

I am writing to object to the Woodlawn ARC: SSD-21184278

My name is James Robert Innes and I live in Mount Fairy, NSW.

I oppose Veolia's proposed incinerator being built at the Woodlawn site. The site is directly 10.5km NW of my property, Three Gullies Farm at 498 Mount Fairy Road. When we bought our property in 2016 and then built our home on it, there was no notice that a toxic waste incinerator was proposed to be built 10.5km from our property.

My objection is based on my reading the EIS, peer reviewed scientific papers, information shared by community groups opposed to the proposal and NSW government policies such as the NSW Government Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan, September 2021. A policy that clearly states that the NSW government admits the science that shows waste incinerators are harmful to human health no matter how minimal the emissions. <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/waste/21p3261-energy-from-waste-infrastructure-plan.pdf>

Prevailing winds are from the NW, so we will be regularly exposed to airborne toxins that will settle on our roof, which is our catchment source for drinking water and in our soil where our livestock eat the grass that will have the accumulated toxins. Like any trophic energy system, the gradual accumulation of toxins will affect all elements of the ecosystem and human food sources. I don't want the toxins from Sydney's waste polluting the air I and my family breathe, accumulating poison in the soil and waterways, impacting my family's health and my livestock for the next 30 years. How does Veolia and the NSW government know when so-called "safe levels of toxin" accumulate to more dangerous levels in the human population? The EIS report does not show any indication of Veolia establishing a baseline for before and after monitoring for critical indicators of impact to human health.

Without independent monitoring of human health indicators, we will live in ignorance as to what health effects might be occurring as we are continuously exposed to highly toxic Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that will accumulate in the soil and water. The toxins do not naturally break down. They accumulate in the body's fatty tissue. They are highly dangerous to human health. The EIS report on ground and surface water confirms that Veolia's current management of the bio-waste facility has resulted in heavy metals seeping through ground water to Crisps Creek, which flows to Mulwaree River and then to Waragamba Dam in the Sydney water catchment. How will the increased load on the dams be managed to stop this impact when Veolia do not intend to remediate the existing dams on site? If this proposal goes ahead I want an independent human health monitoring program implemented. It must have a community chaired governance arrangement, be fully transparent to the local community, funded by Veolia by a deed arrangement to ensure no influence by Veolia over the monitoring program, with a terms of reference that requires independent scientific monitoring agreed by the community and NSW Health.

I am concerned about the impact that this facility will have on the financial viability of local farming operations, in particular those farms that are accredited as organic and/or choose to operate as chemical free, such as we do. The EIS reports do not mention assessment of the impact to these types of farming operations. Will Veolia or the NSW government pay compensation when these farms lose their organic accreditation due to being contaminated by the toxins from the incinerator?

I don't accept that Veolia has a social license to operate being one of the conditions of this proposal. I live in Mount Fairy, which is in the local resident zone for the EIS community engagement. I have never received any information about the proposed waste incinerator from Veolia or the NSW Government. I don't support this proposal and I know that many in my local community share this view. There has been no attempt to gain my social acceptance for this proposal. The Eastern Creek incinerator was not approved because of the risk to people in Sydney, why am I and my community less worthy of protection from harmful toxins? Why are we labelled as NIMBY when thousands of people protested the Eastern Creek incinerator proposal. Even the then NSW

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said incinerators should not be built and the Federal Minister for Climate and Energy, Chris Bowen described it as a "... ridiculous, stupid, idiotic proposal."

"This community doesn't deserve to have an incinerator planted right in the middle of us. It's not hard, both sides of politics support the ban, they can just do it by regulation, they said they'd do it in a press release, but a press release doesn't stop an incinerator,"

<https://theindependentmagazine.com.au/2022/06/new-incinerator-proposal-ridiculous-stupid-idiotic-says-bowen/>

So why do we "deserve" a toxic waste incinerator?

If this toxic waste incinerator is approved, the NSW government is knowingly exposing my family, community, livestock and the environment to unacceptable risk from the toxins the incinerator will produce over its entire life. I read in the EIS report that local residents objection to the proposal was just the NIMBY effect. As a resident of NSW I expect my state government to value equally all people and communities. I note that in response to scientific findings that waste incinerators are harmful to human health that NSW government "engineered" and legislated a solution to designate 4 locations in the state where these toxic facilities might go. To me this is hypocritical policy making on the run attempting to change the rules when you cannot refute the science.

If this proposal is approved, the NSW government will be contributing to the maintenance of waste management practices that harm the environment and are not consistent with the government's own Circular Economy Policy statement. This waste to energy incinerator proposal will reward all the Sydney councils for not adopting the circular economy seven principles for transition to a circular economy. <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/recycling/19p1379-circular-economy-policy-final>

I declare that I have not made any reportable political donations in the last two years. I acknowledge and accept the NSW Department of Planning's disclaimer and declaration.

James Innes
498 Mount Fairy Road
Mount Fairy, NSW 2580

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James Innes

M) 040 8811 657