

Submission
No 574

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Judi Unger
Date Received: 25 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Judi Unger



23 October, 2025

Dear Parliamentary Inquiry committee,

My husband and I own and manage an organic/biodynamic, ACO and USDA NOP certified farming enterprise supplying beef, lamb, wool, wheat, spelt, oats and pasture hay into the human consumption and stock fodder markets.

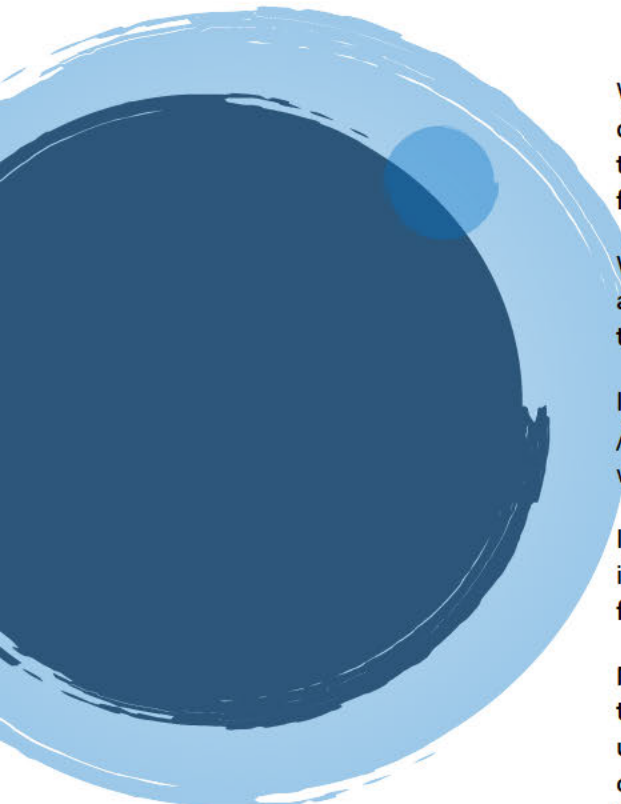
We live in Parkes Shire and pay considerable rates for basically the grading of our shire dirt road. We have no connection to town water, garbage collection, curb or guttering, sewerage and Peak Hill has very few services to help us run our farming operation. I own an investment property in Peak Hill and pay town rates and I have lived under the [redacted] postcode for the majority of my life, except when I studied for my Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education at Macquarie University in the late 1970's.

I taught K-6 education for forty years and I'm now an assessor and trainer for an agricultural RTO which offers Certificate 1V and Diplomas across a wide range of agricultural courses.

We grow most of our own food – meat, seasonal fruit and vegetables, grains and eggs, which I preserve so we have a continual supply throughout the year. We feed our hens with grain and vegetable scraps, our working dogs eat our left-over meat bones/eggs, we compost using mulching materials, sheep/cattle/chook manures, daggy wool and straw.

We have a worm farm for excess scraps and make our own BD500 and cow pit pat to spread over our farming land and use it as a seed dressing for our grain to provide microbial activity which enlivens our soil to produce quality grains and stock. We have an extremely low environmental footprint, because of our lifestyle.

We manage all our waste on our property through our composting, septic recyclable watering system, sorting our glass, plastics, cans, paper and cardboard. Taking our bottles and plastic 10c initiative into our local recycling operator. Anything not recyclable goes into a fenced off tip in a gilgai on our farm.



We have constructed 33 groundwater dams to water our stock and 2 dams for garden water and have rainwater tanks to store 250 thousand litres which are all connected underground to supply water for our household.

We installed a 10kw solar panel system on our property 15 years ago and are about to go off-grid, due to the increasing costs of power and too frequent power outages lasting up to 16 hrs over recent years.

I have provided the above detail as evidence to show our farming /sustainable system is closed and we are totally in control of our own waste management, water supply and energy source – solar.

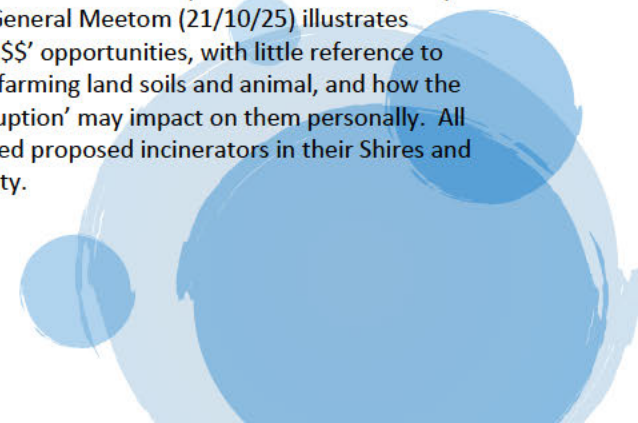
I am completely opposed to the proposed Parkes Energy to Waste incinerator because of the potential impacts on Parkes Shire, our farming operation and my family.

My beautiful 7 year-old grand-daughter lives on the of the Parkes township and will be exposed to the forever chemicals and unpleasant smells created by the proposed incinerator. When I studied organic farming in 2016 my tutor was a soil scientist and I remember him saying 'the sins of industrial /chemical farming will show through in the third generation'. Interestingly my daughter is the third generation and was hitting her childbearing years at this time and was unable to fall pregnant due to endometriosis. Several of her friends living in our local area had similar experiences. I use this as an example because there is currently no longitudinal studies on the potential risks to humans or animals from the forever chemicals created through 'insinerators', as they are a new 'trendy' large scale technology.

Our farm could lose its organic/biodynamic certification if traces of chemicals, dioxins or particulates are identified on our farm. We are currently taking part in a study with Southern Cross University who are benchmarking our soils/plant tissue and biodiversity, so we will have evidence of before and after if the incinerator goes ahead.

So, my major concerns about the installation of an incinerator in the Parkes Shire focus on:

- The threat of environmental contamination affecting the farming land and waterways in our Shire
- The mental health of our community and the divisive issues this has already caused in the Parkes Shire with many people losing faith in the local councillors and business who will 'profit' from this industry. Yesterday's Parkes Shire General Meetom (21/10/25) illustrates councillors can only see '\$\$\$' opportunities, with little reference to human health, impact on farming land soils and animal, and how the threat of allegations 'corruption' may impact on them personally. All other councils have rejected proposed incinerators in their Shires and have stood with community.





- The fact that these 'incinerators' are banned in the rest of NSW except for Parkes and Tarago, because of the impacts on health in highly populated areas, where most of the waste materials are derived.
- The fact that the EPA can and have changed regulations for SAP's to experiment with new technology, leaving the residents in Parkes Shire as 'guinea pigs' if something goes wrong.
- Parkes Shire farming and residential properties value may decrease as a direct result of the impacts of the incinerator on the community, if it were to go ahead and consumers/markets refuse to buy produce from this area
- We personally will travel to Dubbo to buy our groceries and do business to support our farm, in preference to Parkes if the incinerator goes ahead.
- The Parkes Clean Future Alliance is to be commended for questioning the benefits/problems the 'incinerator' may cause. Most, if not all of the committee are young and hardworking with young families giving up so much of their time to 'educate' the community through their research which is posted on their website and facebook page and for volunteering their time and energy to ensure their children and families can live in a healthy environment.
- If we, here on our farm can manage our waste and energy on a small scale, why can't this be encouraged on a larger scale.
- There are so many unanswered questions eg regulation and monitoring of the toxic wastes, infrastructure to house/cope with workers, rental prices – Parkes already has high rental prices, impacts on tourism and the Elvis Festival, 24/7 burning of waste, transport of waste and safety on the roads, impacts on the condition of roads leading to Parkes, impacts on local hospitals from an increase in accidents, and health and safety of the community to mention a few, plus all the unknowns.

Thank you for this opportunity allowing the community and other stakeholders to do a submission for the WtE project.

I am willing to give evidence for this inquiry.

Kind regards

Judi Unger

BA DIP ED, Diploma of Organic Farming, Trainer and Assessor,
Community Volunteer

