

## Submission to the proposed Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre (ARC)

The land-owners and residents of Tarago and surrounds are taking a stand. The construction of the proposed incinerator is only the start of the future industrial damage as Veolia has maintained on a number of occasions.

For example, from their current website, specifically the ARC FAQs, in answer to the question:

Why are you proposing this to be built at the Woodlawn Eco-Precinct?, Veolia wrote:

**The ARC is the next phase in Veolia's long-term vision** for the Woodlawn Eco-Precinct. Building the facility at the Eco-Precinct will be an important part of Veolia's continued investment in regional New South Wales, which is creating hundreds of jobs, driving economic growth and supporting Australia's environmental shift towards a circular economy.

In the Scoping Report (SR), Veolia maintained:

The project represents the **next stage of development** at the Eco Precinct, (SR page 57)

and:

Veolia proposes to develop and operate the Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre (ARC) (the project), an energy recovery facility (ERF), as **the next phase of the Eco Precinct** (SR page ES1)

and:

The Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre (ARC) (the project), an energy recovery facility (ERF), is proposed as the **next phase of development at the Eco Precinct**. (SR page 1)

in the EIS you had to look long and hard. From Page 309 we find:

Recognising its important role in the community, Veolia acts as a responsible member of that community to prevent or manage potential negative impacts arising from its operations. This will continue **as it embarks on the next stage of its development**, whilst at the same time it maximises the benefits and opportunities it creates for the people of the region.

and in the Tarago Times, they were quoted, I assume:

the ARC is **part of Veolia's next phase in sustainable development** at Woodlawn  
Page 4. The Tarago Times, June 2021

Note the definition change. The ARC is only **PART** of the next phase.

(emphasis added to all these quotations)

Clearly, Veolia has long term plans for the EcoPrecinct, a huge "Heavy Industrial" zone (6000+ hectares) adjacent to Tarago that it owns and controls. Whether it will all be sustainable or environmentally significant remains to be seen. Veolia is in business to make money.

We cannot expect them to share in fine detail with us the projects planned after or concurrent with or before the incinerator, but, for a company that prides itself on its community consultation skills and record, you can't keep it all to your chest.

For instance, what are you going to do with the excess heat?

Will there be any modifications submitted for the ARC? – tonnage, wattage, emissions, number of processing lines, waste makeup etc

What are the plans for the Woodlawn wind farm? Woodlawn 2 or 3. You have plenty of room for a couple of lines of 250/300 metre turbines (as opposed to the current 124 metre babies).

Other opportunities that arise from the Net Zero challenge. eg hydrogen, solar (I won't mention the N word although it did come to mind that Sydney environmentalists, having got rid of incinerators, must be looking for a new home for the waste from Lucas Heights, or the reactor itself, or future waste from other similar facilities).

Then there could be other opportunities looking for heavy industrial zoning: cement works, lime kilns. There will also be more industries found unsuitable for the Sydney basin, be it chemical or biomedical or just plain offensive.

The suitable industries will stay up there eg. Aldi warehouses.

There are plenty of industries that could fit Veolia's vision for the EcoPrecinct.

However, their vision is not ours. Isn't it fair that the Tarago community should know something about the future? The EcoPrecinct is a great commercial opportunity for Veolia, but will turn out to be a disaster locally.

We could hope for a whistleblower.

Please reject this development. Let Veolia continue what they are doing. Let them fill up their hole in the ground as quickly as possible and move on.