

My name is Cynthia Dolan and I live in Goulburn, NSW. I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago.

I believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will increase pollution and adversely affect our health through toxins in the air and through the food chain.

The incinerator is not necessary. The current landfill facility will last for more than 25 years. Perhaps in that time, safer methods of handling waste will be found and an incinerator will never be needed. In the meantime, let us not pollute our environment any worse than we are now.

The proposed incinerator will produce toxic air pollution, spreading beyond Tarago into other districts depending upon the wind direction. With no wind, Tarago itself, already subject to smells so bad that there are times when people can't go outside, will be a place where no one wants to be. If it is as safe as they claim, build it near the emitters of this waste and see what response they get. They are just trying to over-power a small community because they are small.

In July 2018, the Eastern Creek waste incinerator was rejected by the NSW Independent Planning Commission because it was not in the public interest. This was because of 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 same standards must apply to all communities in this state.

The NSW Government acknowledges in its own Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan states that waste incinerators impact negatively human health: "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". If the Government has determined that there is no safe threshold, then why is the Tarago incinerator even being considered?

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 in Tarago or anywhere in the Southern Tablelands. And why would the NSW Government even make this sort of statement when it has also determined that there are no safe thresholds for emissions?

Whatever Veolia says it will do or standards it will meet, we have over 15 years of evidence that they will regularly not do so. Veolia's track record of polluting local ground waters (recognised by EPA prevention notice in October 2022) proves they cannot be trusted to safely manage such toxic outputs.

Veolia continually fail to operate their existing Woodlawn facility within their 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.

Do not allow this incinerator to go ahead. Or any other one in our state.