

# Te Ao Māori perspectives on incineration



## He taonga nui te tūpato - Caution is highly prized.

- 1** Para Kore is a national Māori organisation working towards zero waste. They say the burning of resources and creating greenhouse gases and toxic ash is a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and an attempt to condone the current exploitative and extractive status quo system.
- 2** Māori have the highest respiratory disease mortality rates.<sup>1</sup> Increases in toxic air pollution from incineration will disproportionately impact Māori.
- 3** Ngāti Kauwhata rejected the recent Feilding waste-to-energy pyrolysis project. They noted that their early approval of the project was the result of their “vulnerability being weaponised” against them during Covid and that “consultation does not mean agreement.”
- 4** Iwi have the mandate for speaking on waste-to-energy issues within their rohe, but there is currently no dedicated collective iwi body specifically focused on waste management, such as there are with freshwater and climate, meaning knowledge & responses vary.
- 5** There is little to no guidance for territorial authorities on how to appropriately engage with Iwi on these projects.
- 6** Plastic, the major feed for incinerators, is waste colonialism, meaning that it creates injustices against Māori at each stage of the life of plastic from oil extraction to disposal on indigenous lands and waters.<sup>2</sup>

**"Incineration does not align with our pae tawhiti which is centred on well-being and health: Oranga Taiao, Oranga Marae, Oranga Whānau"**  
-Para Kore

1] Asthma & Respiratory Foundation NZ. 2021. The Impact of Respiratory Disease in New Zealand. See <https://www.asthmafoundation.org.nz>

2] Plastic pollution as waste colonialism in Aotearoa (New Zealand). 2024. Matt Peryman, Romilly Cumming, Tina Ngata. Marine Policy v 163. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106078>

**Let's keep Aotearoa incinerator free**

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**REGENERATION  
NOT INCINERATION**