

Submission
No 600

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 25 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to Parkes Waste Proposal

From:

I am writing to **strongly oppose** the proposed waste project in Parkes.

My wife and I both come from an **agricultural background** we were previously farmers and our lives, family, and community are deeply connected to the land. I have great concern about the long-term impact these so-called “**forever chemicals**” could have on our agricultural sector. Contamination of our **water, air, and food supply** would have devastating effects on the ability of local farmers to produce safe and sustainable food, grain, and livestock.

This threat goes beyond the environment it's about the **future of rural livelihoods**. If contamination were to occur, it could permanently damage our region's reputation for clean, high-quality produce and drastically reduce **livestock resale values**. Our farmers, who already face tough seasonal and market challenges, should not also have to carry the risk of chemical pollution from someone else's waste.

I am also very concerned about the **impact on property values** and the feeling of betrayal among residents. Had we known about this proposal earlier, we would have discouraged our children from returning to the area. Instead, we feel blindsided by the lack of genuine community consultation and disappointed by the limited support from our local council.

From a personal perspective, I have my own **health challenges**, having survived **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma twice**. My immune system is now compromised, and I am vulnerable to infections and environmental irritants. Any decline in **air or water quality** would pose a direct and serious risk to my health. I should not have to fear that simply living in my own community could make me sick again.

I also share deep concern for the **next generation**. Our daughter lives locally and may one day wish to start a family here. The thought of our grandchildren growing up exposed to harmful chemicals in the air, soil, or water is extremely distressing. No parent or grandparent should have to question whether it's safe to raise a family in their hometown.

Questions and Concerns

1. What guarantees can be provided that **no contamination** will occur to agricultural land, water systems, or livestock?
2. How will authorities **monitor air and water quality** long-term, and who will be responsible if standards are breached?
3. Has a full **health impact assessment** been carried out, particularly for vulnerable or immunocompromised residents like myself?

4. What compensation or support would be available to farmers and property owners if contamination or loss of value occurs?
5. Why was there **so little public consultation** before the community was expected to accept such a high-risk proposal?
6. If these “forever chemicals” are as persistent as the name suggests, what is the **long-term plan** for containment and community safety 20 or 50 years from now?

In summary, I am **strongly opposed** to this project on the grounds of:

- Risks to agricultural productivity and food safety
- Threats to livestock value and farming livelihoods
- Impacts on property values and community wellbeing
- Lack of transparent community consultation
- Health risks to vulnerable residents and future generations

I urge the decision-makers to reject this proposal and protect the health, environment, and integrity of Parkes and its people.

Sincerely,

Parkes Resident