

Submission
No 706

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 22 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission to the parliamentary enquiry into Waste to Energy facilities. I live in Forbes and will be affected by emissions from the incinerator in Parkes, as will other surrounding areas.

The presence of this facility will make it difficult to attract people to the country to fill roles vital in our communities, especially doctors and nurses, teachers, vets and other professionals. Towns will lose professionals who are already filling these roles, as who would want to live a town close to where Sydney's waste incinerator spews out toxic emissions 24 hours a day? If I had a choice I wouldn't.

I believe the Parkes community has not received accurate information before the decision to put the incinerator there. The land had already been sold to the state government by the then local mayor. Water has been piped to the site and it's been a green light even before community consultation began.

Waste to Energy facilities are often promoted as a sustainable solution to waste management and energy production by governments and operators. In reality, it's a different story. Research done where these facilities operate show that there are dire health consequences for the populations that take a long time to manifest – generations in fact. That is not good for our children and grandchildren. It has also been documented that dioxins from these incinerators enter the food chain to become part of our cells. Most human dioxins enter us through the food we eat. This puts into doubt our food security and Australia's ability to export clean and green produce. A market worth millions of dollars to the Australian economy.

The information provided at these meetings has been one-sided and there is no real data to substantiate the information being delivered. There are omissions in the information as well – such as what will happen to the toxic ash left behind by incineration.

It has not been explained to my community (Forbes) about where the water is coming from to run the turbine to generate the electricity created by the heat from burning the rubbish. Forbes sits on an aquifer and already Parkes township and North Parkes Mines both have a bore near Forbes to supply millions of litres of water. Local residents of Parkes and Forbes have noticed a decline in their water quality. If another bore is sunk to supply the incinerator it will add to this decline.

There is a significant lack of independently verified information about the impacts, risks, and long-term consequences of Waste to Energy facilities.

While I'm sure there will be regulations about emissions from this facility, who will police it? Overseas studies have documented the long term health effects of these dioxins on the population over generations. I am enquiring about who will police this. I have no faith that the State government's EPA is able to effectively supervise what they need to now. I am referencing the lead levels in Broken Hill and the PFAS levels in the Belubula catchment area to name two recent failures by the EPA.

There is no requirement for daily or even regular monitoring of the Parkes incinerator by its operators or the government. How will we know what the daily emissions are? Would they even inform us of when they are too high. What will be the consequences for the operators if they are above recommended levels.

Rubbish burned up in these facilities is lost to our system forever, whether it be plastics, green waste or recyclables. The energy production from the heat is tokenistic and left behind is highly toxic ash that then has to be dealt with, and no real explanation has been given about what will happen to this.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,