

**Submission
No 663**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Leanne Potts

Date Received: 31 October 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Leanne Potts, and I'm a lifelong resident of Parkes. I was born and raised here, and my husband and I have raised our two children in this town. I'm now 63 years old, and for more than 30 years I've operated a local business and been involved in the development of land for residential usage. Parkes has been my home for my entire life, it's where I've raised my family, built my career, and my sense of belonging.

Parkes is a proud regional hub built on agriculture, transport, and small business. The introduction of an industrial-scale waste incinerator threatens to damage the town's image and appeal — affecting property values, tourism, and investment confidence. Many of us who have built livelihoods here over decades feel this development does not align with the sustainable future we want for Parkes.

That's why I feel deeply concerned about the proposed Energy from Waste facility. This project doesn't feel right for our community, and I don't believe it reflects the values or vision most of us have for Parkes.

What worries me is the lack of transparency. It feels like decisions are being made behind closed doors, and ordinary residents are being left out of the conversation. For something that could have such a big impact on our health, our environment, and our future, that's simply not good enough. We deserve honesty and openness, not half-truths and technical jargon.

I'm also worried about the health risks. We've all heard the claims that these facilities are "safe," but the truth is, they still release harmful emissions. Even small amounts of toxins like dioxins and fine particles can build up over time. I don't want to see our air, our water, or our farmland compromised. My grandchildren deserve to breathe clean air and grow up in a healthy environment, just like my kids did.

Then there's the impact on our community's character. Parkes has always been known for its strong sense of community, its clean country living, and its pride. Bringing in a large industrial waste incinerator could change how people see our town, and not for the better. It could affect tourism, property values, and people's willingness to invest here. After working my whole life to help this town grow, that's heartbreaking to even consider.

There are better, cleaner ways to manage waste, ways that don't involve burning it. We should be focusing on recycling, composting, and reducing waste at the source. Parkes could be a leader in sustainable practices, not a dumping ground for other regions' waste.

Please, listen to the community on this. We love this town. We've built our lives here. We want to see Parkes thrive, not be put at risk by a decision we'll regret down the line.

I ask that you reject this proposal and instead protect our local community and productive rural life that it currently provides.

Sincerely
Leanne Potts
Parkes Resident & Local Business Owner