

**Submission
No 549**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Gail Hando

Date Received: 26 October 2025

Submission: Opposition and Questions Regarding the Proposed Parkes Waste Incinerator

Submitted by: *Gail Hando,*

My name is **Gail Hando**, and I have lived in _____ **for 63 years**. I am proud to call this town my lifelong home. I have **two children and six grandchildren**, and my roots in this community run deep.

I live in town, and my daughter has married a local farmer. They are raising three young children, aged **6, 4, and 2**. One of my grandchildren suffers from **asthma**, which makes me particularly concerned about any increase in **airborne pollutants or emissions** that could result from the proposed Parkes waste incinerator. Even a small decline in air quality could have serious health effects on vulnerable children, the elderly, and people with respiratory conditions.

I work locally as a **cleaner at various sites in Peak Hill**, including both of our **schools**. I also **help elderly community members** with shopping, appointments, and transport whenever I can. Through this, I see firsthand how many people in our town already struggle with limited health services, travel difficulties, and the general pressures of living in a small, rural community.

Peak Hill is a **small town that continues to face economic and social challenges**. Many of us already need to **travel to Parkes** for access to essential services such as medical care, shopping, and employment. Adding an industrial waste incinerator in the region raises deep concerns about the long-term health and environmental impacts that could make our situation even harder.

I would like to ask the decision-makers to provide clear, transparent answers to the following questions:

1) Air Quality and Health Impacts:

- What studies have been conducted on how emissions from the proposed incinerator may affect surrounding communities such as Peak Hill?
- How will air quality be monitored, and will the public have access to the results?

2) Impact on Children and the Elderly:

- What steps will be taken to protect vulnerable people, especially children with asthma or respiratory conditions, and our older residents?
- Has any health impact assessment been conducted specifically for small communities like ours that are downwind from the proposed site?

3) Environmental Effects:

- What safeguards will be in place to prevent pollution of the air, water, and soil in surrounding rural and residential areas?
- How far could emissions or particulates travel under normal wind conditions?

4) Community Consultation:

- Why were small towns like Peak Hill not properly included in consultation processes about this development?
- How will local residents' feedback be genuinely considered before any approvals are given?

5) Economic and Social Concerns:

- Has an assessment been made on how this project could affect tourism, property values, or the reputation of nearby agricultural areas?
- What benefits, if any, will this project bring to our small communities, compared to the potential risks?

As someone who has lived in Peak Hill my entire life and continues to serve and support my community every day, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact this incinerator could have on our **health, lifestyle, and future generations**.

I urge the decision-makers to take the voices of local residents seriously and to ensure that the wellbeing of families, farmers, and small-town communities is placed above industrial development.

Sincerely,
Gail Hando