

**Submission
No 694**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Tina Morrison Turner

Date Received: 31 October 2025

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

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned resident and parent living in the Parkes community, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator project for our region. While I understand the need for responsible waste management and renewable energy solutions, the risks and unknown consequences associated with this incinerator far outweigh any potential short-term economic or industrial benefits.

1. Lack of Genuine Community Consultation

There has been an alarming lack of meaningful community consultation regarding this proposal. Many local residents, including families like mine, were unaware of the project details until it reached advanced stages of planning. A project of this magnitude — one that could affect air quality, water systems, and public health — requires transparent, proactive engagement with the very people who will live with its consequences.

Public input must be sought before decisions are made, not after. Communities should not be left feeling blindsided by industrial developments that could fundamentally change our environment and way of life.

2. Health and Wellbeing Risks

Scientific research from similar incineration facilities around the world has shown that these projects can release dangerous pollutants — including dioxins, heavy metals, fine particulate matter, and other toxic emissions. These substances are known to cause respiratory illness, cancer, birth defects, and other long-term health impacts.

Children are particularly vulnerable to air and soil pollution, as their developing bodies absorb toxins more readily. As parents and carers, we have a moral responsibility to safeguard their wellbeing — not only now, but decades into the future.

3. Unknown Long-Term Environmental Impacts

Once built, an incinerator cannot easily be undone. The long-term repercussions on air quality, local agriculture, and biodiversity are poorly understood. Any contamination of our land, food supply, or water table could have devastating, irreversible effects. Parkes is a proud regional town with strong agricultural roots — risking our natural environment for corporate profit is unacceptable.

4. Economic Gain Must Never Come Before Health

While proponents may argue that this project brings jobs and investment, no amount of money can compensate for the potential harm to our health and the health of our children. Economic benefits are temporary; the impacts of pollution and environmental degradation could last generations.

True progress means investing in sustainable, safe, and community-backed solutions — not in industries that gamble with our wellbeing.

5. Protecting Future Generations

As a parent, I want my children — and their children — to inherit a clean, safe, and thriving Parkes. It is our duty to question and challenge projects that jeopardize this. The full human and environmental cost of this incinerator cannot yet be measured, and it would be reckless to approve it under such uncertainty.

In Summary

- The community has not been properly consulted or informed.
- Health and environmental risks remain inadequately addressed.
- The long-term effects on air, soil, and water are uncertain and potentially irreversible.
- Financial or industrial gain must never outweigh the health and safety of local families.

For these reasons, I urge the decision-makers to reject the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator for Parkes and instead pursue safer, cleaner waste and energy alternatives that align with both environmental and community wellbeing.

Respectfully,

Tina Morrison - Turner

Resident, Parkes NSW

(On behalf of my family and future generations)