

**Submission
No 540**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Ms Rebecca Wilson

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My name is Rebecca Wilson I am a local, born and bred in Parkes, a mother of three children and property/small business owner so I'm committed to being here in Parkes, this place we call home for the long haul. I am creating this submission on behalf of my family, as I truly believe we need to prevent this facility being built in our town for the safety of all the locals that call this region home.

I will be addressing my concerns of some of the Terms of Reference those being

(d) impacts on human health including on regional town drinking water, rainwater harvesting and soil contamination

(e) the impact on agriculture locally and across the wider region

(i) any other related matter

We live on acreage on the outskirts of town and we would be a stones throw away from the area proposed for this site. We are solely reliant on our captured rainwater for drinking, cleaning and bathing purposes, this concerns me due to the unknown risks we could be exposed to.

We have recently began a small business to grow and sell fruit and vegetables from our property as well as eggs from our chickens, all of which would be exposed to the pollutants arising from this incinerator. Another concern are the risks to the soil in our area from any potential waste that could travel and settle in our soil, we could expose ourselves and others to chemicals that could have a negative impact on health in the food we grow and livestock that consume the grass or water .

I am worried about the impact on the wider farming community as the spread of any harmful pollution that could settle over their fields could not only impact the quality of the produce grown in our region but this could have an impact on pricing, and potentially mean the loss of the farming families that have been here for generations. We have a huge agricultural industry in our region and this could put it all at risk.

Another consideration is what will happen to our property prices having something like this in your back yard can not have a positive impact on the worth of the property/livelihood.

What are the impacts for our health? Who knows exactly what the pollution could cause? We already have asthma what are the implications for us who already have repository issues?

You hear so many horror stories of health implications from other things that haven't been properly investigated prior to implementing, these health problems are not exposed until it has already affected generations and its too late to prevent further damage. Even if it is stopped due to pollutants the potential damage could remain in our soil and area for a long time.

People in my area over the last few years of the construction of the By-pass were already living with the constant worry of asbestos they found while digging, we had boxes hung on fence posts that were checked at intervals but no updates on what they found as to levels in the air. For me living with the idea that this rock was being dug out of the ground, dropped into a truck, moved in dump trucks and dumped in another place, meaning the risk of this becoming airborne to be exposed to all of us within the area was extremely stressful and i still worry about what impact it could have had on my children, the most annoying thing was it as it was kept from the residents for a long time and we were never kept in the loop on outcomes of the 'monitoring'. How can the EPA ensure that there will be no contamination and how will they monitor this and keep residents informed of outcomes?

How can we ensure the information we have been provided is true and correct if it has been funded by the industry itself? Where are the independent studies? The way it is being sold to the people of our region i feel is misleading, the whole town will never benefit from the outputs from this proposal, and as we've seen before with other projects locals will not benefit from the construction of this.

If the people of Sydney know they can just have all the red bin waste thrown on a train and shipped out of sight why would they care what they put into it? Who is going to monitor that? What is the drive to reduce the amount of waste put into red bin?

What happens to the thousands of tonnes of rubbish whilst waiting to be incinerated? What measures will be enforced to prevent or control the mice and rats that populations will explode with the abundance of rubbish? Who will foot the bill to remove and relocate the eastern brown snakes that will follow the mice and rats into the site?

What will happen with rubbish that can not be burnt? Will that end up in our local tip? Who foots the bill for clean up if something happens along the journey from Sydney to Parkes?

Where was the consultation with the community in relation to this?

Can anyone explain why the equity of the Infrastructure Plan and Regulation that prohibits these projects in NSW due to the health risk but excludes Parkes and other areas conveniently located outside of Sydney?

There is a very clear reason they do not want to build this in such a densely populated area as they are fully aware of the risks involved with this type of energy to waste source.

We all know Sydney would benefit more from the electricity produced, so if it was such a great idea why aren't they finding a suitable location there? Anywhere west of the blue mountains have to fight for funding to fix simple everyday things Sydney takes for granted like roads and plumbing from natural disasters, but when they want to get rid of the rubbish we become the go to region?

I am strongly opposed to this proposal and I hope it doesn't go ahead as I think we would have seriously consider if its safe for us to stay here or better to move away from the region.