

**Submission  
No 697**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Karen Baron

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## TARAGO - PROPOSED INCINERATOR SUBMISSION

We, the people, do NOT consent to Veolia's proposal to build an Industrial Waste to Energy Incinerator next to the town of Tarago, in the Southern Goulburn Mulwaree. This rural region is home to thousands of human beings choosing to reside and/or work in a beautiful area of fresh air, extensive native flora and fauna, and a wide range of options that allow a healthy variety of land-based production. Any contamination from the proposed incinerator would directly impact the breath of every living creature, water consumed/used from natural waterways and essential water tanks, and products consumed from land-grown plants and animals. Research cites that contamination of food and ingestion of pollutants is a significant risk pathway... that food contaminated by incinerator toxins can cause cancer, miscarriage, infant deaths, developmental delays, reproductive issues, heart disease and respiratory impairment. Would those involved in the placement of this incinerator also choose to pop one in THEIR back yard? My move to this region was for personal health benefits and food production. I would certainly find it challenging to be producing food for food pantries that may realistically contribute to the health decline of others.

Already within this region there is local concern regarding the existing Veolia waste site not meeting emission standards and being fined for license breaches. Any good governance would seriously take this into account, especially with the admission from Veolia that the incinerator will exceed the NSW Government safety standards for air emissions. Whilst election votes are crucial and will most certainly be impacted by the incinerator decision, of ultimate importance is responsibility for air pollution. In this time of climate change, green energy and net zero operations it is almost impossible to think that a government would even consider an incinerator that will pump out dangerous air pollution 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for 30 years. Surely it is time to say NO and instead consider the implementation of safety standards for emissions, in order to avoid toxic smoke particulates (PM10, PM2.5 and nano particulates) penetrating our lungs and brain, moving into our bloodstream and body organs, and causing illness and death from respiratory problems (asthma, lung disease, breathing difficulties), strokes, cancer, heart disease, heart attack and more. Those involved in the placement of this incinerator are directly responsible for the air breathed by voting citizens, whom they are chosen to represent, from Canberra, Goulburn, Braidwood, Bungendore, Murrumbateman, Gunning, Marulan, Yass, and more. Fresh air and pristine nature are a significant part of my choosing to live in this region and offer respite to others needing a break. I would certainly find it challenging to continue offering such peaceful respite when every breath may realistically contribute to health decline.

The valid citizens of this region operate daily on a level of trust, shared resources and in the spirit of great Aussie mateship. We work hard to keep our region clean, to practice reduce-reuse-recycle and to look out for each other. Is not that the Australian way? We expect our Australian public servants and government authorities to do the same, whilst taking responsibility to implement levels of protection, provision and policy that do the same for ALL Australians. Leading by example is one of the best ways to gain trust and positively impact the common good. This Tarago issue is not just a Tarago issue. It is a chance to show wise governance for tackling waste at its source, protecting Australia's healthy living conditions overall, and maintaining a clean, fair future for all, including regional communities. I personally would be most disheartened to admit living in a country and a region that allows toxic incineration. Scrutinizing companies like Veolia is paramount. Veolia has a record that cannot be trusted and that places profit over people. It would be detrimental to Australia, and the lives of Australians, for any such company to be given permission to proceed. The Veolia proposal for an Industrial Waste to Energy Incinerator next to the town of Tarago, in the Southern Goulburn Mulwaree, must be REJECTED in its entirety.

Karen Baron

31.10.25