

Submission
No 557

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 26 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission: Opposition to the Proposed Incinerator in Parkes

Submitted by:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed incinerator development in Parkes. My wife and I run a small but committed farming operation located halfway between Forbes and Parkes, where we specialise in breeding **Angus/Murray Grey cattle** and **Thoroughbred racehorses**. Our livelihood depends entirely on maintaining healthy animals and clean, uncontaminated land.

Both our cattle and thoroughbreds are raised with care and precision from birth. The success of our breeding program relies on access to **quality grain, hay, and clean grazing land**, which are essential for animals to grow properly and reach their key development stages. Our **Thoroughbred yearlings**, in particular, need time on quality pasture between training sessions so their muscles and bone structure can strengthen naturally. This process is what produces sound, fast athletes capable of covering large distances with endurance and power.

Likewise, our **cattle must have access to clean pastures** to grow and mature properly, ensuring we produce the healthiest stock and the highest-quality beef. Any compromise to soil, water, or pasture health directly affects animal welfare, growth, and marketability. If our livestock were to become contaminated or even suspected of contamination from chemical drift or fallout caused by the proposed incinerator, it would devastate our business. We would be unable to sell through saleyards or to export markets due to strict biosecurity and food safety standards.

The **perception of risk alone** could destroy buyer confidence and undo years of hard work building our reputation both domestically and internationally. Our export partners, including those in New Zealand, demand absolute assurance that our animals are raised in a clean, green environment. Any threat to that integrity threatens not only our farm, but the wider **cattle and equine industries** across the Central West.

I have several serious questions and concerns that must be addressed before any consideration of this project proceeds:

- 1. Air and Soil Contamination:**

What independent studies have been conducted to measure how far airborne particles, ash, or chemical drift from the incinerator could travel, and what impact could this have on grazing pastures, hay production, and water supplies?

- 2. Animal Health and Food Safety:**

What research has been done on the potential effects of incinerator emissions on livestock health, fertility, and growth rates? How will authorities ensure that our meat and horses remain safe for domestic and international markets?

3. **Monitoring and Accountability:**

Who will be responsible for ongoing testing of air, water, and soil quality around farms and properties within the fallout zone, and how frequently will this monitoring occur? Will results be publicly available and independently verified?

4. **Economic and Reputational Impact:**

Has any economic impact study been done to assess how proximity to an incinerator might affect property values, livestock sale prices, or the reputation of our region's "clean and green" brand in agricultural markets?

5. **Emergency and Compensation Measures:**

If contamination is detected, or if our livestock or crops become unsellable due to market restrictions, what compensation or recovery plan will be provided to affected farmers and breeders?

6. **Consultation and Transparency:**

Why were local landholders, farmers, and small businesses not properly consulted during the planning stages? How will future community input be incorporated into the decision-making process?

7. **Environmental Consistency:**

If incinerators have been banned in the ACT and withdrawn in several overseas regions for environmental and health reasons, why is this technology being approved for use in our agricultural area?

It is extremely disappointing that **farmers and small landowners were not properly consulted** about a project that could have such far-reaching consequences. Our health, livelihoods, and the future of regional agriculture deserve the same level of protection and consideration as those living in major cities like Sydney. If incinerators are being **banned in the ACT** and **shut down overseas** due to their environmental and health impacts, why is one being considered for our region?

Our farm like so many others in this area contributes to the strength and sustainability of the local economy. We take pride in producing clean, healthy livestock and supporting an industry built on environmental responsibility. That reputation should not be put at risk for short-term industrial development.

I strongly urge decision-makers to **reject the proposed incinerator in Parkes** and to protect the wellbeing, livelihoods, and long-term sustainability of farming families and communities in the Central West.

Sincerely,