

Submission
No 634

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission regarding proposed Waste to Energy facility at Tarago NSW. October 23/10/25

The facility is surrounded by farmland 37 km from Goulburn currently being used for farming of meat, fibre and crops.

These farming practices are at high risk if contamination from the operation of the furnace with the wind blowing the toxins, in every direction contaminating the wool of fine wool growers, and the meat of lamb and beef growers, also the crops grown to feed the sheep and cattle industries. American studies have shown the bloom from these furnaces can travel up to hundreds of kilometres

The toxins once in the food chain can't be removed for an unknown number of decades or centuries.

The Sydney water supply is at risk of contamination from the toxic fumes and ash, the Tarago site is within the Sydney catchment area.

The area has wind farms nearby which are contributing to the contamination of the environment, by emitting forever chemical and plastics into the surrounding soils and then the food chain. This facility will increase the damage in a much greater area, with high winds taking the ash in any direction for hundreds of kms affecting the water supply and food chain of these affected areas within the 300km radius.

The chemicals expected to be found include:

Dioxins and Furans, which are highly toxic, persistent pollutants that form during incomplete combustion. (*Violia do not have a very good record abiding by laws on environmental damage, and are quite happy to pay the small fines issued, and carry on regardless.*) These chemicals are a major health concern and are associated with cancer, reproductive disorders and development disorders.

Heavy metals which include

Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Arsenic, and exposure to these can cause serious health issues.

Acid gases, such as Sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides contribute to respiratory problems.

Particulate matter (fine particles or ash) The furnace removes many toxins from the gas, but concentrate them in the ash. The ash can be inhaled into lungs and cause respiratory and cardiovascular health issues. The ash can also settle on surfaces, homes water tanks, dams, grasses etc and end up our food chain.

I understand the need for Sydney to get rid of their rubbish, but it should be treated or disposed of where it is created, this would remove the need of transporting the rubbish to any rural area. Transporting the rubbish alone adds risks to the environment.

The Hon Penny Sharpe stated a few yrs ago that a Waste to Energy furnace proposed for Western Sydney should NOT go ahead.

If it is not safe for the rubbish to be burnt in a Waste to Energy Facility in Sydney where it is created then it is not safe for a rural setting either, where it runs a very high risk of contaminating the food chain, Sydney water supply along with local resident's farms, their crops water and animals. It may be out of site for Hon Penny Sharpe and those that create the rubbish, but it is not out of site for the local community, and the surrounding farmers.

The health and financial security of farmers, elderly and children are put at risk by this proposal. Those at most risk of contamination of their homes, drinking water, crops, beef, sheep and fibre are those within 10 km of the site. This takes in lot of farmers and their families.

The European Commission have said that furnaces like this were on the decline in Europe and *suggested investment should be in ZERO WASTE instead*. This makes a lot more sense than burning thousand of tons of waste which is dangerous and damaging to the whole environment.

In Goulburn alone there are 5 or 6 Dollar shops, why? They are landfill shops, they contribute thousands of tons of landfill every year to our rubbish tips and we should restrict the imports of these cheap landfill items. Tax them restrict them, most of the items in these shops last a few days or weeks and then they are in landfill. Restrict the rubbish reduce the landfill aim for Zero Waste, as they are attempting in Europe. We are apparently 30 yrs behind other countries in Europe with how we deal with waste.

One Waste to Energy furnace has the equivalent carbon footprint as one coal mine, is this really what we want to be doing? Building one of these is not going to help the climate but contribute to the contamination of the planet.

I oppose the Waste to Energy facility at Tarago, or any rural setting for the above reasons. We need to dispose of it where it is created, reduce the amount of imported reduce the landfill and move to ZERO WASTE.

We are not Guinea Pigs for Government or any Company that chooses to use us as such, hiding behind lies and misinformation. If it is not safe to have in Sydney then it is definitely not safe in Rural Australia either.

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Gundry NSW