

Submission
No 841

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Waste-from-Energy Facilities

From: Age 12, Former Resident of Tarago NSW

My name is _____ and I am 12 years old. I grew up in Tarago, a small country town that I loved because it was quiet, full of trees and animals, and had kind people who looked after each other. But now, my family and I have had to move away because of the fear and stress of a toxic waste incinerator that might be built there. I still miss my friends, my school, and my home every day.

Even though I'm only 12, I can understand what an incinerator does. It burns rubbish and releases poisonous gases and tiny particles into the air. Scientists say these can cause cancer, asthma, and other sicknesses, and they don't just disappear—they land on the ground, in our water, and on our food. Tarago people rely on tank water and local gardens. So how could it ever be safe to build something that pollutes the very air and water we need to survive?

If I can understand that burning rubbish creates pollution, how can the NSW Government pretend not to? How can adults who are meant to protect children think it's okay to let big companies like Veolia build toxic incinerators in country towns? It makes me feel angry and sad that you would let kids like me grow up near something that could make us sick.

I also don't understand why it's banned to build these in Sydney, but somehow it's fine to build them in small regional places like Tarago. Are our lives worth less just because we live in the country? That's how it feels. It feels like you think country kids don't matter as much as city kids. That's not fair and it's not right.

Since the incinerator was proposed, my family has been stressed all the time. My parents were worried about what it would do to our business, to our water, to our health. I've heard them talking late at night about whether we could still live there safely. In the end, they decided we couldn't risk it. We moved away from our home, from our animals, from everything we loved, because the government wouldn't just say no to Veolia. Do you know how horrible that is—to be forced out of your home because grown-ups won't protect you?

Please listen to people like me. We are the ones who have to live with your decisions. Tarago is not just a spot on a map—it's a community of families, kids, and wildlife. You are meant to make choices that protect the future, not poison it.

If I can understand that burning waste is dangerous, then surely you can too. Please do the right thing—stop all waste incinerators in NSW and protect kids like me.