

Submission
No 703

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 21 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I strongly oppose both the proposed changes outlined in the EPA "Energy from Waste - Options Paper" and the continued exemption of regional precincts from the prohibition of thermal treatment of waste in NSW.

Our community already has to endure the stench from current Veolia operations. I live 10km from Tarago and I can smell the effluent from the trains arriving from Sydney. I feel for the occupants of the new subdivision opened up right next to the Tarago train station where the effluent train can sit for extended periods. Veolia, who will be tasked with operating the incinerator if approved, have a poor record of compliance already. Not just for odour issues from Woodlawn but also in other states including Victoria. Their trucks spew plastic between Woodlawn and Canberra in unmarked trucks. When complaints are made they are dismissed because only the trailer registration can be provided. To trust such a poor operator to run something which can threaten human health is irresponsible.

The population in region continues to grow, with Bungendore growing at an increasingly fast pace (13.6% over the last 10 years). Bungendore will be in direct line of toxic plumes. The centre supports many young families, most of which chose Bungendore as it is seen as a relatively unpolluted area.

Rural properties in the surrounding area rely entirely on tank water. Given the government and it's regulators poor response to PFAS contamination (e.g. Cadia gold mine and Williamstown), many residents are concerned that we will be treated with the same lack of care. If the incinerator is approved, I will be having my drinking water tested before its commission and then regularly post commission to ensure that my only accessible drinking water has not been poisoned. The government may face legal action if human health is threatened by their lack of due diligence and care for their constituents. Given recent planning changes proposed by the NSW Government, which are likely to weaken environmental protection, I do not believe that this government has any intention of protecting the environment I live in nor my health.

Furthermore, the Environment Minister (Penny Sharpe) stated back in 2018 that the time for talk was over and this type of project should be stopped <https://wendytuckerman.com/2024/08/15/labor-mp-raises-the-alarm-about-waste-incineration-that-needs-to-be-heard-by-the-government/>

What has changed now? We are at a climate change tipping point and still the Government want to pump more carbon in the atmosphere and have changed their position now they are power. It seems that lobbyists for this sector certainly have their ear while their constituents have to suffer under their poor decision-making processes. (The Minister now refers to those opposing these projects as NIMBIES which indicates a lack of respect and understanding of the impacts on our communities and possibly that the decision has already been made).

I have threatened species breeding on my property, including the glossy back cockatoos. Since moving to the area 12 years ago we have had several development proposals including a large wind farm, the incinerator and more recently a large solar farm. It seems that the NSW Government and developers can't abide areas which may have some residual environmental benefit remaining - where are the environmental protections for rare and endangered species?

Regional NSW is tired of having to wear the cost of Sydney's poor waste management. If these incinerators don't cause harm, then save transportation costs and burn Sydney's waste in Sydney (as if that will ever happen).