

Submission
No 810

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I wish to express my very strong opposition to the implementation of waste incinerators in NSW. As a resident in the Tarago area for over a decade I have smelt the odours increasing in intensity and frequency coming from the Veolia Woodlawn operations. A breach of their operations every time this occurs. With odours so strong they wake you from your sleep as they infiltrate into the house. If this was in Sydney it would be all over the news, people and places would stop at nothing to stop the odours and issue breaches yet in Tarago very little is heard about or done. The EPA will issue a fine here or a fine there and it's really just small change to a multi national company that has no care or considerations for the people and communities it is encroaching on or impacting.

The community has been fighting the plans for the Tarago incinerator for a number of years now and really when is enough enough? When opportunities arise for the community to give their opinions or submit objections we are given a very short timeframe to do so, yet Veolia seem to have endless time in which to respond to our objections. When does the mental health of the community and the impacts this fight is having on individuals become a factor? People are genuinely concerned for their health, that of their family, the impacts that will be had on their community, their livelihoods and property values.

When you build a house in this area you must jump through hoops as it's in the Sydney Water Catchment area. From septic tank sizes to ensuring nothing runs off into the streams and waterways. Yet what hoops are being jumped through to build an incinerator in the Sydney Water Catchment area? To think the effects that will be had will only be on the people of Tarago and surrounding areas is ludicrous this will impact millions of people as the water and all that is emitted into it flows into Sydney's drinking water supply. The current operations at Veolia's Woodlawn Bioreactor are already leaching PFAS into the water supply chain and what has been done about that? Things are set to only get worse having catastrophic effects on the people of NSW.

The township of Tarago and its surrounding areas are reliant on tank water as their only water source. What guarantees are there that the water that flows into our tanks from our rooves will remain safe for drinking? Who will pay for water to be delivered when it is deemed no longer safe for drinking? What are the consequences then, to get to that stage it is already too late. Our health will already have been impacted and the consequences on our health will be unknown.

With young children you can't help but worry and be concerned for their health not only now but into the future. The air they breathe will be impacted, the soil they play in and the water they drink. Young children are still growing and developing and any effects had on them will take years to be uncovered. Why should my children's health be compromised for the sake of Sydney and their rubbish.

Sydney has a rubbish problem that is for sure but it is not and should not be the problem of innocent regional townships to bear the burden of. If an incinerator is deemed too unsafe to be built in Sydney then why on earth is it deemed safe to be built anywhere else in NSW. Stop passing the buck to regional areas, without them the people of Sydney can't survive. Regional areas and producers are what should be preserved and listened to for generations to come. Solve Sydney's waste problem at the source, re-educate, recycle, come up with innovative ideas. This is an opportunity for NSW to become a world leader and show the world that there are new and innovative ways to deal with rubbish. Don't be a follower looking for a quick fix to solve a far greater issue. The people of regional NSW count, don't let us down, ban incinerators once and for all.