

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [DPE PS Industry Assessments Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed incinerator being built in Tarago (Woodlawn ARC: SSD-21184278 )  
**Date:** Monday, 5 December 2022 12:34:51 PM

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My name is [REDACTED] and I live in Bywong NSW.

I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago (Woodlawn ARC: SSD-21184278).

### **Health impacts**

Results from large US cohort studies suggest that long-term exposure to low concentrations of airborne pollutants is associated with chronic health effects. A consensus has then been emerging among public health experts that airborne pollutants, even at the lower current ambient levels, aggravate morbidity, especially respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and lead to premature mortality.

While the argument can be made that modern incinerators have lower health effects, a recent (2020) review identified a range of adverse health effects, including significant associations with some neoplasia, congenital anomalies, infant deaths and miscarriages.

See 'The health impacts of waste incineration: a systematic review' available here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1753-6405.12939>

Overall, they identified 61 (66%) papers that demonstrated a significant adverse outcome in relation to waste incineration. Of these, 34 (37%) showed exposure to elevated levels of known pollutants, nine (10%) identified an increased risk of developing some neoplasia, nine (10%) found a correlation with adverse reproductive outcomes, and nine (10%) found a link to other diseases such as hypertension or reduced lung function.

The potential health impacts of this incinerator cannot be disregarded.

If the incinerator were to proceed, there would be need for human and environment bio monitoring programs. These would need to be more advanced and more accurate than the system proposed. And this would still not negate the health risk.

### **Local community and economy impacts**

House prices and the local economy will invariably be negatively impacted due to the proximity of the incinerator.

The area is renowned for its wine and truffle production. Even if no adverse effects are identified, the co-location is enough to negatively impact sales, export and tourism to the area. People aware of the incinerator are less likely to want to explore the region and eat locally grown and made products for fear of toxins.

### **Environmental impacts**

Some species of plants and amphibians are extremely sensitive to even low levels of toxins. Frogs in particular may exhibit mutation. Orchids once present in bush beside busy roads and highways have failed to re-emerge after a few years, potentially due to the increase in toxins from highway traffic.

Both these indicator groups are present in the area and are already under pressure from land clearing. There are a large number of orchids listed nationally and at the state level as rare or endangered. The ACT and NSW area near the incinerator contains many populations of these orchids.

### **Greenhouse and PFAS contamination**

The incinerator will also contribute to climate change by producing greenhouse gases. New data suggests that commercial incineration of [per- and polyfluoroalkyl](#)

substances (PFAS) doesn't break down the chemicals. Instead, it spreads them into surrounding areas.

David Bond, a professor at Bennington College says "It's the very definition of foolhardy to try to keep burning these things. By design, they resist thermal degradation."

Declaration

I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

[REDACTED]

(please do not publish my address and email address. Please keep this private).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]