (1962)

"Carson taught us that pollution begins where complacency begins," the spokesperson said. "It's time for the city and the bush to stand together: to listen to science, to act before harm occurs, and to leave our children clean soil and clear skies."

About CATTI Inc.

Established in 2021, Communities Against the Tarago Incinerator (CATTI) is a community-led, non-partisan organisation working to protect the health, land, and livelihoods of Southern Tablelands communities. CATTI advocates for waste solutions that prioritise reduction, reuse, and recycling, not incineration, ensuring that urban and regional NSW share responsibility for a truly circular economy.

Media Contact

CATTI Inc. – Media Team

✉ notaragoincinerator@gmail.com ☎ 0408 811 657

🌐 www.notaragoincinerator.com

