

**Submission
No 582**

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

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The grounds for my objection are 4-fold:

Our rail infrastructure is not up to the job

Veolia has a poor track record of waste management

We should be recycling and reusing – not creating a system that will rely on future waste generation

This proposal is heavy on GHG emissions at a time when we should be reducing them – both in terms of the process and to transport it to facility

If it is as state-of-the-art as Veolia say it is why can't it be located in the communities that are the primary generators of the waste, that way saving our rail lines for the growing numbers of commuters and travellers using them. Our regional rail system is not currently world class and the 'rubbish-run' freight trains that also rely on it, seem to get first dibs – passenger trains are frequently held up while freight trains break down or pass through.

Another risk of locating the waste facility away from the waste-generating community was that experienced by Sydneysiders in 2022 (?) when an unusually high level of rain fell in the region where the trains had to travel, causing damage to rail infrastructure which meant the rubbish was unable to be transported. Instead, the rubbish backed up in Sydney offices and was unable to be collected until it could be moved out of town again to a facility. Requiring waste to be transported large distances to a treatment facility is a heavy CO₂e generator – we should not, at this stage of the GHG levels, be developing and enhancing facilities that do nothing to reduce generated levels of GHG emissions.

Veolia regularly contravenes the safe limits of their current 'eco' Woodlawn facility, and are served EPA contravention notices by the EPA. For a proposed Waste to Energy facility that could so easily make the air that we breathe, the water we drink and the soil we grow our food in poisoned with leachates, Veolia does not have a good track record and should not be allowed to operate additional facilities until they have a 'toxic-tight' operating record.

We shouldn't be incinerating our waste and generating CO₂e gases. Sydneysiders are not being required to sort and minimise their waste at a speed that is fast enough to keep ahead of the land fill space NSW government says they are running out of it. We have been told by scientists for well over a decade that we need to be rethinking our consumption so that Waste is no longer a word with any meaning – ie, all product has a further use and should be reused or reimagined and reused. Sydneysiders need to step up to this issue, but before that, they even need to be made to increase their awareness of it. Until that happens, someone else's back yard will always have to be the dumping ground for their consumption.

Finally, if this project was to be green-lit, Veolia (or any licenced operator) would have a vested interest in maintaining and possibly increasing the current cycle of waste creation and transportation. An incinerator would require 'feed', which needs to be transported and burned.