

Submission
No 630

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

26.10.2025

Submission to the NSW Parliament Select Committee on proposed Energy from Waste Facilities.

To the Select Committee,

I am writing to oppose the use of Energy from Waste Incinerators in NSW and Australia.

I live in Parkes NSW and I work as a Learning & Support Officer at a local Primary School. I live in Parkes with my Husband and two young sons aged six and eight. Over the past six months I have become increasingly concerned about the government plans to build an Energy from Waste Incinerator in my town. I am concerned for my community's health and safety living near this plant and fear that insufficient testing and evidence has been gathered to determine its safety. I am particularly concerned about the toxic emissions and biproducts that will result from Energy from Waste Incinerators.

I have reviewed the following reports regarding the health impacts from dioxins and heavy metals emitted from Energy from Waste Incinerators. These reports are detailed as follows:

Toxics Free Australia (2024) "New Report Released on Waste-to-Energy Incineration."

[Toxicsfreeaustralia.org.au](https://toxicsfreeaustralia.org.au)

Science Direct (2023). "The Health Impacts of Waste Incinerators: A systemic Review."

[Sciencedirect.com](https://sciencedirect.com)

The release of Dioxins, heavy metals and PFAS into our waterways, local drinking supply, agricultural land and the air we breathe daily poses an unsafe, immeasurable risk to our community. This extends to the consumers purchasing food products grown and processed locally.

As released in the report from Science Direct (2023) ash from incinerators contains long lasting chemicals that 'Threaten both public health and agriculture'. Health impacts include cancer, congenital abnormalities, and respiratory disease. These concerns have been raised globally with many countries moving away from this technology.

We are a small community who pride ourselves on giving our children a wholesome and safe up bringing. A place where there is space to run, clean air to breath and family values.

Parkes has several large community sporting groups with children representing the state in swimming, cricket, athletics, football, and soccer. There are five local primary schools all providing a close knit community for our children to attend each day. There is a local Drama and Theatrical Society which releases musicals several times a year providing an opportunity for young people to learn and develop their skills in Drama and Dance, entertaining the community with fun evenings and Sunday Matinees. The Primary School my children attend holds an annual fete each year. Parents and students work side by side to fundraise for the school and provide a fun day for families.

Many of the families in Parkes are generational farmers have owned and run cropping and livestock farms for decades. Our agricultural heritage is strong and we pride ourselves on the quality products we provide to Australia.

As a small regional community over four hours drive from Sydney, we are often overlooked when it comes to Healthcare and Education. There are large staff vacancies in our local hospital, Doctors surgeries and schools. We travel hours to see specialists and seek mental health support. Given these disadvantages we remain proud of and connected to our town. So why are we so easily identified as a suitable solution to Sydney's growing waste problem?

Our local council has a bi weekly garbage service for collection of our household waste. Residents utilise the FOGO and recycling bins to reduce household waste on a daily basis. Items are composted in gardens, cardboard broken down and recycled, bottles returned to be recycled, all to keep our environment clean. Where is Sydney's commitment to reducing their waste? There isn't one. Sydney councils are happy to transport their waste 350 kilometers to the regional town of Parkes for it to be stockpiled and burnt. An idea that was initially planned for the outskirts of Sydney but was deemed too toxic to proceed.

The children of Parkes do not deserve to be exposed to harmful toxins on a daily basis. They deserve clean air, healthy food and drinking water that is free from dioxins, PFAS and heavy metals.

With the NSW Government's plans to proceed with the Energy from Waste Incinerator and Parkes Shire Council's willingness to allow it, we stand to lose so much. The value of our property will fall, essential workers will move from the area, local businesses will shut down, farmers will go under and our residents will face exposure to toxic chemicals that cannot be remedied.

Commercial and Pharmaceutical companies have a larger role to play in reducing waste. They need to step up and be accountable for the packaging they sell. They need to invest in recyclable options that can be reused many times over. The government has the means to legislate this and create a solution that addresses the root cause of the problem instead of implementing a solution to burn over 600,000 tones of waste each year in Parkes and at multiple sites in the state.

We cannot risk our community's health and safety on the Government's poorly planned and managed 'NSW Waste and Circular Infrastructure plan'.

I will end my submission with a quote:

"For every effect there is a root cause. Find and address the root cause rather than try to fix the effect, as there is no end to the latter," Unknown

Kind regards,