

**Submission  
No 699**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Graeme & Cathy Ostini

**Date Received:** 28 October 2025

---

## **Re: Proposed Parkes Energy from Waste Facility (Incinerator)**

### **We would like to voice our concerns regarding the proposed Energy from Waste Facility Incinerator to be built in Parkes NSW.**

Some background information on who we are, we are, we have lived in Parkes for over 40 years, raised our family here and now have grandchildren growing up in Parkes. Up until our recent retirement we ran a successful Wool Brokering business for 40 years and we also own a grazing property near Parkes where we produce Sheep, Cattle & Wool.

Our Concerns:

#### **Health**

Our health is very important to us and no doubt everyone else in the area. We have a right to live in our hometown where we shouldn't have to worry about being exposed to any health risks large or small. We have a concern about the constant emissions from the proposed facility every day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and the effects this may have on our health in the short or long term.

There is no 100% guarantee that the facilities emissions will be risk free from toxins and as such any risk small or large is unacceptable.

Any effects & risks may not be known immediately, but once the damage is done it cannot be reversed.

#### **Agriculture**

Agriculture has been and is the backbone of the Parkes Shire and surrounds, we are part of a major grain, meat & wool supply area and any risk to the safety of our Agricultural land, waterways, livestock, grain and the environment in general is unacceptable.

Once again there is no 100% guarantee that these precious resources will be safe from toxins in the emissions & any other risks over time and once the damage is done it cannot be reversed.

We have worked hard to keep our own farming operation to be all but chemical free, in the interest of improving our soil quality & animal care. We will be devastated if our hard work is compromised by the stroke of a pen from Sydney.

## **Risk**

If there is not 100% guarantee of safety, then there is a risk. Any risk is unacceptable and should not be allowed to be within our community.

A risk to the community can come from many different ways, be it from constant emissions, toxins, malfunction within the facility, transportation of the rubbish from Sydney to Parkes, the safe disposal of the residual material and no doubt many others.

What will actually be in the rubbish to be incinerated, surely it could contain nearly anything good, bad & toxic. You cannot rely on the fact that if it is in the red bin that it has been sorted adequately for incineration.

## **Responsibility**

Who will take responsibility for any issues arising. The devastating effects from any risks could destroy people's health, lives & income. Who will take responsibility and how would these effects be rectified and compensated for.

## **Testing**

Will there be sufficient testing of our air, water and land qualities constantly, one would think it should be done daily! What happens if the established protocols are breached? Who will be responsible for conducting these tests, hopefully it would be an independent body to ensure accuracy?

Will there be base line testing done prior, to establish a starting point to be able to assess any damages?

Unfortunately, there is not much confidence in the EPA being able to regulate this facility effectively & timely. Breaches may occur and who knows how long it will take for the EPA to take action. A fine and a slap on the wrist will not cut the mustard in this case & certainly won't stop it from happening again.

## **Consultation**

Consultation and information given to the people of Parkes Shire has been sadly lacking. Most residents only found out about this proposal a couple of months ago, and it seemed it was a done deal already.

Surely, we as the residents of Parkes should have been consulted & given information regarding the proposal long before this point so we could make informed decisions regarding our health and livelihoods.

It seems the project has just been dumped on our doorstep without our concerns, voices and question being heard, listened to and let alone answered. Why is that?

## **Parkes**

Why Parkes?

Who is responsible for making decisions affecting our lives without even consulting us?

Why is Parkes and a few other locations around NSW the only ones that are deemed "SAFE" for this sort of proposal to go ahead?

If this sort of facility has been banned in all other areas of NSW, why has it been banned? And what is the difference between the safety of the residents of the Parkes Shire and everyone else?

Are our lives, our homes and farms more expendable than our fellow NSW residents it seems they are?

## **Conclusion**

We are NSW residents too and deserve answers to our concerns and to be treated the same as everyone else in NSW when it comes to our health & safety.

It makes no sense to transport rubbish all the way from Sydney to Parkes, surely it is more economical to deal with the rubbish closer to the source?

Regional areas are not the dumping grounds for Sydney's waste problem and even more concerning the possibility of even more rubbish from other areas & states.

It seems that if they can just ship it over the mountains it is then **out of sight & out of mind**. And regional NSW are left with the after effects.

We do not believe that the many and varied risks involved with this sort of facility is at all acceptable to us as residents of the Parkes Shire, to our health, to our prime agricultural land and the environment & **neither should you or the rest of NSW residents**.

Nor should we the residents of the Parkes Shire have no input into the future of our lives and our homes, our livelihoods and our environment. Or the burden of dealing with the consequences.

How can something be banned in most of NSW and somehow safe in others it clearly makes no sense. We are residents of NSW too and deserve to be treated the same as everyone else in NSW when it comes to our health & safety.

Clearly more thought needs to be put into alleviating the rubbish problem in Sydney & NSW. Incineration is a quick solution, but at what cost?

However, the long term problem is not being resolved.

There needs to be more emphasis put on recycling, renewing, reusing & new technologies

More research is needed into dealing with plastic waste in particular.

Manufacturers need to be held more accountable in the amount & type of packaging they produce in the first place. Look to ways to reduce the packaging or the use of more environmentally friendly components.

**Would you accept this incinerator in your backyard without any input or consultation and the risks associated with it? I think not!!**

**Regards**

**Graeme & Cathy Ostini**