

**Submission
No 585**

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Christine Stephens

Date Received: 28 October 2025

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My name is Christine Stephens. I reside in Goulburn, NSW.

I am registering my STRONG objection to Veolia's proposed incinerator being built in Tarago.

My Reasons:

- Waste incineration is not a viable long term solution to dealing with our waste issues. There are more efficient less toxic alternatives that can be implemented. Including but not limited to recycling, reusing and repairing as is already being undertaken. I am greatly concerned that local government bodies, commercial and industrial corporations will be encouraged to enter long term agreements with companies such as Veolia. Thus, they will be locked into contracts ensuring that the company will continue polluting our already fragile environment for decades.
- The proposed incinerator site is located in an agricultural, food producing area. The toxic air pollution from it will affect the region of Tarago, Canberra, Goulburn, Bungendore, Gunning, Breadalbane and Marulan to list but a few of the townships and communities that will be at risk. It will be in use constantly so there will be no respite for these communities from its toxic influence. I am concerned for residents who have chronic health conditions, the very young and the very old – the most vulnerable of our society. I am concerned that there will be an increase in asthma and other allied health conditions.
- I am concerned for the adverse effects the incinerator will have on the livelihoods of the farmers and other workers in our region. I am concerned that there will be an adverse effect resulting in people not wanting to visit or settle in our region resulting in a downturn in prosperity and employment.
- Some of the chemicals that have the potential to leech into the soil, contaminate livestock, crops, water catchments (including Sydney's water catchment area), air quality, native flora and fauna as well as human beings are classified as toxic 'forever chemicals'. NSW is already dealing with the contamination of Medowie, Williamtown and surrounds from PFAS pollutants. Are we so unwise that with the knowledge and information scientifically demonstrated we would consider entering into a long term agreement to pollute indefinitely local communities, our food sources, our environment risking the current and future health of local residents? Are we willing to gamble with the health of yet to be born children?
- The financial cost of cleaning up the mess will be exorbitant. The potential that there will be no solution to the mess is frightening. History, as well as our scientific advances, should have taught us that there is no easy way of reversing the effects of chemical pollution and that some effects are permanent.
- The waste will be transported from Sydney through multiple towns and environments increasing the risks of contamination exponentially.

- Veolia does not have a good record in Australia or internationally as a company that adheres to environmental conditions despite it having agreed to abide by these when it has been granted licences.

Refer:

‘Smelly Dairy Waste’ www.epa.vic.gov.au/oh-what-an-odour

‘Veolia fined over smelly dairy waste’

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/mediareleases

16 July 2024

Veolia issued \$30000 penalty for licence breach

www.business-humanrights.org/en latest-news/columbia-french-multinational-veolia relating to alleged poisoning of wetlands in Columbia

Dated 31st March 2025

www.edie.net/veolia-accused-of-polluting-wetland

- I also note that in Europe decisions have been made to not finance any further waste incinerators due to environmental and health concerns. The length of the contracts that were originally entered into has impacted the ability to speed up the discontinuance of their usage.

Again, I reiterate that I am strongly opposed to a waste incinerator being built in Tarago (or anywhere else) and request that Veolia’s application be refused.

Sincerely

Christine Stephens

