

Submission
No 778

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

**Submission to the Select Committee on Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities
Re: Opposition to the Proposed Waste Incinerator in Tarago, NSW**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator development in Tarago.

This project poses unacceptable risks to public health, environmental safety, and the long-term viability of our farming communities—not only in Tarago, but across the broader Goulburn Mulwaree district and across New South Wales as well.

The impacts of airborne pollutants, water contamination, and soil degradation would be felt far beyond the immediate vicinity of the facility. Incinerators are known to emit toxic substances including dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulates—pollutants linked to cancer, respiratory illness, neurological disorders, and developmental harm in children. These risks are well-documented and deeply concerning.

I speak as a farmer's daughter and someone who understands firsthand the fragility and importance of our agricultural ecosystems. I am firmly opposed to any development that puts our farmers—and the land they steward—at risk. The damage from a waste incinerator will not be confined to Tarago. Airborne pollutants do not respect boundaries, and toxins leaching into waterways can travel far beyond the immediate site. The ripple effects could impact farms, livestock, and communities many miles away. Once released, these contaminants can settle into soil, accumulate in food chains, and compromise water sources that sustain both agriculture and human health. To endanger the very foundation of rural life—clean air, clean water, and safe food production—is to jeopardize not just one town, but the integrity of an entire region. Farmers' livelihoods will be put at risk—not only those working the land today, but future generations who depend on its viability and safety.

I have no confidence in the proponent, Veolia, whose record in our region already reflects poor environmental management and a failure to uphold community commitments. Recent reports of pollution in local waterways—attributed to Veolia's mismanagement of existing waste operations—underscore the dangers of expanding their footprint. Before any new development is considered, Veolia must be held accountable for remediating the damage already done. If they cannot safely manage current responsibilities, they should not be entrusted with a facility of even greater hazard.

It is deeply troubling that the NSW Government has amended planning regulations to prohibit large-scale EfW incinerators in Greater Sydney, citing community opposition and health concerns, yet regional communities are expected to accept the very risks that Sydney residents rejected. The **NSW EPA's Energy from Waste Policy Statement (2021)** restricts such facilities to four regional zones, excluding Sydney due to population density, air quality concerns, and environmental risk. This exclusion reflects a precautionary approach—one that should apply equally to all communities.

Sydney's waste is a Sydney problem. Regional and rural areas should not be treated as sacrifice zones for urban excess, especially when no meaningful action is being taken to reduce waste generation at its source.

While this submission focuses on the proposed incinerator at Tarago, I wish to make it clear that my opposition extends to all Energy-from-Waste incinerator proposals across New South Wales. These facilities pose unacceptable risks to public health, environmental safety, and agricultural integrity—regardless of where they are located. No community, urban or regional, should be exposed to the toxic legacy of incineration. The long-term consequences of air and water pollution, coupled with the erosion of trust in environmental oversight, make these projects fundamentally incompatible with a sustainable and just future for NSW.

I urge the Committee to reject this proposal and to uphold the principles of environmental justice, public health protection, and regional equity.

Yours sincerely,