

Dear Planners

I object to the application for the following reasons:

1. The local community in Tarago strongly opposes this proposal, as it is a toxic and dangerous plan. All surrounding Councils (Goulbourn, Queanbeyan, Yass), and the local wine industry, and primary producers have raised their objections with you. The wider interest of community must not be ignored. The proposal is neither credible, trustworthy or honest.

The truth is that a new Veolia incinerator would emit toxic air pollution 24 hours a day, and impact on significant residential and agricultural areas in the region from Canberra to Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Gunning, Marulan, Yass as well as the biosphere. If it is not suitable for Sydney, why should other NSW residents suffer, especially those who have chosen clean air over urban lifestyle?

2. Burning waste is a dangerous and unnecessary strategy that is out of date with modern energy strategies. The proposed incinerator will exceed NSW government safety standards for air emissions Veolia has a track record locally for failing to comply with license conditions at their existing Woodlawn facility.
3. This incinerator will contribute to climate change by emitting 140,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO₂) each year. To ignore this is to reveal that your own government commitment to Net zero emissions by 2030 is pure green washing.

We must focus on reducing and reusing resources as a critical aspect of transition to sustainable life on this planet. The incinerator is in direct conflict with the NSW Government's own circular economy policies and Veolia has constantly flouted legislation in the past. Why reward that poor environmental record? Veolia claims that incineration is better than landfill due to methane emissions. This ignores the fact that methane produced from their landfill is captured which prevents it from entering the atmosphere. They also utilise this to generate power which is pumped into the grid. This process is better for the environment as it does not produce the CO₂, air pollution and toxic ash by-products an incinerator does.

4. We know the damage that can be caused by pollution from the proposed incinerator including acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates (mercury, lead cadmium) and persistent organic particulates (dioxins, furans, PCBs, PFAS). The proposal will create 2.2million 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). Academics from the Australian National University Medical School, the Public Health Association of Australia, and Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia found health impacts of waste incineration, are unacceptably high. (see 2019 report published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health and referenced by the NSW Government Chief Scientist and Engineer in his report to the NSW Minister for Environment.)

Particulate pollution harms people and animals. Dioxins accumulate in the surrounding environment over time in soil and water and are absorbed by plants, crops and animals. Contamination causes cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory impairment in other parts of NSW. NOT IN OUR BACKYARD.

5. This incinerator will impact the health of our children, grandchildren and their grandchildren through the accumulation of permanent chemicals in the surrounding environment. It is an intergenerational burden and legacy which cannot be allowed to go ahead.

What other reasons do you need to refuse this proposal?

Please note that I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

I have not made any political donations relevant to this submission.

Yours sincerely