

I was saddened to hear of Veolia's advanced energy recovery centre (ARC) proposed for the Woodlawn Eco precinct on Collector Road, Tarago. As a fifth generation Lake Bathurst/Quialigo resident I have a strong affinity for the region and community and would hate to see anything built that has the potential to harm the community and regional environment. I have also seen the effect the prospect of this development has had on various members of the community but in particular my brother and father who have an agricultural business within 5km of the proposed site. The stress and effect on their mental health has been obvious and the uncertainty it has created for his and his families future. I hate to imagine what it will be like when the facility has a negative effect on his enterprise and livestock of which he cares for deeply. On reading the social impact assessment I do not think these impacts have been taken seriously by Veolia.

I am also concerned for my own business "Blue lane flower farm". I produce cut flowers for florists and businesses in Goulburn/Canberra year round. I pride myself on a quality product with minimal to no impact from outside influences. As such I minimise my chemical use as much as possible to avoid any adverse effects to the soil, water and insect life. Like many flower farmers I rely on a healthy bee population for a successful business and they are far more susceptible to outside influences than once thought. I am concerned what detrimental effect the stack emissions may have on these important insects through sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and hydrogen chloride being released at significant levels into the local atmosphere.

Similarly I have spent a lot of time and resources into developing my soil quality during my set up years including mulch and compost. A lot of my stock are sensitive to any changes in soil quality/ composition as such the prospect of acid rain from the above chemicals concerns me. Along with any deposition of heavy metals/dioxins and furans into the soil. It is difficult enough to produce quality products through changing weather patterns, I hate to think what these chemicals might do to my productivity.

I also worry about Veolia's poor compliance with odour control and recent contamination of Crisp Creek which have resulted in EPA notices. This lack of ability to manage a structure which has been in place for 20 years does not bring me confidence that they will be able to manage a much more sophisticated structure within their licensing conditions. As a result I feel the air quality and human health impact studies completed are redundant. It is difficult to trust a company that has not delivered on their promise of no odour issues from their current landfill, how do you trust them now when they say there will be no environmental or human health impacts.

Lastly as a long term resident of the area, I feel insulted to hear that Veolia feels like they have consulted the community and have the community support as required by the SEARS and NSW EPA Energy from Waste Policy Statement. Living 15 km away from the proposed site I have had no direct communication with Veolia and have only learned about the development from family and friends. Similarly I have not spoken to one person in the area who is for the project. Now after listening to Goulburn Council Meeting on the 29th of November, I find it incredibly hard to believe they have the community support as required by the NSW government policy on waste to energy facilities. As such I can not see how this project can move forward in its current state.

Consequently I believe the project should be rejected at this point in time.