

**Submission
No 556**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Ms Belinda Green

Date Received: 26 October 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed waste incinerator in Parkes. As a resident who cares about the health, safety, and future of our community, I am alarmed at the devastating impacts this project would have on our town and surrounding communities, our environment, and future generations.

Incinerators are not a solution — they are a serious threat. Burning waste releases dangerous toxins such as dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter into the air we breathe. These pollutants are proven to cause cancer, respiratory diseases, and other long-term health problems. The toxic ash left behind is hazardous and difficult to dispose of safely, risking contamination of our soil and waterways.

Beyond the health dangers, the incinerator would be a step backward for Parkes and for our planet. It would pour tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, fuelling climate change at a time when we should be investing in cleaner, greener solutions. It also undermines recycling and composting — practices that are safer, more affordable, and far better for our environment.

Economically, this project makes no sense. Incinerators are extremely costly to build and maintain, and those expenses inevitably fall on local councils and residents. Instead of wasting money on a polluting facility, we should be creating sustainable jobs in recycling, resource recovery, and education. These are the industries of the future — not burning waste.

Most of all, this project would damage the spirit of our community. Parkes is proud, values clean air, open spaces, and a healthy environment. We do not want to see our home town turned into a dumping ground for industrial waste or our families exposed to unnecessary harm.

⚠ Negative Impacts of the Proposed Parkes Incinerator

1. Environmental Impacts

- Releases toxic air pollutants (dioxins, furans, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter).
- Produces greenhouse gases such as CO₂, contributing to climate change.
- Creates toxic ash waste that can contaminate soil and groundwater.
- Destroys recyclable materials that could be reused or composted.
- Increases overall pollution in the local and regional environment.

2. Health Impacts

- Increases risk of respiratory illnesses (asthma, bronchitis, lung disease).
- Long-term exposure linked to cancer, reproductive, and developmental issues.
- Airborne pollutants can settle on crops and water sources, entering the food chain.

- Poses risks to children, elderly, and vulnerable groups living nearby.

3. Economic Impacts

- High construction and operating costs, creating financial burdens for ratepayers.
- Reduces recycling and composting jobs by diverting waste to incineration.
- Decreases property values near the site due to pollution and odour concerns.
- Locks the community into long-term waste contracts, limiting flexibility and innovation.

4. Social and Community Impacts

- Generates strong local opposition and community division.
- Often located near low-income or rural communities, raising fairness concerns.
- Damages Parkes' clean, rural image, potentially affecting tourism and reputation.
- Causes stress and anxiety for residents worried about pollution and safety.

5. Sustainability and Future Impact

- Discourages recycling and waste reduction, which are cleaner and cheaper alternatives.
- Contradicts Australia's goals for sustainable waste management and emissions reduction.
- Creates long-term environmental liabilities for future generations.
- Moves Parkes away from renewable, circular economy principles.

I urge decision-makers to listen to the people of Parkes and surrounding communities. Say NO to the incinerator, and yes to a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future. Protect our air, our land, and our community's wellbeing — because once they're gone, we can never get them back.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and deeply important matter.

Yours faithfully,

Belinda Green

Parkes - Tichborne NSW