

**Submission
No 685**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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Submission: Opposition to the Proposed Energy from Waste Incinerator – Parkes, NSW

From Long-Term Local Residents

To whom it may concern,

We are long-term residents of Parkes and have proudly called this community home our entire lives. We have watched this town grow, families settle, and generations of locals build their lives here. Our roots are deep in this soil — we raised our children here, worked here, and contributed to the community that we are proud to be part of.

It is because of this lifelong connection to Parkes that we are deeply concerned about the proposal for an Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator in our region.

1. A Lifetime in Parkes — and a Deep Concern for Its Future

Over many decades, we've seen the highs and lows of this town, and we know firsthand how precious our clean air, water, and land are to everyone who lives here. Parkes has always been a place where families can thrive in a safe and healthy environment — something we cannot take for granted.

The introduction of an industrial incinerator brings too many unknowns and too many potential risks. Once it's built, the damage cannot be undone. We fear that what is being proposed today could threaten the health and wellbeing of tomorrow's generations.

2. Health Risks That Cannot Be Ignored

As older residents, we are especially aware of how fragile health can become. We worry deeply about what exposure to air and environmental pollutants could mean for children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Toxins released from incineration processes — such as dioxins and heavy metals — have been linked to long-term health issues, including respiratory disease, cancer, and developmental problems. These are not risks that can be lightly dismissed or “managed away.”

No one should have to breathe air or drink water that might be unsafe. No community deserves to live with those fears hanging over them.

3. Future Generations Deserve Better

We have worked hard throughout our lives to leave our community in a better state than we found it. We want our grandchildren to grow up in a Parkes that is still proud of its clean skies, fertile soil, and healthy people.

Approving a project like this would send the opposite message — that short-term economic or industrial interests are worth more than the health and safety of the people who live here. We cannot accept that.

4. Lack of Proper Consultation and Transparency

We have spoken to many long-time locals who were not even aware this project was being considered. For something of this scale and consequence, proper community consultation should have been the first step, not an afterthought.

People deserve the right to understand, question, and influence decisions that affect their town and their wellbeing.

5. Our Plea for Common Sense and Care

We understand that managing waste and supporting industry are important, but not at this cost. There are safer, cleaner, and more community-focused ways to move forward without risking the health and reputation of our region.

We are not against progress — we are simply for responsible, thoughtful progress that protects what matters most: our people, our land, and our future.

In Summary

- Parkes has always been a clean, safe, and proud rural community.
- The proposed incinerator threatens our air, soil, and water — and with them, our health.
- The risks to future generations are too great and too uncertain.
- True progress should never come at the expense of community wellbeing.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge decision-makers to reject the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator for Parkes, NSW. Once our environment and community health are compromised, there is no going back.

Respectfully,

Raymond & Roslyn Neilsen

Long-Term Parkes Residents