

Hello there,

Please make it noted my objection to the proposed Tarago Waste Incinerator. Please find below the required details.

1. Elda Pastega, [9 Westwood Circuit Bungendore NSW 2621](#)
2. The project name is **Woodlawn ARC: SSD- 21184278**
3. **I very strongly object to the application.**
4. I object to the waste incinerator, as a community member from Bungendore. I am an avid gardener, play sport, eat local produce and love this community. It is deeply distressing that this proposal has been seriously considered, with all the information that we now have on how archaic and outdated this technology is. This region is an incredible source of food, wine, agriculture and water for the entire region, including the wider Sydney as a catchment. The local community has seen the effects of the current Veolia site, on the people of Tarago and they face the brunt of this company constantly breaching safety standards, and almost ridiculing them for their concerns. We have been disappointed to see the fines from this company, constantly over the last 25 years. It is disgraceful. I myself have witnessed this disregard for the community with the constant smell and leaky tanks on our roads. These are some, but not all of the reasons I am against this proposal: there are so many, I have not the time to list them all:
 - a. **It seems the current facility is working** and not sure why it is being expanded. There is still 25 years left in the current facility?
 - b. **The stench is unbearable** for locals. Veolia's incinerator will emit **toxic air pollution** 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for 25 years, which will spread throughout the region.
 - c. **Aren't we reducing emissions for climate change?** This incinerator will contribute to climate change by emitting 140,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO2) each year. To approve the project is inconsistent with the NSW government commitment to Net 0 emissions by 2030.
 - d. The **pollution** from the proposed incinerator will include acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates (mercury, lead cadmium) and persistent organic particulates (dioxins, furans, PCBs, PFAS). Particulate pollution can lead to decreased lung function, cardiac disease and death. In addition to polluting the air, dioxins and furans will accumulate in the surrounding environment over time in soil and water and are absorbed by plants, crops and animals.
 - e. Further, this incinerator will impact the **health of all our region**
 - f. **this is not safe for Sydney** - The NSW Government acknowledges in its own *Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan* that waste incinerators impact human health stating "Populations can still experience health impacts when emissions are below the national standards, and for some common air pollutants, there is no safe threshold of impact". There are examples of these incinerators being banned. The NSW Government has banned toxic waste incinerators in Sydney due to the risk to human health. I am interested who we sue when we are found to have health impacts?
 - g. No-one wants this incinerator - **there is no social license** – this is obvious when you talk to locals. Have you been to the local farmers market? The local producers are terrified of what this will do to their business, their produce, their livelihood. The NSW Energy from Waste Policy states that incinerator proposals are only valid where "community acceptance to operate such a process has been obtained". There is no community acceptance for a facility anywhere in this region. We do not

consent. Veolia have a track record of breaking the rules, withholding information and polluting our environment. This is fertile agricultural land. Toxins blow from the incinerator stack, and can leach from the incinerator ash into soil, groundwater and waterways. They then accumulate in the soil. Poultry and eggs are readily contaminated by incinerator pollution.^{4,5,7,8} I love my homegrown eggs and passionate about growing my own produce. I know that if this goes ahead I will be unable to do so. I am passionate about saving plants and animals from this kind of technology.

- h. It is true that **Veolia's overseas incinerators often exceed safety standards** and Veolia has a track record locally for failing to comply with license conditions at their existing Woodlawn facility. Veolia fail to operate their existing facility within license conditions, have received multiple infringements, failed to inform the community of pollution to the environment, and attempted to withhold information from the community under freedom of information processes. They have no track record and the community is well aware of their disregard for local people and our concerns.
- i. The **mental health of the people in this region** has been tested significantly by this proposal. Is it absolutely devastating to be faced with financial, environmental and health effects from a bad policy decision.

REFERENCES

4. Hidden emissions: A story from the Netherlands (CaseToxicoWatch and Zero Waste Europe 2018. 5. After Incineration: The Toxic Ash Problem, IPEN 2005 6. www.epa.gov/acidrain USA Environmental Protection Authority, 2022.7. The true toxic toll - Biomonitoring research results, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Spain 2021, Zero Waste Europe 8. Monitoring dioxins and PCBs in eggs as sensitive indicators for environmental pollution and global contaminated sites and recommendations for reducing and controlling releases and exposure, Petrik et al., Emerging Contaminants, 2022

5. I have not made a reportable political donations.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Elda Pastega

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