

Submission
No 555

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
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Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the proposed Energy -from-Waste Facilities in Regional New South Wales.

Submitted by:

Role: Site Manager for one of Australia's largest Intermodal Transport Companies.

Submission Type: Individual Submission

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This submission is provided to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the proposed Energy -from-Waste Facilities in Regional New South Wales.

It responds to the terms of reference and reflects the perspective of a Parkes born locally based professional who has multi-generational family links to Parkes and surrounding areas.

Parkes is a community with an extremely rich agricultural history, and still very much is an integral supplier to the national and global food and primary industry supply chains.

The agricultural undertakings of the region provide income, employment and security for countless individuals and families of the Parkes community and surrounding areas.

The risks presented by the proposed waste incinerator put all these in jeopardy.

The entire population of the region would also have their health compromised by the risks that this method of waste disposal presents.

Most significantly, but not exclusively, the release of proven harmful emissions into the environment.

The proposed site for the waste incinerator facility is only some 5km from the Parkes township itself, its residential dwellings, a nearby school and also surrounded by operational neighbouring agricultural enterprises.

Its location would also on average result in the prevailing wind patterns from the Southwest & West to constantly spread the emissions from the 24/7 combustion process over the entire township and surrounds.

My other concerns and objections to the proposed development also extend to the following:

The lack of timely and transparent consultation, and information sharing, with the Parkes community around the proposed development since the initial planning stage seems to have commenced some 5-6 years ago.

This form of deception appears to not only have been undertaken by the proponent , but also local and state government and associated agencies.

Even since the development plans for the facility finally became known to the general public earlier this year, obtaining any firm details and answers to concerns have proved to be extremely difficult.

Community concern and unease around this development (for a multitude of reasons) have seen a large number of residents already indicate that if was to go ahead they would choose to leave the community, and where applicable take their families with them.

These individuals include Teachers, Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Police Officers , Child Care and Ages Care workers, Hospitality staff, Tradespeople.. the list goes on and one.

All of these are skilled individuals whom in today's current climate are already in very short supply. When they leave who would seriously choose to relocate themselves (and families in some cases) to fill the void when the community is the site for a toxic emission producing waste incinerator. I know I certainly would not.

If this development went ahead there would certainly be an impact on property and land values.

So not only would you be financially disadvantaged if you chose to stay, but if you wanted to relocate it is highly likely your property would be worth less than what it was in 2024 when little was openly known about the true nature of the potential facility,

Already the harmful effects to resident's mental health from the thought of this waste incinerator being built in the community have been huge, and are only increasing as the months go past.

One can only imagine the impact should it actually go ahead. Our community has already suffered immensely over recent years after enduring drought, floods , covid, cost of living pressures etc.

I legitimately fear that this latest source of stress and anxiety will put families and relationships under even more pressure and push even more people to physical harm, substance abuse and tragically in some cases suicide (something that we are already seeing far too much of).

Given the impact of climate change the pressure being put on the regions existing water supply is already very high, and this relates to both the ongoing viability of the regions agricultural industries and also for basic human consumption.

The proposed waste incinerator needs a huge constant supply of water to allow the steam to be produced ..and subsequent energy. Where is this water coming from and will it be to the detriment of existing agricultural industry and residents?

The proponent seems incapable of providing any firm detail on this, and the usage requirements of the facility are known to be much higher that what the proponent is suggesting.

Of concern is also the amount of misinformation and “greenwashing” being circulated around this proposed facility and process.

It is not a renewable or circular energy process. It is an incinerator that will pump out toxic emissions, and also leave toxic ash that needs to be disposed of.

What is leftover cannot be re-burnt to produce more energy.

What energy (electricity) is purportedly to be produced is of a very modest scale, and will not be accessible to community residents, it will only be available to other industry that may build development at the surrounding Special Activation Precinct.

There will be no benefit to the local community by means of reduced household electricity costs.

However, the actual uptake of industries to actually utilise the land available to the SAP is also highly doubtful given the ongoing uncertainty around the completion of the Inland Rail Project (which was supposed to be the main draw).

For something marketed as a “Green” process the basic model seems to be anything but.

The waste from Sydney is to be sent out to Parkes via rail, a 700km plus round trip, which is a mode of transport that relies on fossil fuels.

If additional waste is moved via road, the same will apply but it will be even more environmentally unfriendly.

Ultimately all this is to deal with a Sydney waste problem, via a method that has been banned in Sydney and the majority of the rest of the State.

I suggest that this waste issue should be managed within the greater Sydney area by the State Government and Sydney Councils collectively, and not pushed down the line to a regional community that has played no part in the creation of the issue.

I respectfully request that committee take these matters into full consideration, much greater community consultation is undertaken, the proponent is forced to provide full accurate disclosure around all plans and details applicable to the proposed developed, and most importantly a fully independent review and assessment is completed prior to any approval being considered or granted.

Regards.