

**Submission  
No 626**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Jaclyn Unger

**Date Received:** 27 October 2025

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## **Submission to Parkes Waste – From Jaclyn Unger**

To whom it may concern,

My name is **Jaclyn Unger**, and I have **lived in the Parkes Shire area my whole life**. I am **25 years old**, engaged to my fiancé who is **27**, and together we are raising our **two young daughters, aged 7 and 1**.

We recently bought our **new family home on the north-west side of Parkes**, towards the bypass. This is where we hope to raise our children in a safe, healthy environment surrounded by family, farmland, and community.

Between us, we have **owned four homes in the area**, and my **family farm has been in our family for five generations over 110 years**. My bloodlines on my mum's side stem back to my **great-great-grandfather**, who selected a piece of land at **Tomingley**. He **claimed and cleared a small part of it to build a home**, and over time that farm became **the oldest pacing stud in the district**. Our relatives also bought and worked the surrounding land.

Our family name is **well known in this district** we are proud to be known as **hard-working, trustworthy, humble, and friendly people** who believe in the **community spirit of helping others**. My **grandmother was a Catholic school teacher in Peak Hill** for many years until she retired. Our family has always contributed to the region, both through education and through farming.

My family and I run a **family farm contracting business**, supporting local farmers across the **Central West and surrounding regions**. Farming is the backbone of this community. If the **waste incinerator project** goes ahead, I am extremely concerned about how it will affect not only our **health**, but also our **business, our farm, and the future of agriculture** in this area.

I've worked in **aged care in Peak Hill**, and I've seen firsthand how health issues already affect people in our community. I'm now a **stay-at-home mum**, helping with our family business and raising our girls. I want them to grow up with the same opportunities I had to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and enjoy life on the land. I want them to have the **choice to live and work the land if they please**, just as generations of my family have done before them.

But this incinerator puts all of that at risk. I am deeply worried about the **health impacts** on our children, the **environmental damage** it could cause to farmland, and the **economic strain** it could place on families and small businesses that rely on the land to survive.

I would like to ask the following questions:

1. **What long-term environmental studies have been done** to assess the impacts of this incinerator on local farmland, livestock, and crops?
2. **How will air quality be monitored and kept safe** for families, children, and the elderly who live in and around Parkes?
3. **What plans are in place to protect the local farming economy**, which is the lifeblood of the Central West?
4. **Why have local families, farmers, and business owners not been properly consulted**, especially those living in the direct path of emissions and wind patterns?
5. **If farmland or water becomes contaminated**, who will be held accountable for those losses to the farmers, the businesses, and the families who depend on them?
6. **What consideration has been given to future generations**, like my two young daughters, who deserve the same clean, safe environment that past generations have worked so hard to preserve?

This incinerator is not progress it's a risk. It threatens the land, the air, the water, and the community spirit that have built Parkes and the surrounding districts for generations.

As a young mother, a farmer's daughter, and a lifelong local, I am asking Parkes Waste and the Parkes Shire Council to **listen to the people who live here** to protect our health, our heritage, and our future. Please **respect the land and community that have carried this district for over a century**, and help ensure that the next generation has a safe and sustainable place to call home.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I write this with deep respect for my family, my community, and the Country that has always supported us.

Sincerely,

**Jaelyn Unger**

Proud Parkes Resident

Mother, Farmer, and Community Member