

**Submission  
No 648**

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

**Name:** Jean & Gerard Houweling

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Parkes Energy from Waste incinerator. Over forty years ago, we made the decision to leave the city behind and make a tree change to the Parkes region. We were drawn to the clean air, open spaces, and strong sense of community that made this such a wonderful place to raise our family. This land has provided everything we needed — an honest living, a healthy environment, and a peaceful life surrounded by good people.

Now, as proud grandparents with our children and grandchildren living on properties around Parkes, we are deeply concerned about what this proposed incinerator means for their future. Our family's lives and livelihoods are tied to this land. The thought that the air, water, and soil — the very things that sustain us — could be contaminated by emissions or waste from such a facility is devastating.

My husband, a lifelong farmer and master wool classer, still works in the sheds on neighbouring farms well into his eighties. His love for the land remains as strong as ever, but so too does his worry about the impact this project could have on the region's animals, crops, and natural resources. Any contamination — no matter how small — could threaten the quality of local produce and the wellbeing of those who live and work here.

We also fear the unknown, long-term effects of such a facility. Once the damage is done, it cannot easily be undone. Our region is known for its clean environment and high-quality agricultural production — values that would be impossible to reclaim if compromised.

Parkes has always stood for clean living, hard work, and community spirit. We urge decision-makers to protect these values by rejecting the incinerator proposal. The health of our families, our land, and future generations must come before industrial ventures that bring with them so much risk and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Jean and Gerard Houweling