

I am writing to object to the toxic industrial waste incinerator proposed at the Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre.

I live in Currawang and our area has been subject to the dreadful odours emitted by the current Veolia Woodlawn Eco Precinct since its installation. The installation of an incinerator pumping fumes into the air would increase the spread of this odour and affect our daily living and right for clean, fresh air.

Plume modelling shows the air pollution from the facility will spread well across our region¹. A European public health report noted that 'modern incinerators 'in the EU are a major source of ultra-fine particulate emissions'² and that particulates contribute to premature death. Easterly winds are a common occurrence for Currawang, with the wind carrying whatever is in the air to the east of us. The 2019/2020 summer bushfires were an excellent example of this when smoke from the south coast and Bungendore fires would envelope our homes every evening. The smoke still carried the odour of the fires which would hang about in the air for days; residents with respiratory conditions were required to stay indoors or wear a mask to protect their airways.

The ACT Waste to Energy policy prohibits within the ACT the type of thermal technology proposed by Veolia. Following community and industry consultation, the ACT government opted for non-thermal waste management solutions over thermal technology, with a key outcome of the policy being to protect 'the health of the community and the environment'³. Similarly, the NSW Government recognise the risks and impact on air quality and won't build such a facility in the Sydney region⁴. In 2018, the NSW Independent Planning Commission rejected a waste incinerator proposed for Eastern Creek due to health concerns and unknown impacts of the facility⁵. If they aren't safe for Sydney then they aren't safe for Tarago, Currawang, and the surrounding district.

I run a natural therapy business from my home at Currawang, work from home, and coordinate local markets at Collector. Given the facility is planned to run for 24 hours a day for 25 years, all these activities would be affected by the proposed development through odour and toxic air, affecting the viability of business operations and lifestyle.

The proposed facility is in conflict with neighbouring zone purposes, particularly those zoned for village, primary production, rural landscape, and environmental management. Our area has a very active food exchange of vegetable growers. Toxic contamination from incinerator pollution would affect our vegetable gardens putting consumers at risk of health conditions such as cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory issues⁶. Pollution entering waterways and soils from the site and as a result of rain and fog depositing fumes and evaporated toxicity as it falls would affect cropping, livestock, and bird and wildlife. While there are 'no major National Parks, nature reserves, conservation areas and State

¹ Tarago Plume Plot, www.plumeplotter.com/tarago/

² Facts about "waste-to-energy" incinerators, GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives), 2018.

³ ACT Waste-to-Energy Policy 2020-25, ACT Government. https://hdp-au-prod-app-act-yoursay-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/3815/8509/9072/TCCS_ACT_Waste_to_Energy_Policy.pdf

⁴ NSW Government Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan 2021. <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/-/media/epa/corporate-site/resources/waste/21p3261-energy-from-waste-infrastructure-plan.pdf>

⁵ Saulwick, Jacob 2018, Western Sydney incinerator dumped by independent commission, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 July 2018. <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/western-sydney-incinerator-dumped-by-independent-commission-20180719-p4zsd4.html>

⁶ Particle Pollution Exposure, United States Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov/pmcourse/particle-pollution-exposure.

forests in close proximity to the Eco Precinct'⁷, the Currawang area to the west is home to conservation areas and biodiversity zoning of Lake George. The potential effect on this area could be devastating on so many levels for people, the land, livestock, birds and wildlife.

In seeking their own economic growth, I believe Veolia has forgotten about the impact their facility could have on the surrounding community. The information out of Europe and the Australian governments pushing back on the facility are sending a consistent message: health risks, uncertainty, pollution. The only content I've found in favour of these facilities are those that will make money from them. The health and wellbeing of people and environment, and the basic right to fresh, clean air should come above everything else.

⁷ Woodlawn Advanced Energy Recovery Centre: Scoping report May 2021.
<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-21184278%2120210623T002051.410%20GMT>