

Objection to the Woodlawn ARC: SSD-21184278 proposal: Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre.

My name is David Boyd and I live in Lake Bathurst, New South Wales. I live 6 kilometres from the proposed site of Veolia's 'Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre'. I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago, application number Woodlawn ARC: SSD-21184278 (Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre). Below is my individual objection.

I believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will accumulate in the soil and water (putting chemicals into the food chain and water table) and are an unsafe way, in no way a renewable energy source, that will produce more carbon dioxide and contribute to climate change. The incinerator, in particular the fly ash produced, will directly and negatively impact my lifestyle, livelihood and farming business.

There are many reasons for my objection such as the toxic chemicals and gases- lead, mercury, dioxins and furans- the incinerator will put out into the environment. There is no way these chemicals can be contained and will be dispersed into the surrounding air, water and soil through the fly ash and run-off. The toxic chemicals also lead to many health problems and I fear that many residents, both local and in more far-reaching places that are ingesting these chemicals through food (the area being a huge food-production area) and water (run-off in the area leads to the Sydney Catchment) may suffer from respiratory illnesses and cancer. 2.2 million tonnes of toxic waste ash (including 380 000 tonnes of fly ash air pollution) will be created by the proposed project.

The Environmental Protection Authority, protecting my and the community's health, classified this waste as hazardous. I do not want hazardous waste to be created by what is an unnecessary 'solution' for dealing with Australia's waste. Veolia already operate a large-scale landfill waste operation at the site. They are not seeking to increase the volume of waste delivered to the site. The existing landfill at Woodlawn has a remaining useful life of 25 years. Veolia's incinerator has a running life of 30 years. I do not see the incinerator as necessary by these numbers. Solutions focused on a more circular economy by the NSW Government will see reduced volumes of residual waste, therefore there is no need to divert one-third of waste received by Veolia to an incinerator in Tarago when there is already the capacity at the landfill to take this waste. There are already measures that see methane captured at the Woodlawn facility turned into electricity and returned to the grid. I do not agree that the incinerator is classified as a renewable energy generator. Windmills and solar energy are created by natural processes and do not emit fly ash and toxic chemicals such as heavy metals. Waste is not from infinite natural processes. It is sourced from resources that are non-renewable and cannot be recycled such as fossil fuels and through cutting down forests. Burning this waste is the same as burning these fossil fuels and forests. If the Eastern Creek waste incinerator in Sydney was rejected by the NSW Independent Planning Commission in 2018 for not being in the public interest, I see the reasons for this rejection (safety concerns, indefinite evidence pollution control would be up to standard and the possibility of adverse environmental impacts) being as relevant for the proposed incinerator in Tarago. If these findings were raised for the Sydney site, I do not believe the incinerator in Tarago would be any safer or raise less concerns.

I enjoy watching my children pick home-grown vegetables from the garden, washing them in pure rainwater captured from our roofs and stored in our water tanks and eating them fresh and chemical-free. If the incinerator is built, there is no way I can let my children eat our home-grown produce without the fear they will be contaminated through the soil and water, by the

hazardous chemicals released by the incinerator. I cannot watch my children ingest lead, mercury, furans and dioxins by eating the vegetables they have worked so hard to raise. Reference must be made to the Lausanne Disaster in Switzerland. A 'world's best practice' incinerator left food inedible, soil toxic and had disastrous effects for the community. Dioxins have leached into the soil of the affected area, which are a form of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), 'forever chemicals' that persist and accumulate in the soil for decades. Dioxins are carcinogenic, cause reproductive and developmental problems, damage the immune system and can interfere with hormones. More than 90% of human exposure to POPs is through meat and dairy products, and with the Tarago region being so heavily based on primary production, it is unacceptable to bring these chemicals to the area through the incineration of transported waste.

Similarly, my beef cattle business will suffer from the incinerator. I will not be able to confidently complete the waybill form when selling my cattle with full knowledge of what they have ingested while raised on my property as I can now. I will not be able to ensure they are free from the chemicals present on our property that have leached down from or blown over from the incinerator. My business will suffer financially as I may not be able to sell my beef cattle. Surely buyers, if faced with the choice to buy beef from a property located so close to an incinerator or beef raised further away will choose the latter. I moved my family to our property in Lake Bathurst to start a beef cattle business. While we greatly appreciate the natural beauty of the region, we also benefit greatly (as does every other member of my community) from the purity of our water and soil. If this was to be contaminated by the incineration of plastics and other non-recyclable waste, our family business and the agricultural businesses of our community will be irreparably damaged.

I declare that I have made no reportable political donations in the last two years. I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

Yours sincerely,

David Boyd

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