

Woodlawn ARC: SSD-21184278

My name is Rachel Harris and I live at 1954 Collector Road, Currawang, NSW, 2580. I live 10kms from Woodlawn and strongly **object** to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago, NSW.

Why are my family lab rats for Veolia and the NSW Government?

I believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will emit toxic air that will spread to my home, and the land that surrounds it. Land that we grow on, farm on, drink from and live off. This pollution will contain acidic gases, toxic heavy particulates and dioxins and furans. What is worse is that the majority of the rubbish used to feed the proposed incinerator is to come from Sydney. I know for many years Sydney residents have rallied to prevent similar proposals being approved within Sydney. It is highly unfair that the NSW Government has now determined that future incinerators are to be relocated to four potential waste-to-energy precincts which includes the Veolia's Woodlawn site. Why does the NSW Government consider the local residents of these identified locations 'lab rats' for the future impacts of the new proposed incinerator at Woodlawn?

The proposed incinerator is toxic to our health and environment:

1. I live in Currawang with my husband and 9 year old daughter. While the future effects of the toxic pollution may harm the health of my daughter and myself, it has the potential to kill my husband as he has diagnosed sarcoidosis of the lungs. This is a debilitating condition and even currently, the pollution and irritants from Veolia's mismanaged bioreactor restrict his breathing when inhaled and he must seek uncontaminated fresh air and medical assistants immediately to avoid a trip in the ambulance to Goulburn Base Hospital. Imagine moving to this pristine area 20 years ago for the lifestyle and now we are fighting for that pristine environment to be maintained. Fighting against something that has absolutely no benefit for the greater good of the area.

The mismanagement of the current precinct has seen us install air conditioning in our house because there are times that we simply can't open the windows because of the stench and affect this has on my husband's health. We designed a solar passive home, one that takes in the breeze in the early morning to cool the home. It is beyond belief that we can't capture this on a regular basis because of the foul air that would enter our home. The effects of the new toxic cocktail from the incinerator are currently unknown, I believe even by those who

promote the incinerator. For the health of all humans, livestock and land in the immediate area and beyond, the incinerator must not be approved.

2. For all other local residents (this includes Canberra as the pollution can travel this far when the wind is heading in that direction), the particulate pollution from the proposed incinerator can lead to decreased lung function, cardiac disease and death. The approval of this incinerator at the Woodlawn precinct is not a suitable solution as the guaranteed human impacts will also affect Canberra's 450,000+ population. Add Goulburn's population of 32,000 and you are close to 500,000 people being subject to the human effects of the proposed incinerators pollution! I wonder what portion of that population are children and teenagers – those who will reproduce our next generation. What affect could it have on their reproductive systems?

3. The dioxins and furans will accumulate in the surrounding environment over time in the soil and water. The dioxins and furans will then be absorbed by the plants, crops and animals. This will lead to their ill health. Food produced in the area will be compromised and will no longer be sought and bought due to their contamination. The contaminated food by incinerator toxins have the potential to cause cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory impairment. Ours is an area that is known for award winning wine production, quality meats and fresh produce.

4. The NSW Government acknowledged in its 'Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan' that waste incinerators can still cause harmful human impacts even when operating below the national standards. Why then can the proposed incinerator be even considered for approval when there are guaranteed human impacts? The impacts will be felt immediately and will also become a problem for future generations to resolve and fund.

5. The proposed incinerator has already caused significant local anxiety. If the incinerator is approved, this will translate to members of our local communities experiencing compromised mental health. Residents living nearby are already concerned for their potential health impacts and financial stress considering house prices will plummet as it will be hard to sell our homes noting they are 10kms from Veolia's proposed incinerator site. It will be impossible to upsell the addition of the incinerator to potential buyers as there are only negatives to living near an active incinerator. Remember there are no positives to the incinerator. Even the electricity generated by the proposed incinerator will not be clean. It will be powered by fossil fuels, produce pollution and dioxins and only benefit Veolia as they will be selling the electricity.

Please consider the dot points in my submission and do not approve the proposed incinerator by Veolia. The current and future generations of the affected local communities will remember your decision and thank you for it. There are far better ways to manage waste and burning fossil fuel and creating toxic waste ash is not one of them!

I have not made a reportable political donation.

I have read and acknowledged the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

Regards

Rachel Harris

1954 Collector Road, Currawang, NSW