

Hi

I'm Genine McNeill and I live in the suburb of Weston in Canberra. I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago because of the impact to the community and environment that it will result in.

I believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will pollute the Tarago region and more broadly from Canberra to Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Gunning, Marulan, Yass and more. Veolia's incinerator proposal will emit toxic air pollution 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for 25 years. Pollution from the proposed incinerator will include acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates (mercury, lead, cadmium) and persistent organic particulates (dioxins, furans, PCBs, PFAS). Particulate pollution can lead to decreased lung function, cardiac disease and death. In addition to polluting the air, dioxins and furans will accumulate in the surrounding environment over time in soil and water and are absorbed by plants, crops and animals.

The proposal will create 2.2 million tonnes of toxic waste ash, including 380,000 tonnes of air pollution control residue (fly ash) which is classified as hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). All of this will be dumped on site, risking further contamination of soil and groundwater as well as the Sydney water catchment. Veolia's track record of polluting local groundwaters (recognised by EPA prevention notice in October 2022) proves they cannot be trusted to safely manage such toxic outputs.

In addition, food contaminated by incinerator toxins can cause cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory impairment.

The proposed incinerator will exceed NSW government safety standards for air emissions during start-up, shut-down and many other 'non-standard' operating conditions. Veolia's overseas incinerators often exceed safety standards and Veolia has a track record locally for failing to comply with license conditions at their existing Woodlawn facility.

The proposal is already causing significant detrimental negative impact to surrounding communities' mental health by increasing anxiety and depression. This will only be increased if the project goes ahead as those living nearby continue to stress about when their health will start to show the impacts of the pollution from the facility, or having to stay indoors.

If the incinerator is not safe for Sydney then it should not be able to proceed in another setting. I understand that in July 2018, the Eastern Creek waste incinerator in Sydney was rejected by the NSW Independent Planning Commission as not being in the public interest. The reasons included concerns about safety, insufficient evidence that the pollution control technologies would be capable of managing emissions, concern about the relationship between air quality impacts and water quality impacts, the possibility of adverse

environmental outcomes, and concern about site suitability and human health impacts. Since then, the NSW Government has banned toxic waste incinerators in Sydney due to the risk to human health. The risks have not changed since that decision back in 2018 – this project must also be rejected. The ACT Government has also banned these sort of incinerators as they are not safe for human and animal health not for the environment.

Please take the abovementioned issues into consideration in the interests of current and future generations and planet earth.

Kind regards

Genine McNeill