

My name is Roderic Hoare. I am a farmer, veterinarian and I live in Binda. I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago.

I am concerned that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will create pollution that will affect the human population in the surrounding area as well as other biological systems.

In the proponent's assessment the material being incinerated will be rendered harmless at the high temperatures planned. However, there may yet be chemicals, residues and particles, which have not been assessed, which may prove to be carcinogens or mutagens. Why would we take any such risk?

The proposal will create 2.2 million tonnes of toxic waste ash, including 380,000 tonnes of air pollution control residue (fly ash) which is classified as hazardous waste by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). All of this will be dumped on site, risking further contamination of soil and groundwater as well as the Sydney water catchment. Veolia's track record of polluting local groundwaters proves they cannot be trusted to safely manage such toxic waste.

Overall the building of this incinerator will do much harm because it will encourage the production of more fossil fuel derivatives such as plastics because they will be seen to be simply removed by incineration. This will increase the production of carbon dioxide and other end products instead of finding answers which will not cause harm to our planet.

Veolia's incinerator will produce significant amounts of toxic persistent organic pollutants (dioxins, PCBs, PFAS), heavy metals (mercury, lead, cadmium, thallium), and acid gases (hydrofluoric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide).

Pollutants blown from the incinerator stack and leached from the incinerator ash will enter into soil, groundwater and waterways. They then accumulate in the soil. Livestock and poultry can absorb toxins from the air, water, and contaminated forage crops and pasture. If contamination occurs and accumulates, crops, pastures and livestock may exceed the safe limits for human and livestock consumption.

If this incinerator is considered the best answer to waste management we need to ask better questions. We must put more effort into reducing or recycling.

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