

Submission
No 353

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mr Jonathan Lewis

Date Received: 21 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Against the Proposed Waste Incinerator – Parkes Shire

From: Jonathan Lewis, Resident of Mandagery, Parkes Shire

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jonathan Lewis. I live at Mandagery with my wife and daughter. My wife and daughter are there full-time, and I'm home whenever I'm not out working in the truck or at our other property in Tullibigeal.

We made the decision to move to Parkes Shire three years ago. It wasn't a small move it was a decision driven by health, safety, and family. My wife was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2017, possibly due to long-term exposure to agricultural chemicals where we used to live. After that, our top priority was finding a healthier, safer environment. That's why we bought a place on the east side of Parkes because it was grazing land, not intensive farming. We believed this area would be clean, quiet, and safe for her and for our daughter.

We were never told about any waste facility being proposed in our area when we bought the property. By the time we found out, it was too late and what we did hear felt like greenwashing. There has been no honest, transparent communication from the Council. It felt like we were being deliberately kept in the dark.

Now, we are expected to sit quietly while a **toxic waste incinerator** barely from my 15 year old daughter's school is being pushed through. One of my adult sons lives here with his partner and their 7-year-old child, who goes to . How are we meant to accept this as a safe or sustainable future for our kids?

Let's be honest stress feeds cancer. Pollution triggers asthma. And toxic industries don't belong next to homes, schools, or grazing land. As the head of my family, it's my job to protect them. It should be the job of Parkes Shire Council to protect us its community. So why aren't they?

I have to ask: **Is this about community benefit or personal and political gain?** Are Council members or their associates financially tied to this proposal? If this incinerator ruins local farmland, property values, and people's health **who will be held accountable?**

- Who will cover our medical costs?
- Who will compensate for the loss of farm income?
- Who will buy our properties when they become unsellable?

We moved to Parkes Shire for a better life. But if this incinerator goes ahead, we will be forced to move again not by choice, but for survival.

This facility does not belong here. Parkes has the opportunity to be a region known for clean agriculture, family living, and community values not for burning toxic waste and driving people out.

I strongly object to this proposal, and I urge those in power to consider the long-term costs to health, community, and trust.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lewis

Mandagery, Parkes Shire