

Objection to Veolia's Tarago Incinerator proposal (Woodlawn ARC)

My name is Mrs Megan Watson and I live in Quialigo and work in Tarago. **I strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago.**

I believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will be of great detriment to my health and the health and wellbeing of all those living and working in Tarago and the surrounding district. I also believe it will be bad for the communities health it has the potential to poison the environment. This will badly impact property values and cause hardship to families especially young children. In effect this could, and will, if allowed to proceed ruin the future of the region.

There are many reasons for my objection, such as:

- I have great fear that food contaminated by incinerator toxins could cause cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory impairment. I worry for my own health as I have worked in Tarago for 14 years and have witnessed and smelt the increase in odour from the current facility.
- The proposal has already caused significant detrimental negative impact to surrounding communities' mental health by increasing anxiety and depression. This will only be increased if the project goes ahead as those living and working nearby continue to stress about when their health will start to show the impacts of the pollution from the facility, or having to stay indoors.
- 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. This is a serious concern.
- This project is in direct conflict with alternative development and growth in the local area. Maintenance of successful local agricultural businesses, along with increased growth in rural-residential developments expected over the next 10-20 years will sustainably increase the size and diversity of the local community, supporting local businesses, volunteer organisations such as the NSW RFS, CWA and local schools. 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. This has a direct effect on my future employment prospects in Tarago.
- Veolia have spent over 15 years failing to operate their existing Woodlawn 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. This does not instil any confidence in Veolia's ability to operate and manage this new proposal.
- This project area is surrounded by prime agricultural land and hundreds of rural residential developments, as well as numerous potential future developments as a result of subdivision. The locality is already saturated with state significant projects and Veolia's proposal would place an unacceptable cumulative impact on the local and surrounding communities and environment.
- 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.**

I sincerely hope that for the future of a town I have grown to love and the health and wellbeing of all, this proposal does not go ahead. Too many lives and livelihoods will be seriously affected and kill off yet another rural gem of this country.

Yours Sincerely,

M Watson

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