

Submission
No 399

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Mary Burke
Date Received: 19 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Opposing the Proposed Parkes Waste Facility

From Mary Burke, Registered Nurse and Local Resident

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mary Burke. I am a Registered Nurse living in the Parkes region with my husband and our three young children, aged 7, 3, and 8 months. I am writing to formally oppose the proposed waste facility/incinerator project planned for Parkes.

We live within a 5km radius of the proposed facility, and I am deeply concerned about the potential health impacts on my family, particularly our young children, as well as the wider community.

Health Risks to Our Community

As a healthcare professional, I am extremely worried about the short- and long-term health effects of emissions from the facility—especially air quality degradation and the impact on respiratory health. Parkes has a large ageing population, and elderly residents are especially vulnerable to air pollutants.

We are already a small rural town with limited healthcare capacity. I work in the local hospital, and if this facility increases the number of people suffering from respiratory illnesses, allergies, or chronic conditions, our health system will struggle to cope.

My eldest child attends the _____ in Parkes, which is also within the radius. I cannot in good conscience allow my children to grow up in a town where toxic air emissions are a daily reality. No child should have to breathe that in just by going to school or playing outside.

Concerns Around Monitoring, Transparency, and Accountability

There is a serious lack of trust in how this facility will be monitored or managed. What happens if emissions are above safe levels? Who is held accountable? How often will testing be conducted—and who verifies the data?

There's also a growing concern within the community that the full risks of this project are being hidden from the public. Why is there no transparency? Why was this proposal opposed in other areas and yet is being forced upon us? We deserve honest answers—not vague reassurances or greenwashing.

Negative Impact on Property and Community Stability

Our home is our most important investment, and this project threatens to destroy its value. The property market will suffer. People are already talking about leaving. If this goes ahead, we will almost certainly have to move for the sake of our children's health and future.

I love this town. My children are happy and settled. We chose to raise our family here because of the community, the environment, and the lifestyle. But all of that is at risk now.

As a senior RN, I am also concerned about the impact on our rural hospital. We are already understaffed and under-resourced. Losing more healthcare workers or residents due to this project will only make it worse.

Final Thoughts and Request

If this proposal is safe, why was it rejected in other areas? Why is it being placed within such close proximity to schools, homes, farms, and families?

Why not place it further away from populated areas—if it must go ahead at all?

This project does not belong here. It poses too many health, environmental, and economic risks. It will fracture our community, damage public trust, and drive families out of town. I urge decision-makers and the EPA to listen to the people who actually live here—not just the stakeholders pushing for this behind closed doors.

Sincerely,

Mary Burke

Registered Nurse

Parkes Region Resident