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Director- Industry Assessments, Development Assessment,
Department of Planning and Environment,
Locked Bag 5002 22
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Director,
Re Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre
Application No. SSD-21184278

I wish to both object to the development, and provide comment on matters that you may not be aware of.

I have not given any reportable donations.
I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

Last night I attended an Extraordinary Meeting held by Goulburn Mulwaree Council, aimed at forming their opinions on the above project for their submission to you. When I left the meeting I realised that there were subjects that raised problems in my own mind that had not been referred to. There was only space for registered speakers, so I was not able to express my opinions, so I am conveying them directly to you.

My concerns relate to Lake George, which you would know is in close proximity to the Woodlawn site.

I have long had a close tie with Lake George.

I will break my comments into 3 sections

- 1- State Government care of Lake George
- 2- Water supply to Lake George.
- 3- Pollution of Lake George.

1- State Government care of Lake George.- When the 'new' Federal Highway was built, the State government put a lot of work into creating holding dams, to catch rainwater and spillage into the lake, and remove the possibility of pollution, reportedly because the lake had to be protected as a pristine area.

Not too long after that I either read or heard that a land holder on the eastern side of the lake wanted to build a small dam on one of the streams that run into the lake, and he was prevented by the State from doing that because it would deprive the lake of much needed water.

When the highway was built there were also 3 viewing areas constructed with conveniences, so that drivers could stop, and view that pristine area.- WONDERFUL!

Then you allowed wind turbines to be built along the whole length of the eastern hills, which completely destroy the view that was carefully nurtured. I cringe every time I see those turbines, and I assure you that if I had known where they were to be located at the time, I would have strongly objected. Please don't make another huge mistake like that one!

(2)

2- Water supply to Lake George. Lake George comes and goes depending on the weather. It fills up in wet times, and dries up in drought, and can be wet or dry for long periods of time- depending on the weather. The water is only supplied by 3 small streams- 2 on the eastern side, and one on the western side, at Geary's Gap. Any other water comes directly from rain that runs off the hills.

. So the lake depends on the small amounts of water supplied by those streams, and run off. The streams are very short, and certainly could not be described as rivers.

It is some time since I have been to Woodlawn, but I vividly remember driving past one of those streams on the way.

My understanding of waste to energy is that waste is burnt to supply heat, which is used to boil water, and turn it into steam, which is then used to turn generators to create electricity.

My question is- Where is Woodlawn going to get this large amount of water from! If it's from the stream it will deplete the lake.

If it's from bore water, it will also deplete the lake, because the lake depends on soaking the ground base before it can put water into itself.

If it's from the Shoalhaven River, or Mulwaree River then both would deprive Sydney of the water they need, as I understand that the Mulwaree feeds Waragamba Dam, and the Shoalhaven also feeds Waragamba Dam via the large dam south east of Mossvale.

And of course all of those systems would receive dioxins and other pollutants into them.

3- Pollution of Lake George- While the 3 streams run into lake George, there is absolutely no outlet for the water!

This is particularly important because what flows in has nowhere to go.

The only loss of water from the lake is evaporation, which you must know leaves behind all the minerals in the water.

At the meeting a lady named Jackie Wright spoke, on behalf of Viola, about the Health and environment testing that she did.

The first thing that I noticed, was that she said that she never did soil testing for matters like dioxins, because they are always in the soil in small amounts, they just test for them after a number of years. I am only a lay person, but I am aware that soils in different areas are always different, so how can you set a base level if you've never tested at the beginning. Farmers soil test so that they know what has to be added to their soils, and so do gardeners, because all soils are different.

I also noted that she said that they had tested soil and water around waste to energy plants in England. So she tested rivers and lakes and run off areas that all have an eventual outlet into the sea, and don't have the opportunity to build up a high residue.[Too bad if we pollute the sea?]

Lake George is different- completely different!

Lake George accumulates all the minerals that flow into it!

In 1961 I became the first woman to swim across Lake George.

I am not seeking to get accolades, but showing you that I have had personal experience of the water in the lake.

(3)

Two things were very obvious to me at the time. One was that the lanoline that I was greased down with had a fine coating of a greenish brown substance all over it.

The other thing was how salty the water tasted. At least twice as salty and briny as the sea does.

Several years later, in the late sixties or early seventies, thousands of fish were washed up on the western shore. [I have photographic proof of that] It became news at the time. But back then people were not so aware of causes, and I don't think any investigations were done. More recently we have seen fish dying in drought ridden rivers, and we know that the water can get so concentrated that the fish simply cannot live in it. I suspect that is what happened in Lake George.

Try adding things like dioxins to that, and the natural evaporation, and you have a highly toxic area. The evaporation never ceases, and when the Lake dries out, all the floating minerals have nowhere to go but onto the soil.

No wild life would be able to exist near it, no one would be able to touch it, let alone drink it, no domestic stock would be able to drink it, and when it dries out because of drought, no animals, birds, or insects would be able to eat anything on it!

The farmers who live around the lake actually own the land under the lake bed, and have use of it when the lake is dry. They would have to keep it completely fenced off at all times, not grow anything on it, never let stock near it, and never go near it themselves, with subsequent loss of land values as well.

I believe that the southern area of the lake is also used by the indigenous people of the area. I know that they perform rituals on and in it, and I think that they collect small herbage and critters around it. That is why they have given it the indigenous name. They would never forgive any government who allowed the likes of dioxins to build up in their hallowed area, or deprive it of the natural water. But if you let Woodlawn put any emissions into the air, water or soil, that is what will happen.

I thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours faithfully,



Julia Laybutt