

Submission  
No 730

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 19 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

I strongly oppose the proposal to build a waste incinerator in Tarago. I believe this project poses significant environmental, health, and social risks that outweigh the potential benefits.

Firstly, waste incinerators potentially release harmful pollutants into the environment, including dioxins, heavy metals, and particulate matter. I am not convinced that even with the use of the most up-to-date technologies and stringent environmental protocols that we can be confident that no harmful pollutants will be ever be released. For example, I have been told that a previous water contamination issue faced at Veolia's Woodlawn Landfill site was due to unprecedented levels of rain causing flooding despite all the precautions Veolia had put in place. I believe that even if Veolia does have the best of intentions of creating an environmentally safe incinerator, there are too many factors that can't be planned for, such as unprecedented weather conditions or human error, and a resultant accidental leak of chemicals could lead to long-term negative impacts to the surrounding environment and human/animal health. Also, I believe we often can't know the true environmental impact of things until several years later, so problems with any new technologies and emission protocols that will be used in this proposed incinerator may not be known until many years in the future, when it is too late to reverse.

I would like to see the money being spent on this proposed incinerator being spent on efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. I worry that waste incineration promotes a linear waste model that encourages overproduction and excessive consumption, rather than a circular economy based on sustainability. Once built, these facilities require a constant feed of waste to remain economically viable, discouraging more sustainable waste management practices. I believe that building and using this proposed waste incinerator will limit the ability to respond in real time to newer safer innovations for waste reduction, reuse and recycling due to being locked into a several-decades long commitment to waste incineration.

Furthermore, the proposal threatens the local character of Tarago. This is a rural community known for its natural beauty and clean environment. The presence of a large-scale industrial incinerator would damage the area's reputation, discourage tourism, and potentially lower property values. It is simply not appropriate infrastructure for this location. I also do not support that this incinerator would be dealing with Sydney's rubbish problem. The transport alone of Sydney's rubbish out to Tarago will contribute to additional negative environmental impact. I believe rubbish should be dealt with locally by those creating it, not shipped out to become someone else's problem. It has been presented to me that the reason the incinerator has been proposed in Tarago is because Sydney has rejected it, which implies to me that it is not good/safe enough for Sydney but apparently it is good/safe enough for a regional town – which incidentally supplies Sydney with farming produce. I believe that we cannot be certain that this incinerator is good/safe enough for anyone anywhere.

I urge the relevant authorities to reject this proposal and instead invest in cleaner, community-driven waste solutions that prioritize recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Tarago deserves environmentally responsible development that aligns with public health and climate goals.