

My name is Augusto Dias and I'm a member of the Centro Espírita Beneficente União do Vegetal (CEBUDV), a community that holds its meetings in Mayfield NSW 2580, Australia.

We strongly object to Veolia's proposed incinerator to be built in Tarago.

We believe that Veolia's toxic industrial waste incinerator will damage the environment and the communities, families, and people that live around Tarago and it will negatively impact the economy and future of the region.

Our reasons for this objection are:

- * There is no reason for Veolia's incinerator to exist.

Considering a) the NSW economy policies of reducing waste and b) the current volumes existing for the Woodlawn landfill, which can remain useful for more than 25 years; There is no need to use an incinerator to burn the waste.

- * Non-sustainable practices

The characterisation of waste incineration as renewable energy generation is flawed, as it ignores the fact that waste is sourced from finite resources. Incineration will contribute to climate change by emitting 140,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO₂) each year. Incinerators reduce recycling rates by destroying discarded products and creating a disincentive for local councils by locking them into long-term contracts requiring them to supply consistent volumes of waste for incineration over decades. They are incompatible with a circular economy.

- * Damage the environment and communities' health

The proposed incinerator by Veolia will emit toxic air pollution 24/7 for 25 years, which will impact the surrounding area from Canberra to Goulburn and beyond. The pollution from the incinerator will include acid gases, toxic heavy metal particulates, and persistent organic particulates, which can cause a variety of health problems ranging from decreased lung function to cancer. In addition, the incinerator will produce 2.2 million tonnes of toxic waste ash, which will be dumped on-site, potentially contaminating the surrounding soil and water.

The NSW government acknowledges that waste incinerators can impact human health, and a study published in 2020 concluded that "there is insufficient evidence to conclude that any incinerator is safe". The proposed incinerator has already caused a significant detrimental negative impact on surrounding communities' mental health by increasing anxiety and depression. If the project goes ahead, these impacts will only be increased.

The proposed incinerator will exceed NSW government safety standards for air emissions during start-up, shut-down and many other 'non-standard' operating conditions. Veolia has a

track record locally for failing to comply with license conditions at their existing Woodlawn facility, which raises concerns about their ability to operate the proposed incinerator safely.

* Economic impact

The proposed incinerator in Tarago would have a negative impact on the local economy, with few benefits to offset this. The jobs created would be mostly casual workers, taking their money out of the local area, and there is not enough housing to accommodate them. There are no requirements for jobs and growth in Goulburn Mulwaree to justify this proposal.

* Other points

The NSW Government has banned toxic waste incinerators in Sydney, and this project must also be rejected as it poses the same risks to human health.

Veolia's track record indicates that they are not a company that can be trusted to operate an incinerator in Tarago, or anywhere else in the Southern Tablelands.

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.