

Submission  
No 679

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

## **Submission: Opposition to the Proposed Waste-to-Energy Incinerator in Parkes, NSW**

31/10/2025

To:

### **Committee on proposed Energy from Waste Facilities**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned resident, parent, and member of the Parkes community to strongly oppose the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator in Parkes.

This facility should not proceed under any circumstances. The potential risks to our community's health, our agricultural land, and the environment are unacceptable.

#### **1. Unacceptable Health Risks**

The health of our children and families must come before corporate or political interests. Incinerators emit fine particulate matter, dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other persistent organic pollutants all of which are known to harm human health, even at very low concentrations. Even "modern" incinerators cannot guarantee zero emissions—and no one can promise 100% safety. The Australian National University and health experts have acknowledged evidence linking waste-burning facilities to higher rates of asthma, cancer, and birth defects. Our local health system is already overstretched & struggling to get medical professionals. Adding an incinerator that could create new chronic health burdens is not responsible governance.

#### **2. Threat to Agriculture and Food Safety**

Parkes and the Central West are proud food and farming regions. The incinerator poses a serious contamination risk to soil, air, and water:

- Pollutants can settle on crops, pastures, and waterways. A lot of us out here are on tank water (especially those living closely to the incinerator like me) these pollutants can be captured in my gutters, to my tank for my family & I to consume which terrifies me!
- Dioxins and heavy metals can accumulate in livestock and food chains poisoning our food sources.
- Once contaminated, farmland and produce can lose market trust—damaging the reputation and economy of the entire region.

We feed this state and this country. Turning our agricultural heartland into Sydney's dumping ground for toxic waste is unacceptable.

### **3. Double Standards and Unfair Targeting of Regional Communities**

The NSW Government has banned waste incinerators in most of the state, including Sydney and other metropolitan areas. Only four regional zones Parkes, West Lithgow, Richmond Valley, and Southern Goulburn Mulwaree have been made “exceptions.”

If the technology is too risky for Sydney & the greater metropolitan areas, then it is too risky for Parkes. This policy discriminates against regional families and treats our communities as expendable.

### **4. Environmental and Climate Concerns**

Burning waste is not clean energy. It releases greenhouse gases and discourages recycling, composting, and genuine waste reduction. Once an incinerator is built, it requires a constant flow of waste for decades locking the state into a cycle of waste generation rather than sustainability.

This directly contradicts the NSW Government’s commitment to a circular economy and net zero emissions.

### **5. No Trust, No Social Licence**

**The people of Parkes have been clear: we do not consent.** The consultation process has been inadequate, poorly communicated, and deeply dismissive of community concerns.

The project’s proponents have failed to provide any credible assurance that the facility will not harm our health or environment. We will not accept our children and farmland being treated as a testing ground for an industry that is banned almost everywhere else in NSW.

### **Conclusion**

There is no justification for placing our community’s health and our agricultural future at risk for a project that metropolitan NSW has already rejected.

I urge the Committee to:

- **Reject the proposed Parkes waste-to-energy incinerator entirely.**
- **Remove Parkes from the list of exempt incineration zones;** and
- **Commit to safer, more sustainable waste management alternatives** that do not endanger rural communities.

Our families, our farmers, and our future deserve better.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,