

1. Responding to project: **Woodlawn ARC: SSD- 21184278**
2. My submission is to object to the aforementioned proposal.
3. My objection to this proposal is centred on both the adverse environmental and health impacts of a waste incinerator being built at Tarago. The technology underpinning this project is unsafe, inefficient, and to be delivered by a multi national company with an extremely poor record of adhering to safety standards. I am **deeply opposed** to the proposal for the following reasons:
4.
 - a. This incinerator **goes against climate change action** - 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 from Canberra to Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Gunning, Marulan, Yass and more. The incinerator also does not promote the sustainable use of resources as it will be processing waste from Sydney - far away from the eyes, ears and noses of those producing the waste.
 - b. **This proposal is not necessary.** The existing facility will have a remaining useful life of 25 years. There is no need to divert one-third of waste received by Veolia in Tarago to an incinerator which will pollute the region when there is sufficient capacity already in the existing facility. The current facility captures methane emissions to fuel/power generator that creates and supplies electricity to the grid. This current arrangement is working.
 - c. This is a **backward step in terms of our approach to 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. I am particularly concerned by the types of **pollution** the proposed incinerator will produce including acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates 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. Our son was born at 34 weeks and has suffered with chronic lung disease. As an active 18 month old, I am terrified of the effects this incinerator will have on his life and his ability to have a normal childhood. If this incinerator goes ahead, our son will be unable to play sport in this region, we will need to monitor the wind gusts to ensure he is only in our backyard on the days that the incinerator is not blowing towards Bungendore. We will need to monitor his health more regularly, and have more appointments to scan his lung regeneration. Our life will be significantly impacted, and **his childhood disrupted. Ultimately, it will lead to us having to reconsider living in this region.**
 - e. Further, this incinerator will impact the **health of all our region**, and our countries children, grandchildren and their grandchildren through the accumulation of forever chemicals in the surrounding environment. It is an intergenerational burden, which we have no right to approve. I cannot allow such a proposal to go ahead without jumping and screaming WHY we would take these risks. We should know better. We have been privy to the environmental disasters of previous decades, and we have learnt.
 - f. 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". This is acknowledgement that these incinerators are NOT SAFE. Our children deserve

better. If this incinerator is unsafe to be built in Sydney, it goes without saying it is unsafe to be built anywhere.

- g. There are examples of **these incinerators being banned**. In July 2018, the Eastern Creek waste incinerator in Sydney was **rejected by the NSW Independent Planning Commission** as not being in the public interest. The reasons included concerns about safety, insufficient evidence that the pollution control technologies would be capable of managing emissions, concern about the relationship between air quality impacts and water quality impacts, the possibility of adverse environmental outcomes, and concern about site suitability and human health impacts. Since then, the NSW Government has banned toxic waste incinerators in Sydney due to the risk to human health. The risks have not changed since that decision back in 2018 – this project must also be rejected - If they aren't safe for Sydney then they aren't safe for Tarago.
 - h. We are being asked to trust **a company with a terrible track record**. The proposed incinerator will exceed NSW government safety standards for air emissions during start-up, shut-down and many other 'non-standard' operating conditions. 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. I have seen the number of breaches in recent years. Every time this breach occurs, my children suffer. This company have no incentive to ensure they meet safety standards, they simply pay a fine and keep going. Veolia have spent over 15 years failing 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.
5. Should this project go ahead, my family and I feel that living in the community of Bungendore will become untenable. I can only imagine there will be many other families similarly impacted.
 6. I have not made any reportable political donations.
 7. I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.
 8. I do not consent to my details being made public.

Yours faithfully,