

Submission
No 653

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Opposing the Waste to Energy proposal for PARKES - NSW

My name is _____ and I've been a resident of the Parkes Shire for 45 years. My husband was born in Parkes and has lived here his entire life. We have four adult sons and four grandchildren. Three sons and two grandchildren reside in Parkes.

I am writing this submission to share my concerns and to strongly and categorically object to this unjust proposal of WTE incineration. I feel it should be abandoned immediately due to the serious health, environmental, livelihood and social consequences it poses to my family and the wider community.

The mental health toll this proposal is already taking on my family cannot be overstated. The stress, anxiety, and uncertainty caused by the lack of transparency, proper consultation, and disregard for community voices have deeply affected us and continues to do so. This is not just a policy/waste management issue—it is a personal crisis for many of us who feel abandoned, helpless and ignored.

Regarding the detrimental health aspects of this proposed facility, our family is located on the edge of Parkes on a small acre property and we rely on rainwater tanks for our drinking water and general use. We are deeply concerned about the release of toxic pollutants such as dioxins and furans from the incinerator which could potentially contaminate our water. Can we be assured the water is safe to drink and our garden is uncontaminated to grow vegetables and fruit? No safety guarantees have been provided by the proponents. These harmful compounds are well-documented for their long-term health impacts, including cancer and reproductive issues, and should not be allowed to threaten our water supply or for that matter, air quality, or food chain, the risk is far too great.

The Public Health Association of Australia concluded in their systemic review that; “New incinerators should be located away from areas of food production” and “Food grown near an incinerator should be avoided.” Parkes Shire is a proud agricultural region and is heavily involved with food production, to place a WTE incinerator in a food producing area makes no sense and is completely irresponsible.

If the WTE incinerator is approved the regions “clean green” image and glowing reputation will be decimated for generations to come!

The economic risk is also personal—my husband and I have invested heavily in the local housing market, operating several short-term accommodations. If the WTE incinerator is approved, who would want to come to Parkes for leisure activities or to live? Our income and the value of our properties would be hugely compromised.

This proposal threatens our health, wellbeing and livelihood and as such if it proceeds, we will have no choice but to leave Parkes, our beloved home town. The flow on effect of this will be my husband resigning from his position with Transport for NSW and our children and grandchildren

will most likely follow taking away a family run business and another Transport for NSW employee. Our departure will also mean the loss of a dedicated community volunteer—myself.

I feel it is completely unfair for regional NSW to become the “sacrificial lamb” for Greater Sydney’s waste problem. I ask – how can the government deem WTE incineration to be safe and allowed to proceed in just four regional locations however prohibit them in all other parts of NSW? For mine, this certainly does not pass the “pub test”. Are our health and futures worth less than our city counterparts? As far as the government is concerned, it certainly seems so.

I have spoken to many residents regarding this proposal from all age groups and the overwhelming response and feeling I’ve received is that the Parkes community feels hoodwinked, disrespected and disregarded by all levels of government, and that it’s completely unfair the way this proposal has been handled from the very start.

The community was told by our local council that the Special Activation Precinct (SAP) would be a win-win for Parkes, with many economic benefits. Sadly it’s looking to be the complete opposite if the WTE incinerator is approved. This is not the future we were promised or deserve and our community won’t stand by and let our beautiful town be Greater Sydney’s waste dumping ground.

Surely sustainable, clean waste solutions that carry zero health risks must be prioritized and this toxic project rejected. Incineration is NOT the answer.

Please ask the government to listen to our community. Our health, (both mental and physical) our future, our children and grandchildren's future and our beautiful town are not worth the risk.

Thank you so much for reading my submission to the Energy From Waste Inquiry. I hope and pray common sense prevails and that the Parkes Shire will continue to be a safe, productive, toxic free place to live.