

Submission  
No 678

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

---

Partially  
Confidential

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Veolia's proposed waste incineration project and its July 2024 amendment relating to the disposal of hazardous air pollution control residue (APCr) at the Woodlawn site near Goulburn.

This amendment represents a significant escalation of environmental and public health risk for our region.

Firstly, instead of containing the 15,200 tonnes of toxic fly ash in a purpose-built encapsulation cell, the proposal to "stabilise" and dump this material directly into the existing Woodlawn landfill is very likely to create potential health risks. This ash contains highly toxic substances, including dioxins, furans, PFAS, mercury, cadmium, and lead — chemicals known to persist in the environment and bioaccumulate in living organisms.

Veolia's existing record at Woodlawn gives little confidence in their ability to safely manage such material, but even if their record was excellent, the damage from even only occasional management failures represents a significant risk.

As I understand, the company has struggled for years to control leachate and has received multiple EPA penalty notices for pollution incidents. The proposal to add large quantities of hazardous material into a landfill already plagued by leachate management problems is unacceptable. The risk of toxic compounds leaching into groundwater, entering waterways, or being dispersed via leachate evaporation processes poses an unacceptable threat to the environment, agriculture, and community health.

The plan to transport hazardous waste through local towns and farms, and potentially interstate to Queensland, further compounds the risks. The possibility of transport spills, accidents - even if these might only occur rarely - and long-term contamination events has not been adequately addressed. These activities also contradict claims that the project is a "green" solution — burning waste only creates more toxic material requiring complex, long-term management.

After more than three years of planning, Veolia's continued changes, incomplete studies, and lack of transparency demonstrate a failure to meet environmental and community standards. This project is not in the public interest.

I urge the Senate to reject the proposal and to strengthen national oversight of waste incineration projects to ensure that environmental and human health are prioritised over other interests.