

Submission
No 546

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Against the Proposed Parkes Waste Incinerator

– Health & Safety Advocate, Safe for Parkes

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed waste incinerator facility in Parkes. As a long-term resident and advocate for the health and safety of our community, I am deeply concerned about the wide-ranging negative impacts this project would have on our environment, public health, and social equity.

1. If It's Safe for Parkes, Why Not Sydney?

The waste intended for incineration is primarily from Sydney. If this waste incineration process is truly "safe", then it should be built in or near Sydney, close to the source of the waste. Instead, Parkes is being used as a dumping ground for metropolitan waste under the guise of regional development. This represents an unjust shift of risk and responsibility from urban centres to rural communities.

2. Lack of Transparency and Community Consultation

There has been no meaningful consultation with the Parkes community, from the grassroots (PSC) level through to the state government. This top-down decision-making process fails to engage the people who will be directly affected. It erodes public trust and leaves us without a voice in shaping the future of our own town.

3. Threats to Public Health

Incineration poses real risks to human health due to potential release of toxins and fine particulate matter. Our town is already facing a shortage of healthcare professionals — introducing a major industrial pollution source will only compound the burden on our already stretched health system. What happens when local residents, especially vulnerable populations like children and the elderly, start experiencing health effects? Who will be accountable?

4. Inappropriate Location – Too Close to Schools and Homes

The proposed site is alarmingly close to local schools and residential areas. Children are particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution. No amount of regulatory buffer zones can eliminate the risk of long-term exposure to airborne toxins in such a small community.

5. Environmental Risks – Toxic Transport and Baseline Testing

Transporting toxic waste from Sydney to Parkes involves serious safety and environmental risks. Once used to carry waste, train wagons become contaminated and must return empty — a wasteful and dangerous cycle. Before any project of this scale

proceeds, baseline soil and environmental testing must be conducted to establish long-term accountability. What is being done to protect the future of our land, water, and air?

6. Social and Economic Impact – Who Pays the Price?

Property values in Parkes will inevitably drop if this project goes ahead. Who will compensate local homeowners for the devaluation of their homes? The stigma of living near a waste incinerator will also deter families and professionals from settling in Parkes, directly contradicting efforts to grow and support our regional economy.

7. A Broken Waste System – Where’s the Real Reform?

Rather than addressing the root of the waste crisis — overproduction, overpackaging, and poor recycling infrastructure — incinerators serve as a band-aid for a broken system. For example, Woolworths has recently removed its in-person delicatessen services, where products were wrapped in minimal packaging, and replaced them with pre-packaged plastic-heavy items. This shift increases plastic waste at the consumer level. We are not solving waste — we are simply hiding it.

8. A Personal Plea – For Our Children and Grandchildren

My grandchildren live here, and I want them to stay and thrive in Parkes. But if this incinerator is approved, I will leave. Many others feel the same. This project does not represent progress for Parkes — it threatens to drive away the very families and individuals who care most about this community.

Conclusion

Parkes deserves better. We should not be the dumping ground for Sydney’s waste, nor should we be subjected to environmental and health risks without proper consultation or compensation. I urge you to reject the waste incinerator proposal and instead invest in real, sustainable solutions to our waste challenges — ones that reduce waste at the source and protect the wellbeing of all communities, not just the powerful ones.

Sincerely,

Health and Safety Advocate
Safe for Parkes