

**Submission  
No 575**

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

**Name:** Mr Colin Cartwright

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Submission opposing Waste to Energy Incinerator planned for Parkes, NSW.

### **Who am I?**

I have been a resident of Parkes since 1987 and have worked in agriculture, education and community services. My wife and I live and work in this community because we believe it is as clean and save an environment as we could find.

We currently run a pastoral care business that provides services in Parkes, Forbes and Cumnock to people who have physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual needs that they cannot meet. We also support people from other nations and cultures to access services in a meaningful way.

There is no one we support who is not concerned about the risks of air pollution or spilled waste. One man is convinced at Funnelweb Spiders will escape and cause him harm.

### **Why am I writing?**

I am opposed to the proposal because I do not believe it will benefit Parkes, but rather harm our clean and safe reputation. There are some of my reasons.

#### **1. Operational failures**

I am aware of the proposed safeguards that aim to reduce air pollution from the incinerator, and I think they are less important than the risk that the equipment will be not maintained or operated as stated due to cost savings or human action (of neglect or culpable action).

First, the cost of keeping the scrubbers or other equipment functioning according to specifications will lead the operators seeking to save money where they believe he benefit to them, ie saving operation costs, outweighs the risk of being caught. The results are pollution over our town as various plume studies show. Our prevailing westerly winds will blow the waste over us.

Second, the risk of human error or deliberate action in maintaining or operating the equipment to the promised specifications is always an issue. My son has worked in places where safety equipment was broken or not used due to pressures to get a job done in a specific timeframe or within a specific budget. When the failure of equipment affects surrounding lives, we need to speak up against the idea before it starts.

#### **2. The risk to my drinking water.**

We have a rainwater tank attached to our home and it provides our drinking water.

While we appreciate the water Parkes Shire provide, it is our preference to drink rainwater. The effect of this new form of air pollution is an alarming issue for us.

Currently, we have absolute trust that our tank water is fit to drink. We will lose that trust completely if the waste incinerator goes ahead. Our long term health is put at jeopardy to solve a problem in Sydney.

### **3. The fallacy of the benefit of electricity supplied.**

A press release from Parkes Shire stated that the scheme would produce

“60 megawatts of energy - enough to power 80,000 homes per year.”

Applying their numbers means 750W for each of the 80,000 homes.

As a normal 10Amp power point can safely provide 2,400W, their promised power, (enough to power 80,000 homes) is minuscule and therefore a fallacy.

This is an example of fallacies that are put in plain sight, so what other fallacies are in their proposal? I have no trust in the integrity of the proposed operations or this Council that supports it.

### **4. The people our business serves are silenced by the language used in the proposal.**

The use of jargon and unhelpful language stops most of the people we serve from speaking up. For example, “will leverage proven technology” instead of “use” creates a barrier. It causes people in distress, or of an older generation, or of limited education or understanding to hesitate in their reading while they work out what is meant.

This tactic is used by government, professional bodies and others that consider themselves to be elite, to give them an air of superiority. I have not seen it create trust or respect, but resentment that a person’s known limitations are held against them but using unnecessarily complex language in these documents.

### **5. Conclusion**

I am appalled that our community is being forced by our governments, Federal, State and/or Local, to take on the problem of metropolitan waste, that we did not make.

Furthermore, your solution is banned in Sydney, so what makes us less important? Less votes? Where is your integrity?

Colin Cartwright

We're Listening- Family & Workplace Pastoral Care