

Submission
No 487

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mr Darrin Gibson

Date Received: 27 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I write to you today with trepidation in my heart to discuss the proposed energy from waste incinerator (Parkes). I speak for myself, my family and with concern for my community. I am a man born in Parkes and have served appx 20 years in ARMY defending our nation and deployed abroad in combat zones. I returned to Parkes after many years on account of tragic circumstances to a quiet life of fresh air and to recover; losing my entire family wife-Leslie, child -Kiona (5yo) child-Jye (3yo and one day) baby Ava (1yo) passed in the Black Saturday bushfire Melbourne Victoria. I was so warmly welcomed back into Parkes to lay my family to rest in the Parkes cemetery, I had come home. Over the next 10 years I underwent many surgeries including the amputation of both of my legs due to incredible pain from major burns. I am a lucky man who has managed to be gifted with a new relationship rekindled from my childhood days, my partner Deb, her son and I began our new life and although not having children of our own we seemed to have been chosen to raise 2 new children fostered who came into our lives. I was given a complete new family and I am grateful to my passed family for sharing their short lives with me. It is fair to say that nothing will force me away from my family resting in the Parkes cemetery however in reality part of my recovery was to realise that I must live for the future in honour and especially to protect my family still living which is why we will leave our home for safer pastures should the Parkes incinerator turn soil. My concerns are not centred around myself only as I am full of remorse for our farmers, people working the land to provide us all with the food that we need and I think of how they must feel betrayed in spite of their labour should the polluting effects of this incinerator be absorbed into their land, water, livestock and agriculture. I think of the local indigenous people of the Bogan River who must fret when they consider the possibility that these pollutants may change the behaviour of the native animals and plants that they rely upon of which are linked so closely to their customs, traditions and dreaming. The people of Parkes have not been consulted correctly and transparently on this issue and are losing faith in the people that they are supposed to look up to as leaders. There is a sense of despair within our community as people are unsure of which way to turn; there will be many issues relating to mental health and a sense of loss within our community going forward should the Parkes EfW become reality. We are privy to the poor results of this kind of technology from around the world, Copenhagen comes to mind with many incinerators closing, financially failing, faltering not to mention the importation of tonnes waste in effort to keep an incinerator of this magnitude fed. Living with uncertainty regarding our health from an incinerator burning 24hpd, 7dpw will be too much to bare for people and will also have ongoing issue as a result. We ourselves live on property with no access to town water and rely upon the catchment from our roof top for all ablutions and cooking, for me and with my osseo-intergrated prosthetic legs, I am to be extremely careful when washing wounds that they do not become infected with pollutants which could lead to further surgery, heaven forbid. I am at a complete loss as to why these incinerators can be banned in one area and then proposed in another as if we are second class citizens, there is a moral dilemma with this kind of thinking and in due course if implemented will give rise to class action the likes of which Australia has not heard and believe me the Black Saturday bushfire holds the record. It goes without saying that my family and I have become politically polarised as have many others to stand against those who do not hold themselves morally accountable with regards to this issue. We have many ways to attack the issue of Sydney's waste problem implementing a circular economy which does not include burning waste as it immediately transfers to a linear economy. Education and awareness is required across the screens of Sydney-siders to inform them that their waste may well impact the health of regional communities and their children of whom work hard to produce clean food for their city brethren that may very well become contaminated to the dinner table, thank-you for considering my thoughts and we wish you all the best in our fight against the burning of waste in its entirety, regards Darrin