

**Submission
No 651**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Matthew Scherer

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Submission Against the Proposed Parkes Incinerator

To: parliamentary enquiries Parkes incinerator

From: Matthew Scherer

Date: 29.10.2025

Subject: Objection to the Proposed Parkes Incinerator

I wish to formally object to the proposed Parkes incinerator development. I live within approximately 4 kilometres of the proposed site and am directly affected by this project.

My household, like many others in this area, relies entirely on rainwater collected from our roof for drinking and daily use. Any airborne emissions, ash, or pollutants from the incinerator could contaminate our water supply, posing serious risks to our health and wellbeing.

There are several major concerns that lead me to strongly oppose this proposal:

- Risk to Rainwater Quality and Public Health

The potential for toxins or fine particulates to settle on roofs and contaminate rainwater tanks is unacceptable. Once contamination occurs, it is difficult or impossible to reverse. This represents an ongoing risk to residents who depend on rainwater as their only source of safe drinking water.

- Lack of Effective Oversight and Enforcement

The local council does not have the resources, authority, or capacity to properly monitor or enforce compliance on large industrial operators. In practice, companies often respond only when individuals raise issues — leaving residents to fight for their own protection. This is not an adequate safeguard for a project with such serious environmental implications.

- Failure of the EPA to Take Responsibility

It is deeply concerning that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) appears reluctant to be involved. The EPA should be the key body ensuring community protection and environmental safety, yet in this case it seems unwilling to engage. This lack of oversight undermines public confidence and increases the risk of harm.

- Equity and Location Concerns

If this incinerator is truly as “clean” and “safe” as the proponents claim, then it should be located closer to major waste-producing areas — such as Sydney — rather than in a regional community

hundreds of kilometres away. Placing it in Parkes shifts the environmental and health risks onto a smaller rural population that gains little to no benefit from the facility.

- Community and Environmental Impact

Parkes is a rural area that values its clean air, water, and land. Introducing an incinerator here threatens not only residents' health but also the reputation and environmental integrity of our region.

Conclusion

For all of these reasons, I strongly oppose the approval of the Parkes incinerator. The potential health risks, lack of regulatory enforcement, and unfair siting of the project make it completely inappropriate for our community.

I urge all relevant authorities to reject this proposal and protect the wellbeing of Parkes residents and our environment.

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Scherer