

Submission
No 774

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I'm a farmer, located on the south-western side of Goulburn, I'm opposed to the proposed Veolia toxic waste incinerator to be located at Tarago.

I appreciate the opportunity to put forward my views on why this is a stupid idea, but I'm dismayed that I have to do it, we enjoy a quiet life in an amazing community, and enjoy our pollution free environment, this proposal is widely despised by the local community, but we now have to fight to try to prevent something that no one in this community wants.

It benefits nobody except the French multinational company and maybe some politicians to get some sort of box tick for the debatable renewal energy statistics aligned with this development.

It ironic that a development that presents huge potential environmental risk to the local community and environment is being promoted as being a saviour for the environment via a renewal energy, I'm not buying it.

If God forbids it gets approved, the community down here are left with the potential for us and our children, grandchildren to be exposed to health risks both known and unknown.

Why dump it on us? let Sydney deal with its own waste issues.

Other countries, particularly in the EU and high-income Asia- are actively moving away from toxic (hazardous) waste incinerators, this is driven by circular economy goals, stricter emissions regulations, and a push for waste prevention and recycling over combustion.

This shift prioritises reducing overall waste generation and emissions of toxins like dioxins, furans, heavy metals and PFA's which incinerators can release despite modern controls.

The best course of action would be to take a cautious approach to the implementation of toxic waste incinerators, why rush into something that other countries are moving away from?

There are a multitude of practical reasons why this development should not proceed in the proposed location, I've listed several of them below:

Development is too close to major population centres-

This proposed development brings a huge health risk to a large number of people who live within the catchment area of this proposed facility via known and unknown health risks now and into the future.

There are over **1.1 MILLION people** living within **130km**, **754,000** of these people are living within **80 kilometres Tarago**.

This is not a remote location.

Proposed Tarago NSW Toxic Waste Incinerator development distances to South East NSW populations		
	Distance to proposed Toxic Waste Incinerator	
Canberra	30 km	475k
Queanbeyan (Palerang LGA)	40 km	67k
Goulburn LGA	30 km	33k
Shoalhaven LGA	80 km	110k
Kiama LGA	119 km	23k
Wollongong	130 km	319k
Wingecarribee LGA	80km	52k
Yass	45km	17k
Total people within 130k radius of toxic waste incinerator site		1.1 Million people
Total people within 80km radius of toxic waste incinerator site		754k people

Extreme weather location not suitable for the proposed facility-

It is not by chance that the district around the proposed toxic waste incinerator is home to one of the nations largest concentrations of wind farms/towers, it's an extremely windy area,

Goulburn and surrounds are famous for being windy (and cold), we have more high wind days than not,

The fact the proposed facility will be operating in high/extreme winds present risk as it projects its toxic by-products into the atmosphere, the wind has potential to further spread the toxic plumes and waste across many more people than projected by any studies or papers predicted in support of the proposal, there's potential for everyone in the 130 km range as per the graph above to be exposed to the by-products of the proposed facility and the known and unknown health risks it presents.

The proposed facility is close to vital community water supplies for over 5.4 Million people-

Its not just the people downwind of the proposed toxic waste incinerator that are at risk, the direct area around the toxic waste incinerator site is the catchment area for the water supplies for almost 6million people.

Sydney Water

The location of the proposed facility is directly in the catchment off the Shoalhaven river, which plays a big part in providing vital water supplies to Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and the Illawarra via the Shoalhaven water scheme, which diverts water from Tallowa dam (forming Lake Yarrunga via pumping stations and pipelines to the upper Nepean dams and ultimately to Warragamba dam, Sydney's primary reservoir.

Canberra/Queanbeyan/Goulburn

It is also with 30 kilometres of the waters supplies for Canberra/Queanbeyan (Googong dam) and Goulburn (Pejar Dam).

Nowra

Within 70km of Danjera Reservoir, the primary water supply for Nowra and surrounds over 40,000people.

Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers

The proposed toxic waste incinerator site is also located within 58 kilometres of the Murrumbidgee river, which supplies water to Australia's food bowl the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) and ultimately the Murray river, right through to South Australia. A vital water source Australia's ultimate food production area.

It is clear to see that this is the wrong location to be building a toxic waste incinerator, it has the potential to compromise our most vital commodity, Water.

Its just not worth the risk, building the incinerator at Tarago makes zero sense, it defies logic as to why would we put our communities vital water supplies at risk.

Link below to Water NSW catchment maps.

<https://nula.waternsw.com.au/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=209dcb0ddf81449e97896a804d2077b1>

Highly valuable and diverse Food bowl-

The direct area around the proposed toxic waste incinerator site is one of Australia's most diverse and productive farming areas.

The area is home to a range of:

- Viticulture (Award winning wineries)
- Grazing (Beef, Sheep, Fine wool, Goats etc)
- Feedlots (Beef, Sheep and Pigs)
- Poultry farms
- Fruit
- Cropping

Why introduce any risk into this highly productive location, it makes no sense.

Veolia -

Veolia is a major regulated/global player in the waste industry, but its history of fines, ethical lapses and potential community harm substantiates dodgy perceptions, especially in the waste and water sectors.

There is a long list of controversies and scandals globally linked to Veolia, I'd recommend you do a google search of Veolia and make your own mind up on whether Veolia is an organisation that we can trust to manage a facility that presents so much potential risk to the community, our water supplies and the farming industry.

The people of Tarago, are living with the effects (extreme odours) of the current Veolia waste dump, we don't want this proposed facility, it doesn't fit into the area and poses to many risks, both known and unknown.

Summary

Is this proposed development Australia's future Erin Brockovich style disaster?

The people of this area already carry the burden of large concentrations of wind farms, proposed solar farms, and the current Sydney waste dump at Tarago, we are doing our bit, let Sydney look after its own toxic waste, we don't want this toxic waste incinerator here.

For the sake of our community's health, I would urge you to stop this proposed Toxic Waste Incinerator proposal, no one wants it here.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide a response.

Kind regards