

**Submission
No 577**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Ben Moldrich

Date Received: 24 October 2025

To the Members of the Parliament of New South Wales,

I am writing as a business operator and property owner in the Parkes region to formally object to the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator project. I strongly oppose the development on environmental, health, economic and social grounds, and urge Parliament to reject or reconsider approval for this facility.

Waste-to-energy incinerators release harmful pollutants. Even with modern filtration systems, these emissions pose ongoing risks to nearby communities. Parkes' prevailing wind patterns would spread pollutants across town and surrounding farmland, directly affecting residents, children, and agricultural produce.

The plan to haul waste hundreds of kilometres from major metropolitan areas into Parkes is deeply concerning. It contradicts basic environmental logic, moving waste such distances just to burn it in a rural community adds to carbon emissions and shifts the burden of metropolitan waste onto regional residents.

Parkes is known for its productive agricultural land and clean rural environment. Introducing an industrial incinerator within close proximity to farms and food production areas puts that reputation and our local economy at risk. Contaminants from ash, air fallout or water runoff could impact soil quality, crops, and livestock, undermining the sustainability of the region's agricultural base.

While the project is promoted as a source of jobs and investment, the long-term economic benefits are questionable. Waste-to-energy plants are expensive to operate, provide relatively few permanent local jobs, and can deter other forms of sustainable industry from investing nearby. My family have lived and worked in Parkes and surrounding areas over the last 100 years. I have seen and am well aware of the impacts industry can have on this area.

If this technology is truly safe, efficient, and environmentally sound—as proponents claim—then it would make more sense to locate such a facility close to the waste source in Sydney or other metropolitan areas, not hundreds of kilometres away in a regional town. Bringing city waste into the Central West sends the message that rural communities are expendable dumping grounds, which is unacceptable and short-sighted.

I urge the NSW Parliament to reject the Parkes waste-to-energy incinerator proposal and instead support genuine circular economy solutions, such as improved recycling infrastructure, waste reduction initiatives, and local composting and resource recovery programs that create cleaner, long-term employment without the environmental cost.

This proposal is not in the best interests of Parkes residents, our agricultural community, or regional NSW as a whole.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards,

Ben Moldrich

Business and Property Owner

Parkes, NSW

24/10/2025