

To the Department of Planning and Environment,

(I have been forced to email my objection to you as your website has once again failed and I cannot submit an objection through the portal).

My name is Romana Tomlinson. I currently live in Goulburn, however I own a small property in the Tarago Township on which I plan to begin building my first home next year.

I submit my strongest opposition and objection to the proposed Waste Incinerator by Veolia out at the old Woodlawn mine in the Tarago region(Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre).

There are many reasons why this project should be banned, however, I will just briefly outline a few as I'm sure many others have also raised their strong objections.

1. Community Opposition- Firstly, Our community does not accept or support this project in any form! Veolia claims to have reached over 4 million people with advertisements and thus claiming that there is support for their proposal. This is an outright lie. Veolia does not have support of the local Tarago community, nor the communities surrounding Tarago, including, Bungendore, Collector, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and the ACT, Palerang and other local council regions. People in Sydney may support this proposal, but they will not have to live near this toxic cesspool and quite honestly, when an Incinerator was proposed near Sydney in Eastern Creek residents showed strong opposition, so Veolia can't claim support from Sydney residents as a valid reason for approval. If Veolia truly wanted to be honest about community support for this project, they would have done an extensive door to door survey of our communities. But they know full well that no one in the region wants this toxic dump!

In fact, the Department should implement an additional process in all such proposals, that all proponents must actually take a survey of every single resident within a minimum of a 50Km radius to truly gauge community support. If this had been done, there would be full and clear evidence of an absolute opposition to this proposal by Veolia. Instead, Veolia claim to have support simply because they put a few ads in some newspapers. This is not acceptable.

2. Safety- Further to this, in 2018, the NSW government deemed that a proposed waste incinerator near Eastern Creek Sydney was not safe to be built near human population due to toxic pollutants being emitted and effecting nearby Sydney residents. The NSW government proudly proclaimed that they were putting a ban on any such development in the Sydney region due to the dangers to the human population and the risk of air pollution. If the NSW government have banned any such incinerator for the Sydney population, it must be banned for any population. Those of us who live in country NSW are sick to death of being pooped on by Sydney bureaucrats who only look out for their own interests and the people of Sydney. The simple fact is, if an incinerator should not be built in Sydney to deal with its own rubbish, an incinerator should not be built anywhere!

3. Health Impacts- I'm sure others have put it more eloquently than I, but it has been recorded and admitted by Veolia that the burning process will emit toxins such as dioxins, Furans and other chemicals from the waste. These toxins are poisonous to

humans, animals and also the land itself. Veolia claims that this incinerator is an environmentally friendly way to dispose of rubbish, however the toxins produced in the process of burning this rubbish is extremely toxic. These toxins will absolutely leach into our local soils, into our rain water tanks and will be present in the air we breathe. This is not acceptable in any situation! The so called expert scientist for Veolia claims that the toxins released will not harm humans, animals or the land, however at a recent special meeting at Goulburn council admitted that it would be safer and more environmentally friendly for no toxins to be created, thus admitting that the incinerator would in fact be contributing to toxic pollution of our airways, waterways and land. I cannot see or understand how Veolia can be attempting to claim that an incinerator is in the best interest of humans and the environment. It simply isn't acceptable to produce more dangerous and toxic substances whilst attempting to get rid of rubbish. It is ludicrous that the NSW government would even consider this process a good option for rubbish disposal when these toxins have been proven to cause cancer, birth defects and miscarriages, and other negative health impacts to humans and animals such as organ damage and general decline in wellbeing. The truth is that the NSW government knows this to be a bad thing as evidenced by their rejection of an incinerator being built near Sydney in Eastern Creek in 2018. Thus it **MUST** also be banned in our community here in Tarago.

4. **Not Our Rubbish, Not Our Problem**- I take massive issue with the proposal that country NSW should be the ones to bear the responsibility and burden of dealing with Sydney's rubbish. Quite frankly, the waste to be burnt is Sydney's rubbish, so if they want the rubbish to be burnt, it should be burnt in Sydney, not transported down to our community for disposal. It is simply not acceptable to just turf your rubbish in our direction and purport to tell us it's good for us when you yourself say it is not good for you! It's not our rubbish and we shouldn't have to deal with it! If Sydney residents support the project, then the Incinerator should be built in Sydney.
5. **Loss of Land and Business Value**- Many farmers in our region pride themselves on the quality of product they produce whether it be fruit, vegetable, grain, wool or beef. The incinerator will put these industries in great jeopardy as the toxins released in the burning and storage process will contaminate the product and will lose value in the market and will also reduce the value of our land if it is contaminated with these waste products. Farmers and small holdings growers alike cannot afford to have yet another setback to their business, just for the sake of Sydney residents. Additionally, this region is within the Sydney water catchment, thus any toxins and waste that is emitted or leaches out of this incinerator will also affect the Sydney water catchment. These are simply not risks anyone should be happy to take. Sydney needs to find another alternative to disposing of its rubbish, a way that is not hazardous to anyone or anything living within its vicinity.
6. **Lack of Competence**- Veolia must never be given any permissions for waste management. Veolia has a long history of breaching their licence from their current operations in Tarago and it has had detrimental effects on our community and surrounding communities. When Veolia put in a proposal for a waste to energy precinct over twenty years ago, they promised the local and surrounding communities (who strongly opposed this proposal as well!) that they would never smell any odour from the waste being stored at the old Woodlawn Mine. However, we were lied to and for a great portion of the past twenty years we have had to

suffer with the stench of Sydney's rubbish being dumped in our town. Veolia ABSOLUTELY CANNOT be trusted to operate an incinerator with such a high rise of toxic substances being released into our air and leaching into our soils and waterways. Veolia can't manage to operate within their current licence conditions, thus they should never be permitted to gain any further permissions.

This project should not just be rejected now under Veolia's proposal, but further, that protections should be put in place to further prohibit and exclude any such project of the like in the future both in Tarago or any region where humans or living creatures reside!

Thank you,

Kind Regards,

Romana