

**Submission  
No 545**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Kelley Westcott

**Date Received:** 21 October 2025

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed waste incinerator project within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP). As a local teacher, a parent of three children, and a resident living on a farm in the area, I feel compelled to speak up about the significant impact this project would have on our health, our environment, and our community's future.

My family and I are proud members of the Parkes and surrounding district community. We contribute to the region not only through education but also through agriculture—producing livestock and grain that support both local and wider NSW markets. The repercussions of burning Sydney's waste here would be devastating. The potential health impacts from toxic emissions, the contamination of our land and water, and the risk to animal and crop health are simply unacceptable.

Equally concerning is the lack of genuine consultation with the Parkes community. Council has been involved in this process since 2019, yet residents were not meaningfully informed or consulted about the true nature of the project. It appears that only two weeks before the company's "community consultation" session did Council finally refer to the project as what it truly is — an incinerator. This delay raises serious questions about transparency and accountability. It seems Council knew exactly what the project entailed and anticipated the community's strong opposition, choosing instead to keep vital information from those most affected.

There has also been widespread misinformation surrounding the SAP and this project, further confusing and misleading residents. The community's health and wellbeing should always come first — not be treated as an afterthought.

If this incinerator goes ahead, my family and I would be forced to reconsider our future in Parkes. The idea of raising our children and continuing our work in a community exposed to industrial waste emissions is untenable.

I urge the inquiry to listen to the voices of those who live, work, and raise families here. Parkes deserves transparency, honesty, and above all, protection from harmful industrial developments that threaten our health, livelihoods, and environment.

Sincerely,

Kelley Westcott

Teacher and Parkes Resident