

**Submission
No 559**

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Debbie Bruce

Date Received: 26 October 2025

Submission to Parkes Waste – From Debbie Bruce, Proud Wiradjuri Woman

To whom it may concern,

My name is **Debbie Bruce**, and I am a **proud Wiradjuri woman**. I was **raised in Peak Hill** on the **Bogan River**, and later moved to **Parkes**, where I have lived for many years. This land, the river, and the community mean everything to me.

I am writing to express my **strong concern and opposition** to the proposed **waste incinerator project**. This project is not good for our **land, our people, or our survival**.

I am nearly **70 years old, retired**, and living on my own in **rented accommodation**. I do not have the means or opportunity to simply move away if this incinerator goes ahead. This is my home. I also **care for my two grandchildren**, one of whom has **severe allergies and eczema**, both made worse by things in the air. I worry every day about how pollution or toxins from an incinerator could affect their health and their future.

I also live with **diabetes**, and I know that poor air quality and stress can make health problems worse. Many people in Parkes are in similar situations older people, families, and children who are already struggling to stay healthy and to get proper care. Adding more air pollution to our environment will make things even harder for all of us.

I am also concerned about the **impact on housing, schooling, and medical services**. If this project goes ahead, we could see more people trying to leave town, rents going up for those who can't, and extra pressure on schools and health services. Our small community is already stretched we don't need something that could make life harder.

Most importantly, I am disappointed that **Wiradjuri people and local residents have not been properly consulted** about this incinerator. This is **Wiradjuri Country**, and we should always have a say in what happens on our land.

I would like to ask the following questions:

1. **Why has there been no proper consultation with Wiradjuri Elders and community members** before decisions were made about this project?
2. **What plans are in place to protect vulnerable people** — including Elders, children, and those with chronic health conditions — from pollution or air quality changes?
3. **How will this project affect access to safe housing and affordable rent**, especially for people like me who have limited options?
4. **What impact will it have on schools, health services, and community wellbeing**, given that many local families already struggle to get the care they need?

5. **Have independent environmental and health studies been shared publicly,** and can the community review those results before anything moves forward?
6. **Why is council not looking at safer, cleaner waste solutions** that protect Country and community health?

This incinerator is not the answer. It will harm the air we breathe, the water we rely on, and the land we love. For me, for my grandchildren, and for everyone living here we deserve better.

I ask Parkes Waste and the Council to **listen to the community**, to **listen to Wiradjuri voices**, and to **care for Country** the way we always have.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I offer these words with respect and with love for my family, our land, and our people.

Yindyamarra (respect, gentleness, kindness),

Debbie Bruce

Proud Wiradjuri Woman

Raised in Peak Hill on the Bogan River, now living in Parkes

Retired, Grandmother and Carer