

To whom it may concern,

I would like to lodge my objection to the proposed Tarago Waste Incinerator. Please find below the required details.

1. Lyndsay Pastega, 9 Westwood Circuit Bungendore NSW 2621
2. The project name is **Woodlawn ARC: SSD- 21184278**
3. **I object to the application.**
4. The reasons I object to the application are based on the environmental and health impacts of such a proposal. I am a mother of 4 children from Bungendore, a small rural town 25km from the proposed Incinerator site. My husband and I, professionals moved to the region in June 2021 after the loss of our daughter, for a country change, for the fresh clean air and country upbringing for our children. This region is an incredible source of food, wine, agriculture and water for the entire region, including the wider Sydney as a catchment. When we found out about this proposal it was devastating. We have seen the effects of the current Veolia site, on the people of Tarago and they bare the brunt of a multi-national company who face no ramifications for consistently breaking the law and breaching environmental standards. My family and I have been disappointed to see the ongoing fines from a company that spruiks clean management of its facilities. I am **deeply opposed** to the proposal for the following reasons:
  - a. **This proposal is not necessary.** The existing facility will have a remaining useful life of 25 years. There is no need to divert one-third of waste received by Veolia in Tarago to an incinerator which will pollute the region when there is sufficient capacity already in the existing facility. The current facility captures methane emissions to fuel/power generator that creates and supplies electricity to the grid. This current arrangement is working.
  - b. This incinerator **goes against climate change action** - Veolia's incinerator will emit **toxic air pollution** 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for 25 years, which will spread throughout the region from Canberra to Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Gunning, Marulan, Yass and more.
  - c. This is a **backward step in terms of our approach to climate change.** This incinerator will contribute to climate change by emitting 140,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO2) each year. To approve the project is inconsistent with the NSW government commitment to Net 0 emissions by 2030. This makes NO SENSE.
  - d. The **pollution** from the proposed incinerator will include acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates 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. Our son was born at 34 weeks and has suffered with chronic lung disease. As an active 18 month old, I am terrified of the effects this incinerator will have on his life and his ability to have a normal childhood. If this incinerator goes ahead, our son will be unable to play

sport in this region, we will need to monitor the wind gusts to ensure he is only in our backyard on the days that the incinerator is not blowing towards Bungendore. We will need to monitor his health more regularly, and have more appointments to scan his lung regeneration. Our life will be significantly impacted, and **his childhood disrupted**.

- e. Further, this incinerator will impact the **health of all our region**, and our countries children, grandchildren and their grandchildren through the accumulation of forever chemicals in the surrounding environment. It is an intergenerational burden, which we have no right to approve. I cannot allow such a proposal to go ahead without jumping and screaming WHY we would take these risks. We should know better. We have been privy to the environmental disasters of previous decades, and we have learnt.
- f. The truth is stated in your own plan – **this is not safe for Sydney** - The NSW Government acknowledges in its own *Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan* that waste incinerators impact human health stating “Populations can still experience health impacts when emissions are below the national standards, and for some common air pollutants, there is no safe threshold of impact”. WOW. This is acknowledgement that these incinerators are NOT SAFE. Our children deserve better. Who will compensate the people of this region?
- g. We are being asked to trust **a company with a terrible track record**. 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. I have seen the number of breaches in recent years. Every time this breach occurs, my children suffer. This company have no incentive to ensure they meet safety standards, they simply pay a fine and keep going. Veolia have spent over 15 years failing to operate their existing facility within license conditions, have received multiple infringements, failed to inform the community of pollution to the environment, and attempted to withhold information from the community under freedom of information processes. They have no track record and the community is well aware of their disregard for local people.
- h. There are examples of **these incinerators being banned**. 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 - If they aren’t safe for Sydney then they aren’t safe for Tarago. The people of this region, including the ACT deserve better – they are not safe. Who is liable for the damages?

- i. This community does not consent- **there is no social license** - The NSW Energy from Waste Policy states that incinerator proposals are only valid where “community acceptance to operate such a process has been obtained”. There is no community acceptance for a facility in Tarago or anywhere in the Southern Tablelands. **We do not consent.** We do not want this in our backyard. We are not supportive. We question the process. We will seek damages if this goes ahead and our health is impacted. Veolia have a track record of breaking the rules, withholding information and polluting our environment.
- j. This is prime agricultural land. The Lake Bathurst and Lake George regions are home to unique ecosystems. They are the food bowl for the Sydney region. I have spoken to so many organic farmers, wineries and local producers who are devastated. This makes no sense. All these industries will be jeopardised, businesses destroyed and livelihoods changed. As a consumer, my local farmers are no longer viable and I will be forced to find other suppliers of food for my family.

Finally, we have decided we will sell and move from our home and our community, should this incinerator go ahead. This is devastating for this region, with local professionals leaving the region. Both my husband and I are active members of the Bungendore community, and would love to continue to be in this thriving country town. Country towns need families like ours. Please consider the families, the producers and the children of this region who will inevitably suffer the consequences of this proposal.

- 5. I have not made any reportable political donations.
- 6. I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

Yours in ethical decision making,

Lyndsay Pastega  
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Sent from my iPhone