

Submission
No 639

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am strongly opposed to the proposed waste incinerator in Tarago.

I live in the Tarago community. Veolia's name in the community has never been as low as it currently is. Between the contamination from Veolia in the creeks surrounding Woodlawn, windblown litter and odour, the community has little trust in Veolia and what we are being told. Community consultation has also dropped significantly, and complaints we have made go unanswered. Having an incinerator will mean that the pit will also take much longer to fill, meaning that the litter, odour and leachate will be issues the community will face for decades longer. This all affects our land values and quality of life. The constant truck and train movements also have a negative effect on the Tarago community and this will only be more often and for a longer period of time if the incinerator is approved.

The construction process for the incinerator will be enormous. What is the impact of the roads for all of the extra truck and car movements? Where will people stay during the construction? Already there are issues with accommodation availability in Tarago, Goulburn and Queanbeyan with other industrial projects. This impacts this has on a small community are huge and extremely visual compared to the city. It makes our community feel like an industrial base rather than a quiet rural town we chose to live and raise our kids in. The additional costs to Veolia would also be astronomical and I would assume they would prefer to be able to erect an incinerator in Sydney without the prospect of employing construction people in a remote rural setting and the prospect of camps to house them.

The process of transporting rubbish from Sydney to regional areas is both economically unsustainable and an additional burden on the ratepayer. If the ratepayers in Sydney understood that a huge portion of their rates was simply to move their rubbish out of the city, perhaps they may have a different opinion. When we are working as a nation to reduce our carbon footprint, how does moving millions of tonnes of rubbish hundreds of kilometres every day add up?

At the end of the day, Veolia is guided by the guidelines set by the NSW government. When the NSW government gazetted Woodlawn as a designated energy from waste precinct, this effectively put the nail in the coffin for Tarago. This is not a Veolia decision, this is a NSW government decision. If the incinerators technology adds up it makes absolutely no sense to take Sydney's rubbish all the way to Tarago. Why couldn't it be out in the new airport in Western Sydney? This is an industrial area, less distance for the rubbish to travel, and the by products of the incinerator of heat and electricity could be utilized by the nearby airport? That way Sydney's rubbish stays in Sydney and is not pushed onto the shoulders of small rural community.

I plead the NSW government to think very carefully about their long term waste plan. Not just short term with the next election. It feels to the Tarago community that because we are fewer numbers and votes that we are the option that is going to cause the less amount of opposition. How is the long term waste plan for Sydney's waste Tarago and Parkes? Two rural communities that have generations of hard working farmers and small businesses that are being impacted by external influences beyond our control.