

**Submission
No 688**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Tasha Allen

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I am writing to express my firm opposition to the proposed waste incinerator in [Your Parkes. I believe this development poses significant risks to our community's health, environment, and future sustainability.

1. Health and Air Quality Risks

Waste incinerators emit pollutants such as dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter, all of which are linked to respiratory diseases, cancers, and developmental issues. Even when operating within legal limits, these facilities contribute to poorer air quality and increased public health costs. Given the proximity of the proposed site to residential areas, schools, and vulnerable populations, this presents an unacceptable risk to community wellbeing.

2. Environmental and Climate Impacts

Incineration is not a sustainable waste solution. It discourages recycling and reduction by locking councils into long-term waste contracts that require a steady feed of burnable waste. Moreover, incinerators release large quantities of carbon dioxide — undermining local and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a low-carbon future.

3. Economic and Social Concerns

While proponents may claim job creation and energy generation, these benefits are often overstated. The majority of jobs are temporary construction roles, and the long-term economic burden of environmental cleanup and health costs can far outweigh short-term gains. Additionally, incinerators can depress local property values and deter investment in green industries.

4. Better Alternatives Exist

Modern waste management should focus on reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting — solutions that create more jobs, use fewer resources, and build a circular economy. Many towns and cities have already demonstrated that zero-waste strategies are more effective, economical, and environmentally sound than incineration.

5. Community Impact and Public Trust

Our community deserves a say in decisions that directly affect our health and environment. The lack of transparent consultation and the potential long-term consequences for future generations make this proposal deeply concerning. We urge decision-makers to prioritize the wellbeing of residents over short-term financial incentives.

In summary, the proposed incinerator is incompatible with our town's environmental values, public health interests, and long-term sustainability goals. I urge the council and relevant authorities to reject this proposal and instead invest in truly sustainable waste management solutions that protect both people and planet.

Signed,

Tasha Allen

31/10/25