

Submission
No 732

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 26 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I live on a property in Wayo, which is 15km from Goulburn. I strongly object to the proposed waste to energy incinerator being built at Woodlawn, Tarago. I believe that this waste to energy incinerator will affect not only my family that lives in Tarago but also my family in Goulburn which includes my grandchildren.

Waste to energy

The waste incinerator is being considered due to the energy it is supposed to provide. However, the waste incinerator might provide some energy from burning rubbish it also puts harmful chemicals and PFAS into the environment. It is not clean energy but harmful to the local environment. Those that have been set up overseas have been set up in an industrial area and not in a farming community. If this is safe why is it not being considered and set up in Sydney, so it can provide for the ongoing energy requirements of Sydney?

Environmental and Health impacts.

There are many reasons for my concerns and they are not just about the waste incinerator but about the waste that is being sent to Tarago currently and affecting the groundwater and quality of life for the residents of Tarago.

My profession is in the early childhood field and so I am aware of the importance of the first five years of life and where a child grows up. My family has chosen the Goulburn area to live for the quality of life and the clean air and water that we appreciate. My husband is the third generation of his family to live in this area and I have lived here for 42 years. I lived in a capital city in my growing years and then moved to a regional city before moving to Goulburn. The incinerator would not only affect my grandchildren's physical health but their mental health as well. My grandchildren are more aware of looking after the environment than I was at their age. They are wondering why the government would make a decision that affects their health while they are still growing.

I do not understand why in a rural area we are the ones that will suffer by the burning of Sydney's rubbish. Why when Sydney says no to burning of the rubbish in Sydney do we have to suffer with air pollution? Are we not important as there are less of us? Is there a view that our air and water quality is not important as we are in a rural area? As Canberra is in the catchment area of the incinerator, the residents would be affected as well.

The incinerator would affect the little towns in the Southern Tablelands and farming communities that rely on their water from tanks and dams which would be affected by the chemicals being released into the environment. Even those bigger communities such as Goulburn have a lot of water tanks on properties as this was an initiative of the government when the Basix program came in for building new homes. All of them had to have a rainwater tank. This area is in the catchment for Sydney so the water in our rivers and creeks would be affected as well.

This is a farming area so the local produce would be affected including the livestock that are produced in the area. Those who have decided to live sustainably and produce their own food will be concerned about whether the food they produce is safe or not in the future.

When I was growing up in the 1960's and 1970's we burnt our rubbish. However we stopped doing this as it was not good for the environment. The NSW Government needs to show it is as concerned about the health and lifestyle of those who live in rural areas and not just for those who live in Sydney.

Transport and Infrastructure

Transporting rubbish from Sydney through regional NSW affects the regions that this rubbish goes through. I have a son and his family that live in Tarago and have a business in the town and there are problems with the rubbish that has been affecting the environment. There are problems with odour, noise and spillage of the rubbish and you just need to live in the local community to know that nothing much is done when this happens. Is the government willing to set up the EPA in Tarago to deal with the problems and deal with them when they happen?

Surely it makes more sense to deal with the rubbish in Sydney and not send it to the regions.

Community Consultation and Social Licence

Previously an incinerator has been proposed for Tarago and we had to write submissions to oppose it and that was achieved. However it was not a win when a few years later we are having to do more submissions to oppose a Waste to energy incinerator. When was the local community consulted as to whether they wanted the incinerator in any form in their local area? There has been no information provided to the local area and we have not seen the Premier or the ministers involved in this project here explaining the incinerator and how it will affect our community.

As I have said previously the waste that is sent to Tarago at present is affecting the local community. If I did not have family in Tarago I might not be aware of it. The company involved does not seem to take caring for the environment part of their business seriously. Those who live in Tarago do not view Veolia as a company that is interested in the affects the rubbish has on the environment in terms of smell which affects the air quality and the water has been affected as well. How long does Veolia have the contract for and can the government get out of the contract since they are not looking after the environment?

I cannot understand why Western Sydney who generates the rubbish can say no but the people in Tarago and Goulburn have to put up with environmental damage to burn their rubbish. Is it because there are less of us or don't we matter as we don't have many votes?

Policy and alternatives.

Sydney's waste should be dealt with in Sydney and not moved to somewhere that the people and government does not have to see the effects. This is not helping

change the need for a change in how people produce rubbish or look at the materials that just get thrown out after one use. The focus should be on finding plans to reuse and recycle and other alternatives to burning rubbish. There are better alternatives and surely it is the Minister for Energy and Environment's job to seek these out. Banning items such as single use plastics is a start to minimising some waste and putting in place policies that ensure that all packaging is recyclable, reusable or compostable would all help reduce the rubbish. Working on providing incentives so those materials that are recycled are then made into other items that can be used in the environment should be looked at as well.

Making sure long term contracts are not given to companies to deal with waste that might get rid of the rubbish but not be good for the environment. Then when new solutions are found to deal with rubbish they can be put in place and not wait 20 years for a contract to expire.

Equity and Fairness

There is a saying that NSW stands for Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. I'm sure the government is aware of it but it is probably not talked about as much in Sydney as it is in regional New South Wales. Tarago has taken on Sydney's rubbish and did not get a say in that happening. When the waste of Sydney is sent to the regions it makes us in the regions think that the government sees us as their dumping ground. How this treats the citizens of this state equally and fairly I do not know.

Any plans for waste needs to guarantee that our community is not affected in any way be it in air quality, water and environment just so the Sydney region does not have to worry about its waste. Tarago has already been affected and those that live there have not been treated fairly.

I strongly oppose the energy to waste incinerator and hope that some sense in the matter might prevail and it does not go ahead.