

My name is CAROLINE FERNANDEZ , I live at 629 Cullulla Road, Tarago (Lower Boro) 2580.

I strongly OBJECT to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago.

I declare that I have not made any political donations in the last two years.

I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

I am opposed to Veolia's WTE incinerator for the following reasons:

1. Veolia's incinerator will emit toxic air pollution 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for 25 years. This pollution will include acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates (mercury, lead cadmium) and persistent organic particulates (dioxins, furans, PCBs, PFAS).
2. It will be seriously detrimental to our community's health. Incinerator toxins can cause cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory impairment. This incinerator will impact the health of our children, grandchildren and their grandchildren through the accumulation of forever chemicals in the surrounding environment.
3. It is a very windy area. By day the wind blows from the north-west, by evening and night from the east, as well as cold changes from the south. This provides the capacity for these toxins to easily spread throughout the region from Canberra to Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Gunning, Marulan, Yass and further.
4. The toxic incinerator will be situated in the middle of a prime agricultural area. It is an area of rich agricultural diversity. Goulburn and surrounding areas have long been producing much the finest wool available. It is also a large Canola growing area. There is a mix of large and many small farms producing top quality goods including: Top quality beef and Lamb, Fodder crops, Cool climate wines, Olive producers, Chicken and turkey farms, Organic eggs, Honey, Organic Pork, Deer, Meat Goats, Truffles, Saffron, Garlic, Many small farms growing organic produce, Large home orchards.
5. The future of our area as a prime agricultural region would be at high risk of being ruined. Toxic fallout would spell disaster for organic farmers.
6. Property values for all would be badly affected.
7. It is also an area rich in wildlife and native plants, some of which are now endangered.

8. There will be toxins in our drinking water, as the majority of people rely on rain water for drinking and household use. Much of this area is in the Sydney Water catchment.
9. WTE is an extremely inefficient method of producing power, producing only a tiny fraction of the power for the equivalent emissions as a coal-fired power station. They are more climate polluting per unit of energy than coal, oil and gas.
10. The incinerator will create 2.2million tonnes of toxic waste ash, classified as hazardous waste by the EPA. It will all be dumped on site, risking further contaminating soil and groundwater as well as the Sydney Water catchment. The fly ash will remain toxic for generations.
11. Veolia has shown a lack of concern for the Goulburn Mulwaree community, having misled the community about previous developments. It is unable to manage the odour and emissions from its current operations. EPA fines and interventions have failed to improve odour and emissions for Tarago and surrounding residents and EPA oversight of a WTE incinerator is likely to be just as ineffective. 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.
12. The incinerator will increase the amount of garbage arriving in Tarago, making the already bad odour worse, and increase the dangerous number of trucks on Tarago's narrow and poorly maintained roads.

If it's not safe for Sydney, why would it be safe for us.