

My name is Katrina Rea and I live in Mount Fairy on a property we use for primary production. Not only is this our home but our livelihood. I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago.

I believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will have a detrimental impact to the environment, local economy, health and wellbeing, property values and future opportunities of our community.

This region is becoming increasingly known for regenerative agriculture, organic farming and holistic approaches to land care. This project is in contradiction to these practices and could have a detrimental impact to the progress, positive environmental and economic impact of this high growth area of agriculture. How will these environmentally sound industries be protected?

The proposed incinerator will pollute our community through the emission of acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates and persistent organic particulates. This can lead to decreased lung function, cardiac disease and death. In addition to polluting the air, these toxins will accumulate in the environment over time in soil and water and are absorbed by plants, crops and animals and ultimately impact human health through consumption which can lead to cancer, reproductive issues, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental milestone delays, COPD and other forms of cardiac and respiratory illness.

As a health executive, I experience the current overwhelm of our health system and the disproportionate outcomes rural communities have in accessing healthcare, every day. The cost of health is exponentially increasing. This toxic incinerators will only exasperate negative health outcomes for our community and future generations. How will these health issues be mitigated in a meaningful and scientifically viable and measurable way?

Will other options be explored that align to best practice in this space? Will international standards and technology be committed to (that exceed current aus standards) to minimise impacts? Will pollutant emissions be transparently made public including efficacy of emission analysers?

A primary reason for our move to Mount Fairy was the positive impact this change would have to our health by living in a natural environment, away from pollutants. In addition the capacity to run a tox/no-tox farm based on regenerative agriculture practices in which we have already commenced and made significant financial investment was the other primary decision factor.

In contrast this proposal would risk the viability of local agricultural businesses, reduce existing residential developments as families move away due to the health and environmental pollution, and put a halt to any further long-term local business development or growth in rural residential developments as the area.

How will our property values be maintained? How will business revenues be protected and preserved if this toxic incinerator is undermining the whole concept of our business and value proposition?

I strongly oppose this project and believe there are no benefits that cannot be far exceeded by the negative impacts this project will have on our community.

I have not made any political donations to any party, ever.

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

Katrina Rea

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