

Submission
No 603

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 26 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Parkes energy from waste facility. I am a farmer and father and I am deeply concerned about the environmental, social, and economic risks this project poses to our community, our farmlands, and our future.

1. Lack of genuine community consultation

Local residents have had limited opportunity for meaningful engagement or transparent access to detailed information about the proposal. Community meetings have been poorly advertised. Even though the Parkes council have been going through this process for years, the majority of the community only became aware approximately 6 months ago.

2. Air, soil, water, and health risks

Emissions such as heavy metals, PFAS, microplastics and trace dioxins can affect air quality, soil health, and water safety. The proposed site is only approximately 5km from a school and approximately 10km from the centre of town. Surely the risks to the community and environment greatly outweigh the benefits.

3. If it's not safe for Sydney, why is it safe for Parkes?

In 2022, the NSW EPA and Planning Department effectively banned new energy from waste incinerators in the Greater Sydney Basin, citing population density, health concerns, and potential air quality impacts.

If such a facility was deemed unsafe for Sydney residents, it raises the question: why is it considered acceptable for a smaller, regional community like Parkes?

Regional NSW should not be used as a dumping ground for Sydney's waste simply because we have fewer people and less political influence.

4. Risks to agriculture and the local economy

In my view any economic benefit to the region is far outweighed by the risk to agriculture upon which much of the community is founded. Any contamination could risk the quality and reputation of local produce. The Forbes livestock exchange has an annual turnover of approximately 330 million dollars. The risk to this alone outweighs any supposed economic benefit.

5. Threat to Goobang National Park and biodiversity

The facility's proximity to Goobang National Park, a protected and ecologically significant area, also raises alarm. The park supports unique wildlife and native vegetation that could be impacted by changes in air quality, dust deposition, and potential runoff contamination. Such risks are

inconsistent with the NSW Government's stated commitment to protecting biodiversity and natural heritage.

6. Contradiction of circular waste management principles

Circular waste management should focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials. Energy from waste facilities rely on a continuous supply of residual waste to remain profitable, creating a disincentive for recycling and waste reduction.

By investing in waste incineration, NSW risks locking itself into outdated waste practices rather than advancing modern recycling, composting, and material recovery systems that create sustainable local jobs.

7. Risk to property values and community confidence

Perceived or actual contamination from emissions could lower land valuations and deter future investment. Local residents and farmers could see their property values decline due to concerns about air quality, soil health, or stigma associated with being near a waste incineration site.

8. If contamination from the energy to waste facility occurs, what avenues exist for the community to seek remediation and compensation? Will there be independent monitoring of soils, air, water (environmental and domestic) and agricultural produce? If so who pays for it? Who ensures the results are immediately made available to the public and not withheld for years like the lead levels in Broken Hill?

In conclusion

The energy to waste facility puts our health, land, environment, and livelihoods at unnecessary risk, all to manage waste that originates elsewhere. If such facilities were safe, there would be no need to transport waste hundreds of kilometres from its source. I strongly oppose the proposed energy from waste facility and will probably seek to leave the district if it goes ahead.