

Submission  
No 482

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Rae Miller  
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Partially  
Confidential

I write as a deeply concerned resident of Parkes and a parent of two young children who attend  
located close to the proposed Parkes Energy Recovery Facility. My family and I have recently built what we hoped would be our dream home in this area — a place to raise our children in a safe, healthy, and supportive community. Had we known about this proposal earlier, we would never have chosen to build or invest our future here.

The proposed facility poses serious health and environmental risks. Parkes relies heavily on rainwater harvesting and bore water, leaving families like mine exposed to contamination from airborne pollutants such as dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter emitted from waste incineration. These are not theoretical risks; international studies have linked similar emissions to respiratory problems, cancers, developmental impacts in children, and long-term soil and water contamination.

Parkes is an agricultural region — not an industrial waste zone. This proposal effectively makes our community the dumping ground for Sydney's red bin waste, while we shoulder the risks to our health, environment, property values, agricultural land, and mental wellbeing. Hosting a facility of this scale so close to homes, schools, and farms is an inequitable decision that undermines the right of regional communities to live in safe environments.

Equally troubling is the lack of meaningful consultation. Many residents, including my family, only became aware of this project after key approvals were already underway. This has created anxiety and anger in our community, eroding trust in both local and state processes. Living with the shadow of an incinerator nearby would bring ongoing mental health burdens, especially for parents raising young children.

The fact that projects like this are prohibited in most parts of NSW due to health risks, yet allowed in Parkes, highlights an unacceptable double standard. Regional communities should not be treated as an easy option for projects that metropolitan communities would never accept.

There are better solutions for Sydney's waste problem — waste reduction, increased recycling, investment in circular economy initiatives, and non-combustion technologies that do not threaten regional communities.

For the sake of my children, our health, our community, and our region's future, I strongly urge the Committee to reject the Parkes Energy Recovery Facility. This project does not belong next to homes, schools, farms, or water catchments.