

*Metroland Letter to Editor*

## **Burning trash has non-monetary costs**

Wed May 28, 2008

Re: 'Incineration cheaper than landfill: report', May 18 News Advertiser" It seems that the truth is very much the reverse when the medical costs are taken into account.

The substances produced by incineration include a range of chemicals known to cause heart disease, leukemias, cancers and birth defects.

There is also a fear that some can damage our genes and so be passed onto our children and grandchildren, etc.

Some of the worst are very small particles that can easily pass through our lungs into our blood stream. Monitoring of the levels of these in chimneys has not proved helpful because they depend on what is being burned that day, wind speed, etc.

Moreover there is no safe level (any amount will cause some disease).

Perhaps Durham Regional Council could accept the report of the British Society for Ecological Medicine of December 2005 (available on the Internet), which concluded that no further incinerators should be built.

Dr. Gerald Baker, Whitby