

Duane (Cid) Riley  
26 Goulburn Street  
Tarago  
NSW, 2580

12/12/2022

Ms Sally Munk NSW Department of Planning and Environment Major Projects Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124	
--	--

Dear Ms Munk

**RE: PERSONAL OBJECTION TO WOODLAWN ADVANCED ENERGY RECOVERY CENTRE (ARC) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) - APPLICATION NUMBER: SSD-21184278**

I write to lodge a formal objection to Veolia's proposed Advanced Energy Recovery Centre (ARC) at Woodlawn, Tarago. This proposal, which I will refer to as the Tarago Waste Incinerator does not stack up environmentally or socially and is not supported by the vast majority of our community, I call on the NSW Government to reject it for the unacceptable risk it poses to the people, agriculture and environment of the Tarago Region.

As part of this submission of my objection to the project (application number: SSD-21184278):

- I declare that I have made no political donations in the last 2 years
- I acknowledge and accept the NSW Department of Planning's disclaimer and declaration.

I have lived in Tarago village since purchasing my house on a one-acre block in 2002. I married my wife Heather in 2012 and now have two young children, Felix (8 years old) and Jemima (6 years old) who are both true locals being baptised at the Tarago Catholic church.

After working as an economist, data analyst and data architect, I have developed a successful commercial worm farming business diverting food waste from Landfill and have employed

**We are part of the Community that will be most adversely affected by the construction and operation of an Energy from Waste (waste incineration) facility within the Woodlawn Eco Precinct.**

**Duane (Cid) Riley  
26 Goulburn Street  
Tarago  
NSW, 2580**

residents of the area. I have also immersed myself in the community and have been a long-term member of

- The Tarago Rural Fire Brigade (since 2004),
- Tarago Landcare group (more than 15 years),
- Tarago and District Progress Association (more than 15 years),
- Veolia Community Liaison Committee (Veolia CLC) for around 10 years.

The community representatives of the Veolia Community Liaison Committee (VCLC) have advised Mr Richard Kirkman (CEO of Veolia in Australia) in person that the Tarago Community disapproves of Veolia building and operating a waste incinerator within the Woodlawn Eco Precinct. At the most recent meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2022, I along with the other 2 community representatives of the Veolia CLC resigned in protest of the proposed Tarago Waste Incinerator as we believe:

- Veolia was not listening and acting upon the Tarago Community feedback not to build and operate a waste incinerator at Woodlawn
- Veolia had not been completely transparent with the community or committee with many inaccuracies about the proposed project

The NSW Government Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan acknowledges the threat incineration poses to human health, and states there is “no safe threshold of impact” for some common air pollutants. It would be unacceptable and inexcusable for your department and the NSW Government to approve a waste incinerator just a few kilometres from our house, and so close to hundreds of people that are totally reliant on tank water for our water supply.

The basis of my objection comes down to 2 fundamental principals, “Trust” and “Fair Go”.

As a resident of Tarago for 20 years, I have experienced the development, operation and expansion of Veolia at Woodlawn. While I am generally supportive of the need for the current operation, Veolia has had a massive negative impact on my life and the life of my family. We cannot take any more and the Tarago Waste incinerator being proposed is beyond what any Australian would accept as a “Fair Go”.

**We are part of the Community that will be most adversely affected by the construction and operation of an Energy from Waste (waste incineration) facility within the Woodlawn Eco Precinct.**

**Duane (Cid) Riley  
26 Goulburn Street  
Tarago  
NSW, 2580**

- Is it fair to put the Tarago community through more?
- Is it fair for the Department of Planning and NSW Government to expect us to have our lives impacted more by Veolia?
- Does the Department of Planning and NSW Government believe in the concept of a “Fair Go”?

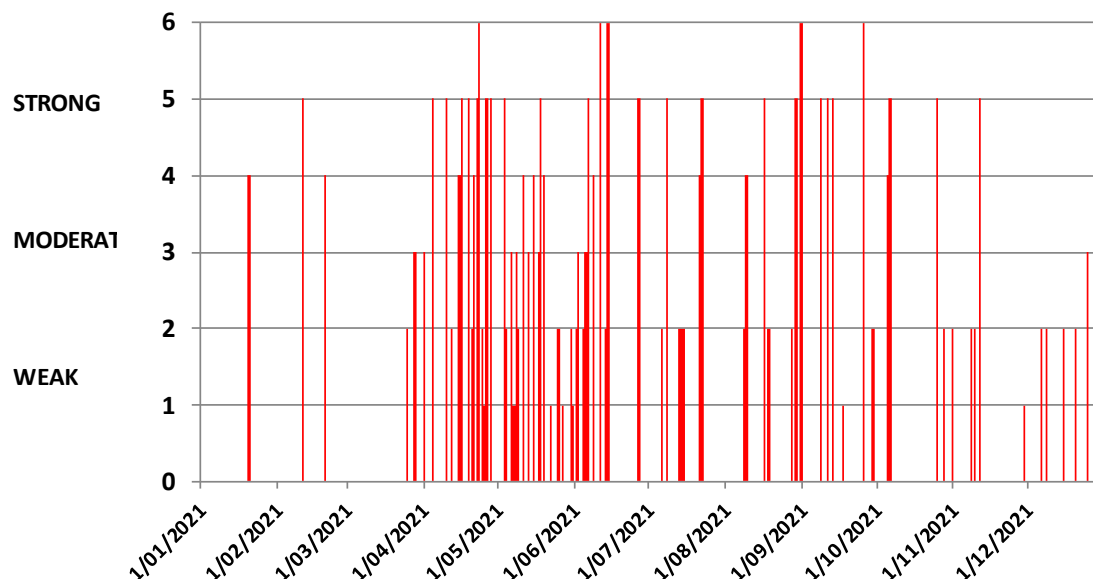
**Odour issues from the current Veolia operation at Tarago**

While we were promised over 15 years ago that there will be little to no odour from the Veolia operation at Woodlawn, this has most certainly not been the case. I have kept a very detailed diary of the odour issue since 2012 including date, time, intensity, odour type and climatic conditions. Over this 10-year period I have recorded over 500 odour incidents. An example of the odour incidents during 2021 is included below (Figure 1). It is also important to note that during 2022 the number of odour incidents has been higher than average (72 so far).

The odour can be so unbearable that my family must stay indoors. This year I raised with the Veolia CLC major concerns I have about increased respiratory issues within my household. I believe that it is linked to years of exposure to bad odour and Veolia agreed to look at studies and research into the effects of long-term exposure to Odour. I appreciate that Veolia is undertaking this research and acknowledge the seriousness of the odour issue.

**We are part of the Community that will be most adversely affected by the construction and operation of an Energy from Waste (waste incineration) facility within the Woodlawn Eco Precinct.**

Figure 1: Odour incidents attributed to Veolia's Woodlawn operation at Tarago, 2021 Calendar year



### Waste transportation for current Veolia operation at Tarago

My house is about 100 metres from the railway line and 20 metres from the Tarago/Bungendore road. We are constantly exposed to noise and dust pollution as a result of over 1 million tonnes of waste travelling by rail and road so very close to our house every year. The road between Tarago and Bungendore is in a shocking condition in part due to over 200 regional waste truck movements every week. The situation has been deteriorating in recent years as the regional transportation of waste has increased (in particular waste sourced from the Australian Capital Territory).

### Lead contamination attributable to the needs of Veolia operation at Tarago

The current Veolia operation at Tarago needed a place to park the waste train. The outcome was a project at the Tarago railway station that created a massive disturbance of lead a few hundred metres from our house. Many properties in Tarago village were affected including the local school and our home. The lead contamination issue resulting from this project is still to be resolved.

**We are part of the Community that will be most adversely affected by the construction and operation of an Energy from Waste (waste incineration) facility within the Woodlawn Eco Precinct.**

Duane (Cid) Riley  
26 Goulburn Street  
Tarago  
NSW, 2580

## Concluding Remarks

I do not believe that residents of the Tarago area are NIMBY's (Not In My Back Yard) given we live with a massive Veolia operation in our backyard. Given the history of Veolia in the Tarago region, how can we trust their EIS for the establishment of a waste incinerator at Tarago. Given our experience over the last 20 years is it fair to put the Tarago community through more especially when there are so many unresolved issues with the current Veolia operation?

Veolia has not provided evidence of Community, local government and their client's acceptance or support for the incineration of waste at Woodlawn. My family objects to Veolia's proposed waste incinerator for Woodlawn and waste incineration in general.

Yours Sincerely

Duane (Cid) Riley

M: 0408 496767

E: [globalworming@mail.com](mailto:globalworming@mail.com)

**We are part of the Community that will be most adversely affected by the construction and operation of an Energy from Waste (waste incineration) facility within the Woodlawn Eco Precinct.**