

Submission
No 509

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Ms Natalie Smith

Date Received: 19 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Against the Proposed Parkes Waste Facility

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Natalie Smith and I live in Gunningbland with my mother, my partner, and four of my adult children who still live at home. I also have five grandchildren—some who attend _____ in Parkes, and whose parents work in town.

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed waste facility in Parkes. This project poses an unacceptable risk to the health of our land, our water, and the people who call this region home. If this waste facility goes ahead, it will devastate farming families like ours and have irreversible effects on our lives.

Threat to Farming and Our Land

We rely on our land to grow food for our family. If the waste facility is built, the risk of contamination to soil, air, and water will make it unsafe to grow vegetables or use our water tanks. Once our land is polluted, it's ruined—not just for us, but for future generations. Farmers will suffer, property values will plummet, and the region will be marked as a dumping ground, not a thriving agricultural area.

Impact on Health

I have COPD, and there are already days I struggle to breathe. My partner has emphysema. Any increase in air pollution, dust, or chemical exposure from this facility will directly affect our ability to live safely in our own home. My grandchildren will also be exposed—what kind of future are we offering them if their lungs, water and food are compromised from such a young age?

Community and Mental Health

This proposal is already causing stress and anxiety in our household and throughout the community. People are scared, angry, and feel helpless. We are already dealing with the damage caused by the bypass to local business and community connection—this facility will only push Parkes further into decline.

Lack of Trust in Authorities

We do not have faith in the EPA or other authorities to properly regulate or prevent contamination. Time and again, communities are promised safety and oversight, only to be left dealing with the consequences when things go wrong. The greenwashing of this project—promoting it as “safe” or “sustainable”—is insulting to those of us who live here and know what’s at stake.

There has been little transparency and even less respect for the people who will be directly affected. This feels like another case of corruption and inequity, where rural voices are ignored in favour of profit.

Our Demands

If the project is not cancelled, we demand the following **at minimum**:

1. Independent baseline testing of soil, air and water—**before** any construction—paid for by the EPA or project proponents.
2. **24/7 environmental monitoring**, made publicly available in real time.
3. Guaranteed access to **safe, clean drinking water** for all affected residents—now and into the future.
4. A full, independent public health impact assessment with real community consultation.
5. A transparent explanation of why this site was chosen, and whether alternative sites were considered.
6. We are not disposable. Our children and grandchildren deserve to grow up with clean air, clean water, and healthy land.

I strongly urge you to reject this project and protect the future of Parkes and the surrounding areas.

Sincerely,
Natalie Smith
Gunningbland, NSW